

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 key to breaking the stalemate on the Western front was to use technology, such as tanks ~~and~~ and air power in coordination with infantry and artillery. However both the Allies and Germany at first were not successful in utilising this method until the final offensive in 1918.

The first conventional tanks were in action during the battle at Cambrai during 1915. As shown in source B, General G. M. Harper only used the tanks as distraction so that infantry could take the line. He failed to realise the real use for Tanks was

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Question 2 (continued)

and in effect they failed their objective. Due to this failure the Allies saw little use in pursuing the development of tanks in effect wasting the opportunity of technology. However the Germans, who traditionally were more open to technology, did not have any tanks in 1915 but realised their potential but they too were unable to use them effectively.

~~Source A~~ The fact was that defense had a absolute advantage over offensives. This is shown by source A, where the soldiers are in safety but are able to spot any enemy advances and could quickly move into defensive positions.

For this reason is why technology was needed to return the advantage back to the offensive. Many attempts were made at this such as the Germans use of Mustard gas in 1915, and the use of Aeroflane as a reconnaissance craft. In conclusion neither side pursued technology enough to utilise it to its full extent during World War one.

End of Question 2