

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 stalemate remained between the Germans and the allies for several years.

Both sides of the stalemate had a good trench scene, but trench warfare hit very harshly by the end of time 1918.

Back in 1914, technology was very scarce and neither the Germans or the allies had much knowledge on the concept of technology, and the impact it could make.

Tanks were not used primarily until later during the course of the war, and were not as extremely successful as the operators had hoped.

The main weapons that were used in World War One were rifles, machine guns and later on the Germans introduced gas bombs, which too did

Question 2 continues on page 4

Question 2 (continued)

not lead to a break in the stalemate. The allies and the Germans both had high expectations of one another, which was let down as the stalemate didn't proceed, even the Schlieffen Plan could not assist in breaking it.

The Germans were the ones who suffered the most in the end with having to seek an armistice and facing very high reparation payments.

Personally I don't think technology can be said to have had an impact on trying to break the stalemate as not much, in fact a very little amount of technology was used.

Things such as telephone lines between the trench lines may have slightly contributed to the communication of what would be occurring, but neither the Germans or the allies really had any assistance of technology, especially in their weapons use; with the exception of tanks later introduced. So as a fact the allies and the Germans were not very successful in using technology to break the stalemate, on the Western Front.

End of Question 2