

2006 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Modern History

Section I (continued)

Question 2 (10 marks)

Explain why US entry into World War I proved to be the most significant of the war's turning points.

Use Sources A and B and your own knowledge to answer this question.

The entry of the US in WWI proved to be a major turning point ~~in that~~ ^{in that} they ~~also~~ contributed an abundance of resources, soldiers, and boosted the morale of the Allied forces.

As Germany had defeated Russia in the east, ^(shown in source A) the soldiers could be redeployed on the west, French border in an attempt to brake the deadlock. And with superior numbers and force Germany could have won the war ^{in its plans} ~~at all~~ such as St Helens, had the U.S not joined.

As source B indicates Germany had ^{the} ~~bec~~ upper hand in Europe. This was until the U.S joined, bringing with them the hope that the Germans could be defeated. This morale boost significantly helped the French and British who had almost given up.

With the U.S contribution came the mass soldiers of whom were critically needed at the time. With conscription wearing thin, the U.S

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Question 2 (continued)

involvement allowed for better strategic planning on the front lines. Thus the inexperienced U.S. soldiers could hold the lines while British and French forces executed planned attacks to brake the German spirit. With this increased military power, provided by the U.S., the war ~~was~~ ^{took} a turning point.

Just as source A tells of the U.S. declaration of war through violations of destroying its ships, this in turn proved costly, as supplies and resources were now rapidly sent to Europe and the front lines to aid the Allies. And because ~~the~~ at this time WWI had become a war of attrition, Germany was ~~rapidly~~ ^{fastly} becoming unstable due to its limited resources and high upkeep. This meant that Germany could not afford to push out the opposition through time, as the Allied powers now could.

Thus it was the timing and contributions that made the U.S. involvement so significant.

Allowing so many more advantages over Germany, this proved to be the turning point in the war.

End of Question 2

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Modern History

Section I (continued)

Question 3 (10 marks)

Assess how useful Sources C and D would be for an historian studying the impact of total war on the home fronts during World War I.

In your answer, consider the perspectives provided by the TWO sources and the reliability of each one.

Each source shows the different perspectives on the importance of food at the time (1917), which would help an historian studying this as one of the impacts of total war on the home fronts.

Source C is an extract from 'My four years in Germany' written by former American ambassador James Gerald. Written in a descriptive text, it explains the rationing system and scarcity of food in 1917, Germany. Created to inform the audience of whom reads it, we learn that transportation, resources (coal) and entertainment all ~~became~~ ^{halted} in the third winter of the war. As a source it is useful as evidence to show the impact WWI had on the German home front. It is factually reliable in that it was written at the time by someone who was there, making it a first hand account. Thus source C is very useful and reliable to

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Question 3 (continued)

show conditions at the time and the extent of the war on the home front (Germany).

Source D depicts a woman, who looks like a house wife, cutting and rationing her bread. Linking with the bold writing, the poster formed text clearly states - 'Don't waste bread'. Claiming saving two slices a day will help in the war effort and stop German U-boat attacks. Made in 1917 by the Ministry of food, it intends to encourage the public of time to save food and ration wisely. Postered in Britain at the time of the war it is useful to a historian studying the homefronts as evidence of the lengths that will be gone to in order to show how important rationing was at the time. The source is factually reliable in showing this and indicates the ideology of the home front of the British nations. Therefore it is ~~not~~ ^{also} both useful and reliable in showing ~~these qualities~~ ^{the impact} of WWI from the perspective of the British home front.

End of Question 3