A2: Origins and Course of the First World War, 1905-1918 - Exam Questions

Paper 2, Section A topics are split into three questions. The wording and pattern of the questions will always be the same so remember the three types of questions you have to deal with: a) Making inferences from a source b) Cross-referencing and comparing sources c) Evaluating a historical claim. Possible topics include:

The Alliance System and International Rivalry, 1905-1914
The Alliance System before 1914 including the Triple Alliance and the formation of the Triple Entente. Economic, Imperial and Military Causes of international rivalry.

The Struggle for Control of the Balkans, 1905-1914
The key issues in the Balkans including the weaknesses of the Ottoman Empire, Balkan nationalism, Austro-Serbian rivalry, The Bosnian Crisis, The Balkan War.

The Growth of Tension in Europe, 1905-1914
Anglo-German rivalry, the Naval Arms Race, The First and Second Moroccan Crises 1905-6 and 1911. The Assassination at Sarajevo and the events leading to the outbreak of war.

The Schlieffen Plan and Deadlock on the Western Front
The Schlieffen Plan and why it failed, the trench system, life in the trenches, new weapons and methods, reasons for deadlock, key features of the Somme and Passchendaele, successes and failures, Responsibility of Haig.

The War at Sea and Gallipoli
German threat to Britain in North Sea, German Raids, Heligoland Bight, Dogger Bank, Battle of Jutland, The U-Boat threat, the Lusitania, Anti U-boat measures, reasons for and key features of the Gallipoli Campaign, Evacuation and effects of campaign.

The Defeat of Germany
US entry into war, Key features of the Ludendorff Spring Offensives 1918, The Allied drive to victory (July-November 1918), Revolution in Germany and Reasons for German Defeat.

You only have about 45 minutes max to answer all three sub-questions. The amount of marks for each questions should help you judge how much to write. For Question a) give 5 minutes, Question b) 10 minutes, Question c) 30 minutes. Grade boundaries are at the end of document.
Question 1 - The Schlieffen Plan

This question is about the German invasion of Belgium and France using the Schlieffen Plan in 1914. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - A British cartoon showing the German attack on Belgium, August 1914. The title of the cartoon is 'Bravo Belgium'.

![Image](image.png)

Source B

From an account of the Battle of Mons, August 1914, written by Walter Bloem, a German soldier.

We had no sooner left the edge of the wood than a volley of bullets whistled past our noses and cracked into the trees behind. Five or six cries near me, five or six of my grey uniformed lads collapsed on the grass. Damn it, this was serious! Forward again at the double. More firing, closer now and tearing into our ranks, more lads falling. From now on matters went from bad to worse. We had to go back. It was a bad defeat, in our first battle we had been beaten by the English.
You couldn't see the earth for them [Germans] there were that many. Time after time our officers gave the order ‘Rapid Fire’. Well, you didn’t wait for the order, really! You’d see a lot of them coming in a mass on the other side of the canal and you just let them have it. They kept retreating, and then coming forward, and then retreating again. Of course we were losing men and a lot of officers especially when the Germans started this shrapnel shelling and, of course, they had machine-guns – masses of them. But we kept flinging them back. I don’t know how many times we saw them off.
**Question 2 - The Schlieffen Plan**

This question is about the Schlieffen Plan of 1914. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

**Source A** - A painting by a British artist in August 1914 showing the Belgian defence of Liege against the advancing German army.

**Source B**: From a diary of a German soldier who fought at the Battle of Mons, August 1914. We had no sooner left the edge of the wood than a hail of bullets from the British whistled past our noses. The 160 German troops that left the wood with me were now reduced to 100. From now on matters went from bad to worse. Wherever I looked there were dead or wounded. We were being driven back, badly beaten by the British - by the British we had laughed at a few hours before.

**Source C**: From the diary of a British officer in the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) after the Battle of Mons. The battle showed that well-directed fire could mow the enemy down with very little risk to those who were firing. The Germans must have suffered ten times as many casualties as us. The battle also showed that the enemy had no plan of action and did not try to make use of cover. If they had had a proper plan, they would have pushed us back in a quarter of the time they did.
Von Moltke, the German commander, made crucial changes to the original plan. The German armies that invaded Belgium were 100,000 soldiers fewer than Schlieffen's original estimates because von Moltke sent additional men to reinforce the Russian front. In addition, German armies were supposed to encircle Paris. This part of the plan was abandoned in early September, leading to the Battle of the Marne.

Questions

a) Study Source A.
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the Belgian defense of Liege. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the Battle of Mons? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.
   'The main reason for the failure of the Schleiffen Plan was the changes made by Von Moltke.'
   Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
Question 3 - The Schlieffen Plan 3

This question is about the First World War in 1914 after the failure of the Schlieffen Plan. This period on the Western Front, between October-November 1914, is sometimes known as the 'Race to the Sea'. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - A British drawing showing an attack by German troops on British trenches during the First Battle of Ypres, October 1914.

