

Army recruitment: worksheet

Section One

Quiz: what do you already know about life in the army?

1. How old do you have to be to join the army?
 - a) 15
 - b) 16
 - c) 17
 - d) 18
2. How many other European Union countries recruit into the army from age 16?
 - a) A few others
 - b) Most others
 - c) All of them
 - d) None of them
3. Do you need your parents' permission to join?
 - a) Yes, if you are under 18
 - b) Yes, whatever age you are
 - c) No, you can join without your parents' permission
4. If you join the army before you are 18, you are allowed to leave in the first six months. Then you have no legal right to leave until:
 - a) Your 18th birthday
 - b) Your 19th birthday
 - c) Your 21st birthday
 - d) Your 22nd birthday
5. You can be sent to fight when you are:
 - a) 16 or older
 - b) 17 or older
 - c) 18 or older
 - d) 21 or older

6. Do most soldiers enjoy their jobs?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
7. In general, do soldiers enjoy their jobs more than civilians (i.e. people who are not in the army)?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
8. If you're 16 or 17 years old, apart from joining the armed forces which of the following are you legally entitled to do? (Tick all that apply)
- a) Join the police
 - b) Sign a legal contract (in England or Wales)
 - c) Vote in a General Election
 - d) Join the fire brigade
 - e) Buy cigarettes
 - f) Order a drink in a pub
 - g) Join the ambulance service
 - h) Watch an '18' film
 - i) None of the above
9. What GCSEs do you need to join the infantry?
- a) English and Maths
 - b) At least five GCSEs including English and Maths
 - c) No GCSEs
10. Do most soldiers feel proud to be in the army?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
11. Which of these do you think is by far the most dangerous part of the army (based on casualties suffered in Afghanistan)?
- a) The artillery (e.g. long-range guns)
 - b) The infantry (e.g. foot soldiers)
 - c) The medical corps (e.g. doctors and nurses)

See over...

12. In 2008 the Ministry of Defence asked soldiers whether they had been bullied in the last 12 months. Of those that responded, how many soldiers do you think said they had been bullied?
- a) 1 in 100 (1%)
 - b) 1 in 50 (2%)
 - c) 1 in 15 (7%)
 - d) 1 in 5 (20%)
13. Most soldiers never come to serious harm but some do. What kind of harm is most common?:
- a) Being killed
 - b) Being seriously injured
 - c) Suffering psychological problems (e.g. trauma, addiction, stress)

Section Two

Video (30 sec): British army TV advertisement for the Infantry

First viewing

You'll watch the video twice, it's only 30 seconds long. For the first viewing, tune into what you FEEL as you watch.

As I watch this, I feel...

Second viewing

For the second viewing, scribble down the MESSAGES the video is sending about life in the army – as many as you can

The video's messages seem to be...

Section Three

Vince Bramley, Falklands War veteran

Someone in the class to read this out...

In 1982 the UK was at war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean. The fighting was as tough there as it now is in Afghanistan. 255 British forces personnel died, yet an even greater number of those involved in the fighting committed suicide after the war. More than twice as many Argentinians also died.

During the war, Vince Bramley was in the British Infantry. He fought in a very tough battle that lasted all night. When he wrote about it afterwards he described it as 'combat at very close quarters, hand to hand, eye to eye, very bloody stuff'. Recalling the scene at the top of the mountain after the battle in the early hours of the morning, he wrote:

'It wasn't until daylight, when I ran into the bowl on the summit and saw the number of dead people there, including my own friends and colleagues, that the shock hit me. Nobody touched me, but it was as if somebody had punched me in the stomach. And I just went into a state of shock. ... I remember looking around at some of my friends who had survived as well and were in this bowl, and I hadn't realised until then that I wasn't the only one crying. And there were Argentines who had been taken prisoner, and they were crying as well. I think all of us were shocked at the extent of what we'd done to each other. And then you begin to realise you're not the rough, tough British paratrooper that the programme of training had made you out to be. You realise you're human, and you have human feelings, and that the men beside you are no different.'

As you read/listen to this, tune into what you FEEL.

As I read/listen, I feel...

What impression is Vince Bramley giving you about life in the army?

The impression I get of life in the army is...