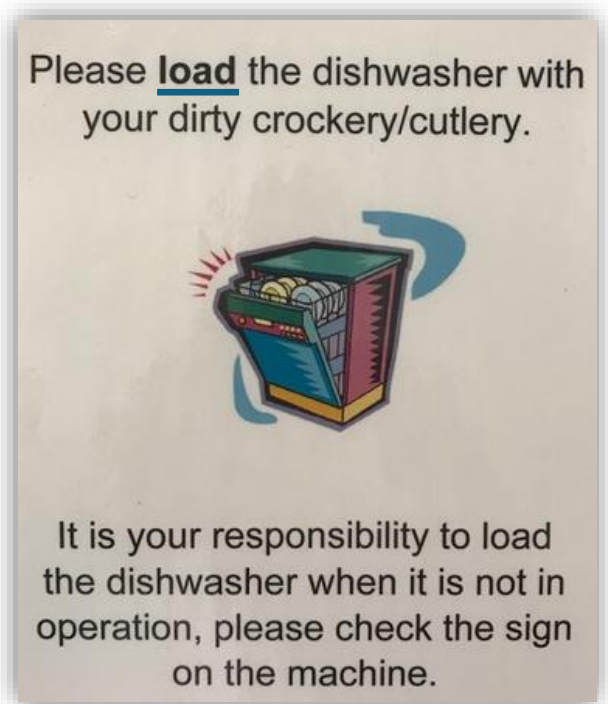


Inference

An **inference** is something you can work out from a source which is not directly stated, by 'reading between the lines'. An inference should not be based on your knowledge of the topic – it requires you to use your source analysis skills.

This real-life example is a sign on the wall of an office kitchen space – we don't know anything about the company or the people who work there, but we can **infer** from this sign that people in the office are leaving dirty plates and cups lying around. The word 'load' is emboldened and underlined, which implies that this is not happening.



When making an inference you need to make sensible suggestions based on specific details.

Inferences must be based on and supported by the source, **not** own knowledge! Don't simply repeat parts of the source!

Useful things to think about when making **inferences**

- What is the source suggesting?
- What message(s) does it give?
- What is its attitude or tone? Is the writer sarcastic, sad, angry, happy?
- If it is a visual source, what do the details or expressions suggest?
- What effect does the author/artist want to have on the people who see this?
- What evidence in the source supports its tone or message?

Inference

When making an **inference** you must not ignore the focus of the question. You are not being asked to make any inference you want – you are being asked what you can infer from the source **about a specific enquiry focus**.

Give two things you can infer from source A about **Search and Destroy missions in Vietnam**.

You need to work something out from the source that tells us about Search and Destroy missions in Vietnam. You could say the soldiers were reckless and disobedient [inference] because they would burn down houses even though they weren't supposed to [supporting detail].

An inference such as “the North Vietnamese had many resources to attack with such as mines or booby traps” would score zero marks because it is about Vietcong tactics – not Search and Destroy missions.

Source A: From an interview with an American soldier who fought in Vietnam. Here he is commenting on Search and Destroy missions.

You knew the enemy was everywhere. You didn't know if your next step would be your last because you might tread on a mine or booby trap.

A lot of the time you were searching for the Vietcong's hiding places, like tunnels and caves. If you were able to find the enemy, then you killed them. This was all a lot harder than it sounds.

When we moved through a village our soldiers would burn down houses, even though they weren't supposed to.

Inference 1

They were risky missions as the chance of death was high.

Details that support inference

You didn't know if your next step would be your last because you might tread on a mine or booby trap.

The answer makes a valid inference from the source...

...then supports this by direct reference to the detail in the source that tells us this.