

# conscientious objection

## REPEAL THE ACT **Teacher's notes**

The aim of this task is to encourage students to investigate a range of original documents discussing propaganda, censorship and the law. Students will look at the letters, transcripts and official documents that tell the story of "Repeal the Act", as well as exploring the impact and repercussions of the leaflet.

**Sources** [here](#)

### **Learning objectives**

By working through the material, students will:

1. Use a range of sources that allows pupils to explore censorship and law in WW1
2. Investigate the complex reasoning behind "Repeal the Act"
3. Explore a diverse range of perspectives and opinions
4. Assess the impact of censorship on freedom of speech and citizenship in Britain

Extension

After examining the documents the student task is to produce a discussion of "Repeal the Act" by evaluating the legitimacy of prosecutions arising from its publication. This could be in the form of a short essay. However, there are many other ways of engaging with this task - students may be encouraged to use other media in creating podcasts, videos, radio or TV style interviews or produce newspaper articles, creative projects or propaganda in a contemporary style.

### **General prompt questions for use with each document:**

Who wrote this document?

When was it written?

Why was it written?

What is the purpose of this source?

Does the source show the writers opinions and values?

What is the intended audience for each document?

Does it link to other documents in the collection?

Does it agree or disagree with other documents?

More specific questions on each source are included in the resource guide document.

### **Working in Groups**

In place of the background information given above, teachers may wish students to work in small groups to uncover the narrative of Walter's experiences for themselves. Students may start work by looking at some of the documents in small groups, or pairs, before comparing with another group. As Conscientious Objection can be a complicated topic, it is still advisable that students have access to some of the background material and prompt questions.