Source B

From a modern textbook about the First World War.

In late-October 1914 the Germans tried to break through the British lines at Ypres.

The Germans had a considerable numerical advantage over the BEF's seven infantry divisions and three cavalry divisions. For replacements, General French could only count on a few divisions of Indian troops already en route as reinforcements. The Indian units would soon prove to be outstanding fighters in both offence and defence.

The attacks began along a narrow front on 31 October when German cavalry drove a smaller British cavalry unit from its position near the village of Messines. Shortly after, German forces engaged the British further to the north, but a ferocious British counterattack repelled the Germans. Thanks to superior British rifle fire, they were able to hold this sector. The British rifles were so fast and deadly that the Germans mistakenly believed they were facing British machine guns.
Source C

Extract from a book written by a British soldier in 1917, 'From Mons to Ypres with General French'. Here he describes an attack by troops of an Indian unit on German positions in the village of Messines during the First Battle of Ypres, October-November 1914.

The Sikhs charged magnificently. They got into the village, and the houses were the scenes of many a hand-to-hand fight. One big Sikh brought back three prisoners.

But close-quarter fighting and individual conflicts in the buildings of the town scattered the Sikhs.

Soon the Germans brought a couple of machine-guns into play at the end of a street, mowing down the big fellows in squads as they came within range. Their officers were down, save one or two. No cohesive body could be formed to take the machine-guns, so back the Sikhs came, straggling and demoralised, the effect of their splendid charge made ineffective by their inexperience of this kind of warfare.

Source D

From the despatch by British Commander Sir John French on 20th November 1914. In it he was writing to his superiors in Britain about the battles between the Battle of the Marne (September 1914) and the First Battle of Ypres (October-November 1914). This period is sometimes known as the 'Race to the Sea'.

General Rawlinson informed me that large hostile forces were advancing upon him from the east and north-east, and that his left flank was severely threatened. I was aware of the threats from that direction, but hoped that at this particular time that these could be held off by the combined efforts of the French and British Cavalry, and the Territorial troops supporting them. It was probably wise of Rawlinson not to launch a full attack by British troops in their somewhat weakened condition; but the result was that the enemy's continued possession of Menin (near Ypres) and its railway junction certainly aided the rapid reinforcement of German troops and this meant any further British advance was impossible.

Questions

a) Study Source A.

Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about fighting on the Western Front during 1914. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.

Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the difficulties soldiers faced in achieving a breakthrough against enemy lines? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

'The main reason neither side was able to break through on the Western Front in October-November 1914 was the rapid movement of troops to defend against an enemy attack.' Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
**Question 4 - Life in the Trenches**

This question is about conditions and life in the trenches on the Western Front. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

**Source A** — Photograph of German soldiers in the trenches on the Western Front in 1916.

![Image of German soldiers in the trenches](image)

**Source B**

In May 1915 Winston Churchill resigned his post as First Lord of the Admiralty and in November went as an army officer to France. On his second night in the trenches near Neuve Chapelle he wrote to his wife.

Filth and rubbish everywhere; graves built into the defences with feet and clothing breaking through the soil; water and muck on all sides. There is a non-stop sound of rifles and machine-guns, and whining of bullets which pass overhead.

**Source C**

An extract from a diary kept by a civilian. The writer was helping in a hospital in Britain.

3rd August 1916. One patient was a Regular soldier before 1914. He served in Gallipoli as well as France. He says that getting to the front-line trenches is a hundred times worse than being in them. It means possibly an eight-mile walk through narrow trenches each man burdened with kit. In muddy weather progress is difficult; he remembers mud waist deep. By the time the front-line trenches are reached men are dead-tired.
Source D
From a modern British history book about the First World War.

A [British] soldier usually served in the trenches only for short periods. Of 20,000 men in a division, only 2,000 were in the front line at any moment. A typical month would be: four days in the front line, four in the support trenches, eight in reserve and the remainder in rest areas.

The section of the front where a soldier served was also important. Anywhere near Ypres was always bad, but many other areas were very quiet.

Questions

a) Study Source A.
Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about conditions for soldiers in the trenches. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.
Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the experience for soldiers in the trenches? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.
‘Life in the trenches was unpleasant rather than dangerous.’
Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
Question 5 - Deadlock on the Western Front

This question is about the deadlock on the Western Front. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - An illustration from The Illustrated London News, 29th July 1916, with the title 'The Surreys Play the Game.'

