

## 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.

The contrast and comparison of ~~Source~~ primary Sources C and D would provide the historian with an insight into daily life on opposing homefronts in WWI. Source C may be considered ~~reliable~~ ~~that~~ reliable as it is written by the American ambassador, who, seemingly, would have little to gain from the manipulation of ~~fact~~ falsification of fact in this case. The source was written as the conditions were observed and not from memory, so with a ~~lack~~ lack of political bias noted; it can also be gleaned that this ~~source~~ <sup>information</sup> has not been impeached via memory. The source provides an excellent

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## Question 3 (continued)

overview of the experiences of both the upper class; "the rich... managed to live well" and the lower class (with the emphasis of the experience of women) "women are employed on railroads". Thus this source can be viewed as being a ~~beneficial~~ ~~to~~ addition to any historian's understanding.

Source D provides a contrasting depiction of government initiative in Britain at the same time. ~~Commissioned~~ Commissioned by the Ministry of Food, its purpose was to persuade the public to voluntarily ration their food supplies. As this poster is a form of propaganda, significant bias can be noted in its sensationalist language: "Defeat the 'U' boat". The source is effective in showing the extent to which the British government went in order to manipulate the actions & thoughts of ~~the~~ society during war time. It is established that propaganda is not reliable, as it is based in emotional upheaval and ~~general~~ political motive and necessity. However Source D is useful to the historian in showing an example of war time propaganda. When viewed together, these

End of Question 3

Sources provide a definitive overview of the Home front