# Battle of the Somme – Theory Planning Activity

In order to understand why this battle turned out to be one of the bloodiest of the Great War, we firstly need to understand how it was planned. You are going to do exactly what the Generals of the Army did in 1916.

* You are going to plan the Battle of the Somme
* In groups you all need the ‘Battle planners Kit’ – Lay this on your tables.
* Instructions from Head Quarters will be given, as a group you will be given time to consider and respond to the instructions.
* Make sure that you note down your decisions on your A3 map of the Somme and write the instructions on this sheet. Everyone should be involved.

Command – General \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Battle\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Deputy General\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Reality

**Intelligence 1**

**Intelligence 2**

**Intelligence 3**

**Intelligence 4**

**Weapons**

**Further Action Required**

Weather

**Evaluation of the Plan**

As a group you need to note in your exercise books the answers to the following.

Title –**Task 1 Why was the Battle of the Somme so bloody?**

1. Why were the German army in a better position than the British army?
2. The British have more men than the Germans but how are the Germans better protected?
3. In order for the plan to work, what factors does it rely on? Explain how these could go wrong.

**Extension** – What would you have done differently? Explain

You will now watch various video clips that demonstrate what it was like on the 1st July 1916.

Note down how what actually happened is different to what was planned.

**Task 2 – Why did the plans for the Battle of the Somme go so terribly wrong?**

Using your notes and the A5 sheet ‘***The reality of the Battle of the Somme***’ summarise why the battle went so terribly wrong for the British.

Consider

* what was planned and what actual happened,
* The advantages that the Germans had
* The risks that the British took

**Extension** – What is the most important reason why the battle failed? Explain