

Modern History

Section I (continued)

Question 2 (10 marks)

Use Sources A and B and your own knowledge.

How successful were the Allies and the Germans in using technology to break the stalemate on the Western Front?

Technology was used fairly unsuccessfully in an attempt to break the Western Front, up until 1917.

This ineffective use of technology was primarily evident through the use of trench warfare, as depicted in Source A. Trench warfare was highly ineffective in that it resulted in large casualties, and was based on ^{targeted} ignorant methods. One of these was that of preliminary bombardment, which was seen in the Somme in 1916, where its ^{use} discarded the element of surprise, and allowed Germans to fortify their position to counter the British advance. * BELOW

It must be considered that in connection with trench warfare, the incompetency of generals meant that there was ineffective

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* Additionally, the use of defensive weapons such as machine guns and rifles, as seen in Source A contribute to a failure to break stalemate. Taylor says of this none man with a machine gun was a strong as the advancing masses. This of course accounted for demoralisation and heavy casualties.

Question 2 (continued)

use of technology to attain victory in battle. This was seen specifically at the Battle of Raschendale, or as Taylor calls it "the blindest slaughter of the war," where British General Haig's instructions regarding preliminary bombardment turned 'no man's land' into mud in which soldiers drowned and were stuck in.

However, it was in 1917 that technology began to be used more effectively. The battle of Cambrai saw the successful use of tanks by the British, which served to "dash lanes through wire,"³⁸ and terrify the German soldiers. For the first time the weapons of defence were not as superior to those of attack, as Taylor notes.

In 1918 technology began to be used to a greater capacity, ~~seen and~~ achieved significant success as seen ~~on the~~^{with} the effect the 8th August 1918 had on the German army. Taylor calls this the "black day," as it was the allies use of tanks co-ordinated with protective creeping barrages and infantry which ultimately served to break the Hindenburg line.

End of Question 2