**Conscription Debate Reading Questions**

Read the web page below and answer the following questions:

[Conscription Debates in Australia in WWI - History Skills](https://www.historyskills.com/classroom/year-9/yr-9-conscription-reading/)

1. When were the two referenda held?
2. According to Billy Hughes’ speech on the 30th of August, 1916, what was at stake in the referendum?
3. What were some of the reasons men initially enlisted for the war?
4. What historical event caused a decline in the recruitment figures?
5. Who felt like they were bearing the brunt of the war?
6. How did different religious groups feel about the vote?
7. Who won the first referendum and by what margin?
8. What new political party did Hughes form?
9. What was the outcome of the second referendum?
10. What position did Mannix hold?
11. What was his position on conscription?
12. Of what nationality were most Australian Catholics?
13. How often did Mannix speak publicly about his views?

**Paragraph Writing**

Based upon what you have learnt during your reading, answer the question below in paragraph format (Topic Sentence, Explanation, Evidence, Concluding Sentence):

*Why was conscription such a divisive issue among Australians during WWI?*