**Individual Primary Sources**

Tom Morton, June 2010

*To encourage students to make inferences:*

What does this document tell you?

What might you infer from it?

What does this (detail) suggest?

Although it doesn’t say so, what might we infer from (detail)?

Of course, these questions can also be more focussed around the five Ws such as What can you infer about what the purpose of this object? Who this person is? Why this photograph was taken? Et cetera.

*To investigate corroborating evidence :*

What is similar about these two sources?

What can you see the same in this picture as in source X?

What evidence in this source is similar to that in other sources?

Does this source confirm what you have already learned?

Does it extend it?

Or does it challenge other evidence?

*To select the most relevant sources:*

Why is this source important?

Why did you choose these sources?

Why is the evidence in this source convincing?

**Prompts**

Using sentence prompts can provide guidance to answering these questions. For example:

*For inferences:*

From (detail) we can infer that…

This (detail) suggests that…

It doesn’t say so, but … is probably the case, because (detail)…

*For corroboration:*

If you compare these two pictures…

This source supports the evidence of…

Source X goes even further than source Y in showing that…

Source X contradicts the evidence of Source Y in suggesting that …

These pictures show different effects of …

*For relevance*:

This source is important because…

The value of this letter is …

I chose these two pictures to show different …

The evidence of this source is convincing because…