![Illustration from The Illustrated London News, 29th July 1916, with the title 'The Surreys Play the Game.'](image)

SOURCE B: A German soldier describes ‘going over the top’ during a German offensive of April 1915.

At noon we went over the top. After less than a hundred metres we ran up against an almost concrete wall of whistling and whining machine-gun bullets. My company commander had his face shot away. A young boy cried for his mother, blood spurting from a wound in his face. Whole rows of men on either side of me, in front and behind, fell, one after another. We suffered horrific casualties. We had no chance.

SOURCE C: A German soldier’s account of the first day of the Somme, 1 July 1916.

Our machine guns were hurriedly placed in position. A series of extended lines of infantry were seen moving forward from the British trenches. The British came on at a steady pace as if expecting to find nothing alive in our front trenches. A few moments later, when the leading British line was within a hundred metres, the rattle of our machine-gun fire broke out. All along the line, sections seemed to fall. All along the line men could be seen throwing up their arms and collapsing, never to move again.

Both sides made attempts to break through between 1915 and 1917, without success. The trench system, supported by the machine gun, was too strong. New weapons such as gas and tanks failed to break the stalemate. However, the main reason for the deadlock was the tactics of the Allied and German commanders who persisted for three years with the belief that using large numbers of troops in an attack would succeed against machine guns and trenches.

Questions

a) Study Source A.

Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about fighting on the Western Front during the First World War. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.

Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the attacks on the Western Front? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

'The main reason for the deadlock on the Western Front was the tactics of the commanders on both sides.'

Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
Question 6 - Deadlock on the Western Front 2

This question is about the deadlock on the Western Front. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - A British painting showing an attack by British troops on German trenches at Neuve Chapelle, March 1915.

Source B: From an account by a British soldier who fought on the Western Front. He is describing a British attack on the German trenches on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Somme.

The 1st Rifle Brigade advanced in perfect order. Everything was working smoothly, not a shot being fired. We had nearly reached the German front line, when all at once machine-guns opened up all along our front with a murderous fire. We were caught in the open, with no shelter. Men were falling all around us. I tripped over dead bodies and fell headlong into a shell hole. Bodies were strung out on the barbed wire.

Source C: From an interview with a British soldier who served on the Western Front. He is describing a British attack during the Somme offensive.

Hundreds of dead were strung out on the barbed wire. Quite as many died on the enemy wire as on the ground. It was clear that there was no gap in the wire at the time of the attack. The Germans must have been reinforcing the wire for months. How did the planners imagine that the British soldiers would survive the machine gun fire and the barbed wire?

The commanders on both sides had little or no idea about trench warfare and the tactics necessary to break the deadlock. Many of the senior British generals had very out-of-date ideas. They still believed that the cavalry would win wars. They persisted for over three years with the belief that numbers of infantry soldiers would achieve a breakthrough against machine-guns and barbed wire.

Questions

a) Study Source A.
   
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about fighting on the Western Front during the First World War. 
   
   (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.
   
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the failure of the British attacks at the Somme in July 1916? Explain your answer.
   
   (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

   ‘The main reason for the deadlock on the Western Front was the tactics of the commanders on both sides.’

   Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view.
   
   (15)
**Question 7 - The Use of Tanks**

This question is about the use of tanks and the defeat of Germany. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

**Source A** - A British painting showing tanks being used during an Allied Offensive, Aug 1918.

**Source B**: From *A Company of Tanks* written in 1920 by a British tank commander. He is describing the use of tanks during August 1918.

We had repeated the success of Cambrai, breaking through the German trenches and taking a great number of German prisoners. The thick mist at dawn had protected the tanks, but it had not been dense enough to seriously handicap the drivers. The advance, spearheaded by the tanks, had been rapid, and only in one or two villages had the enemy shown any strong defence.
**Source C:** From an account written by a British commander in 1947. He is describing the Western Front in 1918.

Tanks only really affected the morale of the British soldiers. From what I saw, it was clear that the troops were pleased to see them. Tanks were some use for crushing enemy machine gun posts and artillery. They were less effective in moving across enemy territory where there were huge craters and damaged trenches.

**Source D:** From a textbook about the First World War, published in 1993.

By mid-1913, the Germans had several weaknesses. Their soldiers were exhausted after Ludendorff’s failed offensives of March-June. The German war effort had been seriously disrupted by the British naval blockade. On the other hand, the Allies had several advantages. Their armies were being constantly reinforced by the arrival of fresh American troops. The unified command under General Foch enabled the Allies to coordinate their attacks.

**Questions**

a) **Study Source A.**
   
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the use of tanks on the Western Front in 1918.  
   
   (3)

b) **Study Sources B and C.**
   
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the use of tanks on the Western Front in 1918? Explain your answer.  
   
