

2001 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
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 technology used by the allies, ^{and the Germans} to attempt to break the stalemate included the use of tanks, large attacks and the use of military hardware.

As pointed out in source A, the use of military hardware such as telescopes and rifles were used in an attempt to fight a conventional war, yet confrontations of this manner were very rare in such conditions. Therefore the use of this military technology was hardly successful in breaking the stalemate.

Source B highlights a ~~sig~~ single battle in which tanks were used ineffectively to try and break the stalemate. This technology didn't work here and was highly unsuccessful.

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Question 2 (continued)

but mainly due to the incorrect use of them by military commanders. Source B states that tanks had potential and this is proven in the later years of the war when combined efforts of Air, tank, and ground forces are used effectively to break the stalemate. Therefore the allies were only successful in using tank technology during the later years of the war, when proper organisation and planning was implemented by military commanders.

Another form of technology that was used by both sides in attempts to break the stalemate was the large scale, continuous bombing of enemy lines. This technology was unsuccessful as the trenches were too deep to ~~have~~ and the ground too hard, so no real damage was done. An example of this is the 'Battle of the Somme' where the allies extensively bombed German lines for 3 days and then thought they could just walk over and defeat their enemy. In this battle the bombing proved unsuccessful and the Germans survived, 57 000 British troops were mowed down by waiting machine guns on the first day.

End of Question 2