

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 World War One was a significant turning point as the addition of a new player in the war made the stakes higher for both sides. The Germans carried out their last major offensive before the fresh American troops arrived whilst the allies retreated.

The US up until the declaration in 1917 had remained for the most part neutral even after the sinking of US ships in 1916. They hadn't contributed huge amounts to either side during the war. ~~but~~ However when they declared war they put large amounts of supplies and troops into Europe, turning the tide on the Germans. The American troops could replace the British & French, allowing them to rest and recuperate whilst the Germans

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Question 2 (continued)

didn't have the man power or the supplies to continue on with the war for much longer. Source A shows the German desperation to stop the allies not by just sinking allied ships but the neutral ships going to Allied countries as well.

Source B also shows how the entering of America into the war was a relief for the allied troops. Lloyd George described it as a "morale booster" for the French and British troops who had suffered heavy casualties.

The entry of the US into World War One was the most significant turning point as it halted the immense German advance known as the Spring Offensive. The entry of the US also increased Allied supplies whilst depleting those of the central powers.

End of Question 2

**2006 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
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 both Primary sources which makes them useful as it shows an more personal insight into total war carried out by both Britain and Germany.

Source C was written in 1917 by the former American ambassador to Germany and gives the historian an almost local insight into how total war affected the people of Germany. It appears to be unbiased and it gives a truthful account the effects of total war. It speaks of a time before US entry into the war, a time when America was neutral. It looks at different facets of the effects of total war including rationing, the lack of resources and the employment of women in to mens traditional roles.

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Question 3 (continued)

Source D is a British poster created by the Ministry of Food in 1917. It is a form of propaganda created by the government to decrease food consumption. It gives insight into a facet of total war that the government wanted implemented, it wasn't necessarily what happened. It also only shows the one area of total warfare. This singular idea and that the poster is a form of propaganda make it unreliable. It also isn't useful in showing the impact of total war on the civilian population. It is however useful in showing the types of propaganda used in total war.

They are both useful in their individual ways. Whilst the first source (source C) is more reliable than source D due to the nature of them and the reason for the them being written and created.

End of Question 3