   (7)

c) **Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.**

   ‘The main cause of the defeat of Germany in 1918 was the use of tanks.’

   Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view.  
   
   (15)
Question 8 - Gallipoli 1

This question is about the Allied attack against the Turks at Gallipoli in 1915. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - Painting, by Charles Dixon, of the landings by Australian troops at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula, April 1915.

Source B

Extract from a letter home written by Captain Guy Dawnay, a British officer involved in the Gallipoli campaign, April 1915.

The landing place was a difficult one. A narrow, sandy beach backed by a very high intricate mass of hills, those behind the beach being exceedingly steep. The moment the boats landed the troops had to rush forward for those hills, almost cliff-like, only 50 yards away. I went ashore there yesterday, into their position, and it seemed almost incredible that any troops could have got up that hillside fully armed and equipped.
Source C

Extract from the diary of Captain Aubery Herbert, a British officer attached to an Australian unit in the landings of April 1915.

We landed on a narrow piece of land. There were lines of men clinging like cockroaches under the cliffs. The only thing to do was to dig in, but a good many men were shot while trying to do this.

We slept on a ledge a few feet above the beach. Firing went on all night. In the morning it was very cold, and we were all soaked. The Navy, it appeared, had landed us in the wrong place. This made the Army very angry, though as things turned out it was the one bright spot. Had we landed anywhere else, we would have been wiped out.

Source D


The [Gallipoli] expedition was plagued by inadequate resources. The question arose, if Britain lacked the resources to conduct such a campaign, was it wise to attempt it in the first place?

Questions

a) Study Source A.

Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.

Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the difficulties troops faced when landing on the beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsula? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

The Gallipoli Campaign failed because of chronically bad planning.

Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
**Question 9 - Gallipoli 2**

This question is about the Allied attack against the Turks at Gallipoli in 1915. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

**Source A** - Australian troops go 'over-the-top' in an attack on Turkish positions at Gallipoli.

**Source B**

From an account by a British officer who fought at Gallipoli.

The Turks had sited their trenches very cleverly on the higher ground and it was often useless to attack one set before another had been taken. There were two difficulties: getting the attacks underway at all, and then supporting them properly. The trenches became congested, the telephone wires were cut by shrapnel and the whole show got out of control. The idea was always to go through with a rush and to disregard losses. This tactic had no chance against determined defenders armed with machine guns.

**Source C**


British and ANZAC attacks failed to break through against strongly defended Turkish trenches and machine guns which were sited on higher ground. For the Turks, this was a Holy War, a struggle to drive out Christian invaders from Muslim Turkey. Time and again, the Turks charged downhill on the Allies. Despite suffering very heavy casualties from machine-gun fire, the Turks continued their charges.
Source D

From the memoirs of a British officer who fought at Gallipoli.

The major problem was that attacks were carried out by men who had been seriously weakened by the conditions in the trenches. The dead bodies in no-man's land attracted horrendous numbers of flies which, in turn, contaminated our food. Typhoid and dysentery were rife. Those that didn't get either suffered other very unpleasant tummy troubles.

Questions

a) Study Source A.

Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the nature of a trench attack during the Gallipoli Campaign. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.

Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the attempts to break through at Gallipoli? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

‘Living conditions in the trenches were the main reason why the Gallipoli Campaign failed.’

Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
Question 10 – Gallipoli 3

This question is about the Allied attack against the Turks at Gallipoli in 1915. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A – Allied troops come ashore during landings at ‘V Beach’ at Cape Helles during the Gallipoli Campaign, April 1915.

Source B - An eyewitness, John Masefield, describes the landings at Suvla Bay, August 1915.

From every Turkish rifle and machine-gun began a murderous fire upon the ships and boats. Almost all the shots hit their target. Many were killed in the water and many who were wounded were swept away and drowned. Others, trying to swim in the fierce current, were drowned by the weight of their equipment. But some reached the shore. These instantly rushed to try and cut the wire entanglements, and were killed. Only a handful reached cover.

Source C – An Australian folk song of the First World War.

We sailed off to Gallipoli.
How well I remember the day
When the blood stained the sand and the water
And how in that hell that they called Suvla Bay
We were butchered like lambs to the slaughter.
Jonny Turk was ready,
He primed himself well,
He showered us with bullets and he rained us with shells
And in five minutes flat he’d blown us to hell
Nearly blew us back to Australia.
Source D - From a modern history book about Gallipoli.

There was a lack of up-to-date knowledge about Turkish troop positions. The instructions for the campaign were vague. Kitchener had only a hazy idea of what was needed. General Hamilton was the Allied Commander of Gallipoli. His only intelligence consisted of a 1912 manual on the Turkish army, some old inaccurate maps, a tourist guide book and what little could be found out from the Turkish desk at the Foreign Office.

