

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?

The Allies Both the allies and the Germans were extremely unsuccessful in using technology to break the stalemate.

As evidenced by source A both sides were firmly entrenched. The use of barbed wire, sandbags and the ultimate defense weapon the machine gun kept the advancing armies at bay. The technology of the day meant that defensive weaponry like the machine gun was much more effective than offensive weaponry.

The tank was first used at the Somme in 1916. However it was slow and mechanically unreliable. Also as shown in source B ~~when~~ the ~~following~~ ^{advancing} troops ~~couldn't~~ couldn't keep up with the tank and any gains that were made were

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Question 2 (continued)

quickly lost. The effective use of the tank was not developed until close to the end of the war. For this reason the allies were unsuccessful in their use of technology to break the stalemate.

In 1915 at Ypres the Germans first used poison gas. Initially they had some successes but these again were quickly lost as the allies quickly issued gas masks. Poison gas also became a problem as in the case of a change in wind direction the poison gas could sometimes be harming the people using it. This made Germany unsuccessful in its attempt to use technology to break the stalemate.

With defensive weaponry like the machine gun being far superior, offensive tactics and the use of technology was unsuccessful. As source B shows troops were quickly taught how to defend against oncoming tanks. The trench scene of source A continued for years, which is evidenced to the unsuccessful use of technology by both the allies and the Germans in an effort to break the stalemate.

End of Question 2