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. It clearly states his personal experiences in Germany, is not fictionalised, and is written about the desperation of resources for the nations 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, and economic 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 railways and fields. Food had become extremely scarce and those that could afford to buy luxuries like wine and beer had to purchase it at ridiculous prices. This source is useful.

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Question 3 (continued)

reliable because it was written during the time when these events were happening. They are not an assumption of how these lines were lived in the past that reduces the reliability of that because this was written and published during the war from a British perspective so the German lifestyle things may be overly 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 British people at home to ration their bread so that resources can be saved to help the soldiers defeat the Germans. The poster itself is not a completely reliable source to understand the impact at the time. We can look at it from the historian's eyes, though the poster is primary, it is propaganda which means it has been exaggerated to make people believe that a simple thing such as eating bread will sink a German U-boat. It portrays the idea that saving bread 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