Questions

a) Study Source A.
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about landings at Gallipoli.  

b) Study Sources B and C.
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the landings at Suvla Bay in August 1915? Explain your answer.

(c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.
   'The Gallipoli Campaign failed because of poor planning.'
   Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view.
Question 11 - Battle of the Somme

This question is about the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - British soldiers advance across No-Man's Land in the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. The dark strip is the forward trench of the British lines.

Source B

Account of the first hours of the battle from Sidney Appleyard, who was held in reserve as part of the attack by the London Division on 1st July 1916. Appleyard wrote this shortly after the battle.

By 8 o'clock all the smoke had cleared and it was risky to look over the parapet, for the Germans had machine-guns fixed on these trenches. The first news to reach us was from the London Rifle Brigade who reported that they had successfully moved through the first three German lines and had taken a large number of prisoners. This sounded good but no news was received from our boys until 9.30 a.m. when B Company sent word back that they had reached the Hun second line, but that other companies were held up, the Germans putting up a stubborn resistance.

Source C

The account of Corporal W. H. Shaw of the British Army. Here he describes the attacks on German lines on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Our artillery had been bombing that line for six days and nights, trying to smash the German barbed-wire entanglements, but they hadn’t made any impact in clearing them. The result was we never got anywhere near the Germans. Our lads were just mown down; they were simply slaughtered. It was just one continuous advance, retreat, advance, retreat, losing men all the time and there we were, wondering when it was going to end. You couldn’t do anything. You were either tied down by the shelling or the machine-guns, and yet we kept at it, kept on going along the line, making no impact on the Germans at all.

British security surrounding the Somme offensive was by no means perfect. Indeed the Germans knew well in advance about the attack and were well-prepared. German defenders had regularly practised rushing their machine-guns up from the dug-outs. This had been perfected to a three-minute-drill.

Questions

a) Study Source A.
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the British attack in the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. 

b) Study Sources B and C.
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the British attacks on the first day of the Battle of the Somme? Explain your answer.

(3)

(7)

(15)
**Question 12 - Technological Developments**

This question is about the use of technological developments in warfare on the Western Front. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

**Source A** - ‘Gassed’, a painting, by J S Sargent, of British troops at a Field Hospital on the Western Front.

![Gassed painting](image)

**Source B** - From a modern history textbook about the First World War.

Over the four years of war, each side developed an airforce that included armed fighters and bombers. The rate of technological development in the air was the same on both sides. By 1918, the British, French and Germans had developed bomber aircraft that could damage enemy cities and kill civilians. But, although technological progress was rapid, the general effectiveness of aircraft remained limited. They were not powerful enough to bring about a breakthrough in the war.

**Source C** - Maurice Baring worked at Flying Corps Headquarters during the First World War. He later published his recollections in his book *Flying Corps Headquarters: 1914–1918*. Here is an extract about the development in the use of aircraft during 1917.

The operations of this year [1917] confirmed the lessons of the past, but soon a new factor became apparent. Fighting not only extended upwards, but downwards as well; low-flying machines with wireless radio co-operated with ground troops, and attacked men, guns, trenches, transport, and hostile aerodromes [airfields]. The Germans were a year behind in realising the value of wireless in the air; but once they did realise they lost no time in adopting similar methods and applying them with thoroughness and energy.

At 6.30 am on 20th November we heard the sound of tank engines warming up. The first glimpse of dawn was beginning to show as we stood waiting for the big bang [artillery bombardment] that would erupt behind us at the end of the count down. The tanks, looking like giant toads, became visible against the skyline as they approached the top of the slope. Some of the leading tanks carried huge bundles of tightly-bound brushwood, which they dropped when a wide trench was encountered, thus providing a firm base to cross over. It was broad daylight as we crossed No Man’s Land and the German front line. I saw very few wounded coming back, and only a handful of prisoners. The tanks appeared to have busted through any resistance. The enemy wire had been dragged about like old curtains.

Questions

a) Study Source A.

Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the impact of the use of gas in the First World War. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.

Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the use of aircraft in the war? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

‘Technological developments did little to break the stalemate on the Western Front.’ Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
**Question 13 – The Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)**

This question is about the Third Battle of Ypres (sometimes known as Passchendaele) in 1917. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

**Source A**

British troops manning a position on the battlefield in the Third Battle of Ypres, October 1917.

**Source B**

General William Birdwood wrote this, about the Third Battle of Ypres, after the war. He was a British Corps Commander on the Western Front and had many divisions of Australian troops under his command.

My men were weak and tired and when I was asked [in a meeting of senior commanders in October 1917] I had to advise against any further attacks. However, since only one division of my Corps was to be involved in the next stage of the attack, and since the other Corps Commanders were in favour of pushing on, Haig decided to do so.

