

# RAF quiz: answers

**1. Which feature of a biplane makes it different from other types of aeroplane?**

**A:** It has two sets of wings.

**2. What three materials were aircraft made of at the time?**

**A:** Wood, canvas and wires. (Metal in production at the time was too heavy, especially for the low-powered engines available.)

**3. Name three things that the introduction of aeroplanes was used for during the war.**

**A:** Reconnaissance missions (gathering information and taking photographs across enemy lines), communication, fighting, bombing, rescue, distributing propaganda/leaflets, preventing information being gathered by German planes.

**4. What were some of the limitations of the aircraft used during World War I?**

**A:** The weight of the fuel and their lightweight build meant they were not robust enough to carry heavy cameras or radios.

**5. What developments in engineering would make them more useful?**

**A:** More powerful engines and stronger materials.

**6. The fuel tank on early planes was at the back of the aircraft instead of in the middle – why was this a problem?**

**A:** It made the back of the plane heavier than the front, giving it an unstable centre of gravity and making it harder to fly and more likely to crash on take-off. Depending on how full the fuel tank was, the weight would also vary, making it unpredictable.

**7. What was the benefit of the early planes having two wings?**

**A:** The wood the planes were made of wasn't very strong, so having two wings reduced the stress on a single wing. By sharing the load, the wings were less likely to snap.

**8. Before planes, static observation balloons were used to get an aerial view. What was the biggest limitation of using balloons?**

**A:** They could only go up and down on a long rope. Planes could get a much wider view of the battlefield and could fly over enemy lines. Balloons were also easier to shoot down.

**9. What role did women play in the RAF during World War I?**

**A:** Women were not allowed to fly planes or be engineers at this time. Most women worked as clerks, some served as drivers and motorbike riders, metal welders, fitters or seamstresses.

**10. Before planes were able to carry radios, how did pilots communicate with people on the ground?**

**A:** Pilots were able to use message streamers or weighted bags containing messages to try and tell those on the ground about what they could see from the air.