

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