There is little doubt that if the weather had held, and if we had been able to prepare and rehearse our advance as carefully as in the early stages of the attack, we should have been able to take Passchendaele. But the weather defeated us. In that deep, clinging mud neither men nor animals could progress.

**Source C**
From a letter, dated 19th October 1917, written by a soldier in the British Army, Private Leonard Hart, a New Zealander fighting in the Third Battle of Ypres.

I have just decided to have this letter posted by someone going on leave to England, so I will tell you a few more facts which it would not have been advisable to mention otherwise.

Some terrible blunder has been made. Someone is responsible for the barbed-wire not having been broken up by our artillery. Someone is responsible for the opening of our own artillery barrage in the middle of us troops instead of 150 yards ahead of us. Someone is responsible for those [German] machine-gun emplacements being left practically intact, but the newspapers will all report another glorious success, and no one except those who actually took part in it will know any different.

Source D

From a modern book, Battles of the First World War, by Martin Evans.

The likely total figures for casualties [in the Battle of Ypres] are 244,900 British (including soldiers from the Empire), 8,500 French and approximately 230,000 German. The whole battle has been condemned by some as futile. Perhaps a more accurate criticism might be that it was an error to continue the attack after September 1917 when it became clearer that conditions were not favouring the Allies. It appears, rightly or wrongly, that Haig was genuinely convinced that the Germans were on the point of breaking by the end of September and therefore he should continue the assault. It is also the case that the Germans themselves viewed their losses as a calamity. By now the Allies could look to America to add to its manpower; by contrast the Germans had no further reserves to call upon.

Questions

a) Study Source A.
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the conditions on the battlefield during the Third Battle of Ypres. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the reasons for the problems the British faced in the Passchendaele offensive? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.
   ‘The Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) was simply a failure for the British.’ Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
Question 14 - Douglas Haig

This question is about the leadership of Douglas Haig during the First World War. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - A 1918 cartoon from the British magazine, Punch entitled 'The Conquering Hero' showing Douglas Haig and British troops.

Source B

A comment about Douglas Haig by Fred Pearson, an ordinary soldier in the British army during the First World War, reported in a newspaper in 1996.

The biggest murderer of the lot was Haig. I’m very bitter; always have been and always will be and everybody else that knew him. He lived almost 50 kilometres behind the line and that’s about as near as he got. I don’t think he knew what a trench was like. And they made him an Earl and gave him £100,000. I know what I’d have given him.
Source C
David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister during the First World War, writing in his memoirs, 1935.
Haig was a second-rate Commander in unparalleled and unforeseen circumstances. He was not endowed with any of the elements of imagination and vision ... And he certainly had none of that personal magnetism which has enabled great leaders of men to inspire multitudes with courage, faith and a spirit of sacrifice ... He was incapable of planning vast campaigns on the scale demanded on so immense a battlefield.

Source D
From a modern book about the First World War by John Terraine.
The simple reason why the British Army had such heavy casualties between 1914-1918 was that it was doing far more fighting, against a very powerful foe, than it has ever done before or since. It would, in fact, have been a mistake if the British army had not had very heavy casualties in carrying out that task.

Questions
a) Study Source A.
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about Douglas Haig. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the Douglas Haig’s leadership of the British Army? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.
   ‘The main reason for the high casualties in the British Army during the war was due to the nature of the fighting.’
   Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
Question 15 - The War at Sea

This question is about the War at Sea during the First World War. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - Painting of a British ship being sunk by a German submarine in 1914. The crew of the British ship are in the rowing boat.

Source B

A civilian in Britain recorded news of the Battle of Jutland in a diary entry dated 3rd June 1916.

We have had the greatest shock since the start of the war. On opening our newspapers we read that some of our finest ships have been sunk and that thousands of our brave seamen have been lost. All the facts are not known yet, but what we are told is bad enough.
Greatest naval battle in history in North Sea

British lose three battlecruisers, three cruisers and eight torpedo-boat destroyers.

Two German dreadnoughts sunk - Enemy battle cruiser blown up, another disabled and third seriously damaged.
Enemy cruiser and six destroyers sunk - Our losses include Queen Mary, Indefatigable, Invincible, Defence and Black Prince, and Warrior abandoned.

Friday 7pm, The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the following announcement: On the afternoon of Wednesday, May 31st, a naval engagement took place off the coast of Jutland. The British ships on which the brunt of the fighting fell were the battlecruiser fleet and some cruisers and light cruisers, supported by four fast battleships. Among these the losses were heavy.

The German battle fleet, aided by a low visibility, avoided prolonged action with our main forces, and soon after these appeared on the scene the enemy returned to port, though not before receiving severe damage from our battleships.

