

## 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?

By late 1915, <sup>early 1916</sup> the situation on the Western Front was one of stalemate. The war had turned into a war of attrition and technology would prove crucial in an attempt to wear down the enemy advance. The Germans used their highly advanced trench systems as an advantage over the Allies. They were well constructed and well equipped to deal with the cold winters and hours of waiting in mud and rain. They also had technologically advanced passage systems and were even built better than the Allied trenches shown in source A.

Secondly, by 1917, the Germans had developed poisonous gases that were unlike anything the Allies had developed. The gas could be fired towards enemy

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Question 2 (continued)

trenches and constantly make those near ill or die with a feeling as if they were drowning from the rubble. Thirdly, the Germans had superior fire power with machine guns that could fire one hundred rounds, as in the Battle of the Somme and the advancing enemy was just fired down.

The Allies attempted to respond to the German technological advancements in technology with the tank. D. Winter results that the tanks were large and heavy and were not as effective as so many, such as General Harper in source B had anticipated. At the Battle of the Somme for example many broke down and got bogged in the mud and as acknowledged by Keegan in source B they "attracted Germany artillery fire".

Technological advancements were important in many respects in attempts to break the stalemate. Whilst the German <sup>army</sup> was in many ways technologically superior the Allies kept the war going on the homefront - total war and by the time the Americans joined the war the Allies tactics were beginning to wear down the Germans.

End of Question 2