**Using these four sources in their historical context assess how far they support the view that Churchill was being unrealistic about the policy of Appeasement.**

***Source A: Diary entry of Ralph Wigram, a British diplomat serving in Paris and with the Foreign Office until late 1936, written in March 1936.***

‘War is now inevitable, and it will be the most terrible war there has ever been…I have failed to make the people realise what is at stake. I am strong enough, I suppose; I have not been able to make them understand. Winston has always, always understood, and he is strong and will go on to the end’.

***Source B: Letter by Neville Chamberlain to his sister, 20 March 1938.***

‘In face of such problems, to be badgered and pressed to come out and give a clear, decided, bold, and unmistakable lead, show “ordinary courage”, and all the rest of the twaddle, is calculated to vex the man who has to take the responsibility of the consequences. As a matter of fact, the plan of a “Grand Alliance”, as Winston calls it, had occurred to me long before he mentioned it…It is a very attractive idea; indeed, there is almost everything to be said for it until you come to examine its practicability. From that moment its attraction vanishes. You have only to look at the map to see that nothing that France or we could do could possibly save Czechoslovakia from being overrun by the Germans, if they wanted to do it’.

***Source C: Diary entry of Harold Nicolson, Labour Party MP and opponent of appeasement, written on 22 September 1938.***

‘At about 11.30 Winston Churchill telephones. Would I come up to London for a meeting at 4.30 in his flat...Winston has just been to Downing Street. He says that the Cabinet are at last taking a firm stand…It comes down to this, either Chamberlain comes back with peace with honour or he breaks it off. In either case we shall support him’.

***Source D: Interview between Winston Churchill and the editor of the New Statesman and Nation, a left-wing newspaper, published January 1939.***

Editor: The country has learnt to associate you, Mr Churchill, with the view that we must all get together as quickly as possible to rearm in defence of democracy…Is it in your view possible to combine the reality of democratic freedom with efficient military organisation?

Churchill: I see no reason why democracies should not be able to defend themselves without sacrificing these fundamental values…I am convinced that with adequate leadership, democracy can be a more efficient form of government than Fascism. In this country at any rate the people can readily be convinced that it is necessary to make sacrifices, and they will willingly undertake them if the situation is put clearly and fairly before them’.

**Historical Context**

***Churchill’s views on Appeasement:***

* The policy of Appeasement was pursued by Neville Chamberlain from 1937 onwards.
* Britain accepted that *Anschluss* with Austria, but the Munich Agreement of 1938 allowed Germany to annex part of Czechoslovakia, though it contained people who were not German speaking.
* Churchill was very critical of the Munich Agreement, partly because it made Britain look weak.
* Britain failed to make a stand against Hitler after he had broken his word.

***Problems with Churchill’s views:***

* No certainty at the time that France would have supported military action, even though they had an alliance with the Czechs.
* A war against Hitler could also have meant a war with Italy and Japan.
* Churchill didn’t mention Japan in much of his work, neglecting the possible threat to Britain’s Asian colonies.
* The Dominions and Commonwealth could not be relied on to support Britain, and there was little possibility of the USA joining a war.
* There was little evidence that the German generals or the German people would turn against the Nazi regime.

***Provenance of the Sources (some possible points to make):***

* **Source A:** written by a diplomat close to foreign affairs, at a time of increasing tensions so is close to the events. Is positive towards Churchill’s views. Though written close to the time, it is still early in the period and before Appeasement was fully adopted. A diary entry private and would show his true feelings.
* **Source B:** written by the Prime Minister and chief architect of Appeasement. Private letter to his sister so would expect it to reflect his true feelings. Written before the time of the Munich Agreement. Is very negative towards Churchill’s views on Appeasement.
* **Source C:** written by an MP of a differing political opinion (Labour Party), though someone who did oppose Appeasement like Churchill. A diary entry so private and would show his true feelings. Is fairly positive towards Churchill and his views (to be expected). Written at time of Munich Agreement describing Churchill’s actions at the time.
* **Source D:** a left-wing newspaper so might be more critical of Churchill’s position and opinions. Suggests that it is directly quoting Churchill so should accurately reflect what he thought. Questioning in the source is quite negative towards Churchill’s views. Written shortly after the Munich Agreement, when nothing more had happened, and so Churchill, at this point, is still on the wrong side of history.