The enemy’s losses were serious. At least one battlecruiser was destroyed and one severely damaged; one battleship reported sunk by our destroyers during a night attack; two light cruisers were disabled and probably sunk. The exact number of enemy destroyers disposed of during the action cannot be ascertained with any certainty, but it must have been large.

From a modern book on the First World War.

By the end of 1914 the British navy had won control on the surface of the North Sea forcing the Germans to adopt a strategy of submarine warfare. With the Germans increasingly forced to keep their surface fleet in harbour the British tightened the blockade. The Battle of Jutland, while not a decisive clash, produced decisive confirmation that the British controlled the surface once the Germans were forced back into their ports. But the threat of the U-boats was always present and it took major work, particularly in 1917, to reduce the threat. The arrival of the USA into the war and the introduction of the convoy system were two major elements in this respect.

Questions

a) Study Source A.

Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about how German submarines operated in the early stages of the First World War.

b) Study Sources B and C.

Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the outcome of the Battle of Jutland? Explain your answer.

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

'The main reason the British were successfully able to defeat the threat posed by the German navy throughout the First World War was the outcome of the Battle of Jutland.’

Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view.
Question 16 - The War at Sea 2

This question is about the War at Sea during the First World War. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A – Poster showing the sinking of the passenger liner the Lusitania, May 1915.

Source B

From the Secretary to the Admiralty following the German raids on British east coast towns such as Scarborough and Hartlepool in December 1914.

These coastal raids are militarily insignificant... They may cause some loss among the civil population, and some damage to private property, which is to be regretted, but they must not in any circumstances be allowed to modify the general Naval policy which is being pursued.

Source C

Article from the local newspaper, the 'Scarborough Mercury', following the German bombardment of the town in December 1914.

The Germans must pay and every penny. We are assured by the Allies that the war will not terminate until the Germans are on their knees and prepared to accept the terms decided upon by the Allies. In undertaking this brutal act the Germans have disregarded the rules of war. The German ships came out of port for the distinct purpose of firing upon the town, and those responsible were fully aware that the carrying out of this act would result in the wanton destruction of property and ruthless sacrifice of life. All children of those who have been killed must be provided for, and those maimed must be cared for during the remainder of their days.
Source D

From a modern textbook on the First World War.

The Allies were able to win the all-important economic war by imposing the naval blockade on Germany. The British and French had access to supplies in America (the USA only entered the war in 1917) and the neutral countries. The Germans did not. This had a major impact on the German economy as raw material and food shortages grew as the war dragged on. British naval blockade as early as 1915 had reduced German imports by 55 percent from pre-war levels. The result was critical shortages throughout German industry. Germany began to run short of many important raw materials needed to produce munitions and arms as well as the economy as a whole. Food for the population was only part of the problem. There were shortages in coal (at the time a vital industrial fuel). There were also shortages of various non-ferrous metals. The blockade also sharply reduced fertilizer which was needed to maintain agriculture production. By 1917 there was wide-spread hunger in Germany. Some sources suggest up to 500,000 German civilians may have died from malnutrition.

Questions

a) Study Source A.

Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the sinking of the Lusitania. (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.

Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the effects of the German bombardment of British coastal towns in 1914? Explain your answer. (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

‘The most significant aspect of the war at sea was the German U-boat campaign.’ Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
**Question 17 - Allied Drive to Victory**

This question is about the final stage of the war, in 1918, and the Allied victory against Germany. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

**Source A** - A photograph of British troops moving forward to the front line (near the St. Quentin Canal) as part of the September 1918 offensive against the German defences of the Hindenburg Line.

**Source B**

A British infantry soldier speaking in 1996, recalling his experiences of the Allied attack on the Hindenburg Line.

[The Hindenburg Line] was very strongly fortified with barbed-wire, trenches, pill-boxes and everything. I don't think the Germans ever thought we'd break through. But by that time we had a tremendous amount of artillery and gunfire.

We broke through quite easily, as far as I was concerned. We followed the barrage and were over - we never got any fire in return. It was the big breakthrough. Morale was high and we could see we were going to win.
Source C

Extract from a book written by German General Ludendorff, called *My War Memories*, written in 1920.

8th August 1918 was the black day of the German Army in this war. Early on 8th August, the English and the French attacked with strong squadrons of tanks. The [German] divisions in the line at that point allowed themselves to be completely overwhelmed. The situation was very serious. The report I received worried me deeply. I was told of valiant deeds, but also of behaviour which, I openly confess, I would not have thought possible in the German Army: whole units of our men had surrendered to small groups of enemy soldiers. The officers in many places had lost their influence.

Source D

Extract from a modern History textbook about the First World War.

