

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 US entry into the war proved to be the most significant of the war's turning points.

As we can see from source A, the situation at that time was very tense and uncertain. Germany attempted to starve Britain by sinking its supply ships and to make the situation worse, Germany had defeated Russia in the east and was sending those troops to fight against the allies.

From this source alone, we can see that the war was looking pretty grim. This is only confirmed in source B. 'We are at the crisis of the war', 'our Army has been forced to retire.' So from these sources, we learn that the outlook is pretty grim. The allied forces have been forced to retire, but we also learn that they are waiting the arrival of fresh new American troops to arrive.

French and British morale is boosted with the knowledge that the USA will neglect no effort which can hasten its troops and ships to Europe. →

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Question 2 (continued)

And from our own knowledge, we know that this is exactly what happened. The war was dragging on. More and more men were getting killed everyday. Morale on the side of the allies was low. Then, with America declaring war on Germany there came a ray of hope. Fresh new troops arrived giving a morale boost to the allies. It was this, the arrival of the American troops that turned the war around.

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.

Sources C and D are extremely useful for an historian studying the impact of total war on the home front.

From source C we can see that foods such as green vegetables and fruits were exempt from the ration card system. This is the same with chickens, ducks, geese turkeys and game. This meant that the more wealthy members of society ate well, whilst the majority of the population survived by using the ration card system.

This can also be seen in source D, which promotes the saving of 'two' slices of bread everyday to defeat the U boat raids. This can be seen as bringing 'total war' into the homes of everyone.

From source C, we can also see that even circus elephants were employed in jobs as most of the men had been sent to fight. From this source, and our own knowledge, we know that women were continuously

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Question 3 (continued)

undertaking roles that previously would have been
fit for only a man to do. In source C, we can
see that women were employed in building the under-
ground railway in Berlin and from my own knowledge,
women were also working in munitions factories,
being train and bus drivers etc.

End of Question 3