

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.

Over the course of the war before America had become involved it seemed Germany would be able to hold out and defeat the allies. Germany was convinced that the US would inevitably join the war effort on the allies side but couldn't be sure when. During the war Germany had sunken a US leisure ship, the Lucitania, enraging the US but it didn't bring them entirely into the war. As stated in Source A it took continued violations of these ships to bring in the US. Furthermore the Germans sent a telegram to the Mexicans believing if it could get them to begin a battle with America over there it would prevent the US coming to Europe. This telegram was intercepted by the allies and they alerted the US of Germany's offer to Mexico. This Zimmerman telegram

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Question 2 (continued)

along with Germany's declaration of an unrestricted submarine warfare brought the US into the war in Europe. In Source B it is said that the British and French troops morale is boosted with the simple knowledge that the US is entering the war, implying the presence is a significant factor in proving America's entry was the most important turning point in the war. In source A ~~it~~ it is said that the US would need many months to raise the troops and equipment they needed meaning the Germans had one last chance to win the war with Russia out of the war for the allies, stated in Source A Germany ~~was~~ was given the superiority in the number of troops they had. Overwhelming the Allied troops it was only the sheer number of troops that the US provided when they entered the way on European soil that the allies could retaliate and defeat the Germans. Only once the US had entered could the end of the war be in sight for sure and their pure force was the dominating factor in the result at the end of the war.

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.

Source C is a primary literary source. It was written in 1917 by a British man who lived in Germany for four years, assumably during the war although the dates of his time in Germany is not stated. The extract is written about the desperation of resources in Germany during WWI and what the Germans had to do to survive the war. The extract reveals that the effect of total war on the Germans had led to incredible social societal changes. The lack of men because they were fighting meant that the women had to do the jobs that the men usually did. Labouring on railroads and streets. Food had become extremely scarce and those that could afford to buy luxurious meals such as geese had to purchase it at ridiculous prices. This source in areas is

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Question 3 (continued)

reliable because it was written during the time when the events were happening. They are not an assumption of how these times were lived in. The factor that reduces the reliability is that because this was written and published during the war from a British perspective on the German lifestyle things may be ~~over~~ exaggerated to inspire morale in the British to see Germany living just as bad, if not worse than they did. Source D is a primary, photographic source. It is a propaganda poster from the British Ministry of Food, printed in 1917. It is encouraging the British people at home to ration their food so that resources can be saved to help the soldiers defeat the Germans and the U-boats. The poster itself is not a completely reliable source to understand the impact of total war on the home front for an historian. Even though the poster is primary, it is propaganda which means it has been exaggerated to make people believe that a simple thing such as saving food will sink a German U-boat. It portrays the idea that saving food will help win the war, it doesn't portray the fact that the British might be short of food or in an desperate times.

End of Question 3