<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document type</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Diary entry   | • Is it a primary source?  
• Who wrote it?  
• Was this person a key individual?  
• When in the course of events was it written? | • Private reflection?  
• Private reflection with the view to being published later in a memoir?  
• Attempt to justify actions? | • Content  
• Eye witness account  
• Person was part of the decision making process.  
• Could be candid and honest. | • Personal involvement could lead to mistruths, omissions, justifications for actions and undue emphasis placed on certain events.  
• Might be written with a view to later publication and therefore wanting to appear in a positive light.  
• Needs to be cross referenced with other primary sources. |
| Letter        | • Is it a primary source?  
• Who wrote it?  
• Was this person a key individual?  
• When in the course of events was it written? | • Private and candid comments between individuals?  
• Not necessarily intended for public consumption? Attempt to justify actions?  
• Attempt to persuade the recipient to follow a course of action? | • Content  
• Eye witness account  
• People involved were part of the decision making process.  
• Could be candid and honest. | • Personal involvement could lead to mistruths, omissions, justifications for actions and undue emphasis placed on certain events.  
• Might be trying to persuade the recipient and therefore not altogether truthful.  
• Needs to be cross referenced with other primary sources. |
| Speech        | • Is it a primary source?  
• Who delivered the speech?  
• Was this person a key individual?  
• When in the course of events did it occur?  
• Where was the speech made?  
• Who were the audience? | • Public statement of thoughts or of official policies?  
• Propaganda?  
• Facts omitted or exaggerated to suit the audience? | • Content  
• Statement of official policy.  
• Statement of the individual’s ideas and thoughts.  
• Reaction to various events.  
• Statement of intention. | • Personal involvement could lead to mistruths, omissions, justifications for actions and undue emphasis placed on certain events.  
• Propaganda?  
• Facts omitted or exaggerated to suit the audience.  
• Needs to be cross referenced with other primary sources |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Memoir Recollections</th>
<th>Official government document</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Whose memoir/memories?</td>
<td>• Is it a primary source?</td>
<td>• Is it a primary source?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Was this person a key individual?</td>
<td>• Which institution published this material?</td>
<td>• Which institution published this material?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• How long after the period was the memoir published or the memories recounted?</td>
<td>• Was this document a significant document at the time?</td>
<td>• Was this document a significant document at the time?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attempt to justify actions?</td>
<td>• Public statement of official policies.</td>
<td>• Public statement of official figures?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attempt to remember details of events for later generations?</td>
<td>• Propaganda?</td>
<td>• Propaganda?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• For the general public.</td>
<td>• Facts omitted or exaggerated to suit the audience?</td>
<td>• Facts omitted or exaggerated to suit the audience?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Content</td>
<td>• Content</td>
<td>• Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eye witness account</td>
<td>• Statement of official policy.</td>
<td>• Statement of official policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Person was part of the decision making process.</td>
<td>• Reaction to various events.</td>
<td>• Reaction to various events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Could be candid and honest.</td>
<td>• Statement of intention.</td>
<td>• Statement of intention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Could be a source of valuable information that otherwise would be lost.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Propaganda?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Personal involvement could lead to mistruths, omissions, justifications for actions and undue emphasis placed on certain events.</td>
<td>• Propaganda?</td>
<td>• Exaggerations?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Written for publication and therefore wanting to appear in a positive light.</td>
<td>• Only shows one aspect of government policy?</td>
<td>• Only shows one set of figures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Needs to be cross referenced with primary sources.</td>
<td>• Does not show the reasons behind the policy.</td>
<td>• Does not show the reasons behind the statistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Does not show how or whether is policy was actually implemented.</td>
<td>• Does not show how these statistics where collected.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History text</td>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>Photograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Nationality of the historian?  
• Where was it published?  
• When was it published? | • Nationality of the biographer?  
• The relationship between biographer and the person?  
• Where was it published?  
• When was it published? | • Is it a primary source?  
• Who took the photo?  
• Was it originally for a private use or the public?  
• When was it originally taken? |
| • Scholarship  
• Objectivity  
• For students of history and for the general public interested in history.  
• To revise previous interpretations of the period or events?  
• To present an alternative view? | • Scholarship  
• Objectivity  
• For students of history and for the general public interested in history and in the lives important people.  
• To revise previous interpretations of this person’s life?  
• To present an alternative view? | • Private family photo?  
• Posed?  
• Propaganda? |
| • Objectivity  
• Thoroughly researched.  
• Access to a wide range of sources and evidence.  
• Hindsight  
• New evidence  
• Analysis of cause and effect | • Objectivity  
• Thoroughly researched.  
• Access to a wide range of sources and evidence.  
• Hindsight  
• New evidence  
• Analysis of events and of a person’s contribution. | • Snapshot of a moment in time.  
• Shows of people lived/dressed/acted.  
• Could be a source of valuable information that otherwise would be lost. |
| • Topic may have been only briefly researched because it is only a small part of general history text.  
• May not have had access to the full range of sources especially if published in the West before the opening the Soviet archives in 1991 or before the publication of the Chinese “literature of the wounded”.  
• Historian may be a Marxist or represent a particular school of thought or national perspective.  
• Unconscious bias | • Topic may have been only briefly researched because it is only a small part of the person’s life.  
• Justification.  
• May not have had access to the full range of sources especially if published in the West before the opening the Soviet archives in 1991 or before the publication of the Chinese “literature of the wounded”.  
• Biographer may represent a particular school of thought or national perspective. | • Propaganda  
• Posed |
| Cartoon          | • Was it drawn at the time?  
|                 | • Nationality of the artist?  
|                 | • In which newspaper or journal did it originally appear?  
|                 | • An interpretation of events at the time.  
|                 | • Political comment for readers about particular events or policies.  
|                 | • Propaganda?  
|                 | • If published in another country is it a positive or negative comment which reflects that country’s public opinion?  
|                 | • A reflection of public opinion at the time in one of the countries involved.  
|                 | • Insightful analysis of events and policies.  
|                 | • Represents a particular point of view  
|                 | • Opinionated  
|                 | • Does not show the evidence to support opinion.  
|                 | • Reflecting uninformed public opinion.  
| Newspaper article | • Was the article written at the time?  
|                  | • Or was it written later?  
|                  | • Nationality of the journalist?  
|                  | • In which newspaper did it originally appear?  
|                  | • An interpretation of events at the time.  
|                  | • Political comment for readers about particular events or policies.  
|                  | • Propaganda?  
|                  | • If published in another country is it a positive or negative comment which reflects that country’s public opinion?  
|                  | • A reflection of public opinion at the time in one of the countries involved.  
|                  | • Insightful analysis of events and policies.  
|                  | • Represents a particular point of view  
|                  | • Opinionated  
|                  | • Does not show the evidence to support assertions.  
|                  | • Reflecting uninformed public opinion.  