In March 1918, Germany finally defeated Russia in the East. The Germans then took a final gamble to break the deadlock on the Western Front and win the war. The great German Spring Offensive began on 21 March and pushed the Allies back many miles, but after four months it had run out of steam, and the Germans had suffered 1.5 million casualties in the process. By August 1918 the Allies were able to launch their own offensive which was strikingly successful.

The Germans were now also suffering back home. In October, food shortages and low morale led to strikes and protests in German cities. Communists stirred up ill-feeling in the hope of starting a Russian-style revolution. On 29 October, German sailors mutinied at Kiel and refused to take their ships out to fight the British.

Questions

a) Study Source A.
   
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the British Army in 1918.  
   
   (3)

b) Study Sources B and C.
   
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the success of Allied tactics? Explain your answer.  
   
   (7)

c) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.
   
   ‘The main reason the Germans suffered defeat in 1918 was the collapse in morale of their troops.’

   Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view.  
   
   (15)
Question 18 - Allied Drive to Victory

This question is about the final stage of the war, in 1918, and the Allied victory against Germany. Study Source A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow:

Source A - A photograph of German prisoners escorted by Allied troops, 1918.

Source B

From an account, written shortly after the battle, of the recapture of the town of Albert by the British army in August 1918.

The attack went forward with tanks, under cover of a creeping barrage which played havoc among the German's carefully sited machine guns, placed in pairs and in depth along the whole front. Eighty such guns were captured by 54 Brigade, and many more destroyed by shell-fire. Although the advance was achieved the Germans still put up some stiff resistance.
Source C

Extract from the memoirs of a British soldier, who served on the Western Front in 1918, published in 1993

At first the German spring offensive of 1918 worked because it took us by surprise and pushed us back, but they just couldn't get through our lines. Our attacks in August were much more effective and were able to achieve a breakthrough. When the Germans retreated, they didn't have time to get back into their trenches. We had them on the run, as it were. The German prisoners were exhausted and had the look of defeat on their faces.

Source D

Extract from a history of the First World War, published in 1992

In 1918 Germany was weakened by the surrender of its allies - Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria - and the failure of the Ludendorff spring offensives. Moreover, the Allied blockade brought serious food shortages and suffering for the German civilians. However, the main reason for German defeat was the arrival of US troops. There were 1.7 million in Europe by the end of the war and they played an important part in the Allied Offensives of July-October 1918.

Questions

d) Study Source A.
   Give three statements that could be inferred from Source A about the German Army in 1918. (3)

e) Study Sources B and C.
   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the British attacks on the German Army in 1918? Explain your answer. (7)

f) Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.
   'The main reason for the defeat of Germany in 1918 was the arrival of US troops.' Use all the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view. (15)
# Paper 2, Section A - Mark Scheme

## (a) Target: Source comprehension, inference and inference support (AO2) - 3 marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No rewardable material</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One unsupported inference</td>
<td>1 mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two unsupported inferences</td>
<td>2 marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more unsupported inferences OR One or more supported inferences</td>
<td>3 marks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## (b) Target: Corroboration by cross-referencing of sources (AO2) – 7 marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Simple statements which identify support/differences at face value</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 mark – summarises or paraphrases the sources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 marks for generalised comparisons.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Developed statements identifying support OR challenge based on source contents</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Developed statements identifying support AND challenge based on source contents AND extent of support</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## (c) Target: Making a judgement about an interpretation, relating analysis of sources to own knowledge (AO1, 2, 3) – 15 marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Simple statements, based on sources and/or own knowledge – Answers will often make generalised comments with little or no focus on the question.</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-2 marks for answers which summarise or copy sources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-4 marks for answers which attempt to answer the question using sources or own knowledge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Developed statements offering evidence for and/or against the view and is supported with details from the sources</td>
<td>5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-6 marks for using sources/own knowledge only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7-8 marks for using the sources and own knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Developed explanation offering support for and/or against the view and is supported by precisely selected details from the sources</td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9-10 marks for using sources/own knowledge only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11-12 marks for using the sources and own knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Sustained argument, explicitly focused on the question, which reviews alternative views before giving a balanced judgement. The answer is supported by precisely selected details from sources and own knowledge.</td>
<td>13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13-14 marks for explicit judgement on one factor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 marks for explicit judgement comparing the relative importance of a number of factors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Grade Boundaries for June 2012**

Please use these grade boundaries only as a rough estimate of working at grade. Boundaries are subject to change by Edexcel. If you are working at Level 2 then that is equivalent to a C. If you are achieving high level 3 consistently, you are working at A/A* level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total Marks from Exam</th>
<th>Average Marks Needed per Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A*</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>0+</td>
<td>0+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>