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.

Both Sources C and D are should be considered useful for an historian studying the impact of total war on the home fronts during World War I.

Source C provides immense detail about the economic situation in Germany as a result of total war. The source describes the increase of prices, the scarcity of resources, and the need for women in the workforce.

The source (C) can be seen as useful because of its descriptions, as well as by the fact that the author was present in Germany at the time, and thus likely to have witnessed these events occur.

Due to the fact it was written by a former American ambassador, it could be seen to provide a more neutral perspective. The date of 1917, when the USA entered
Question 3 (continued)

the war... could... be seen... as important... as...

In theory, the author could encompass a sense...

... however, the date is not specified exactly and thus could be seen to be...

a neutral perspective from before the USA entered...

the war, thus increasing its reliability... The...

fact that the extract is from a possible book or...

memoirs... should be considered when assessing its...

... usefulness and reliability. Gerard was likely to have...

been writing for an audience and so with this purpose a...

sense of exaggeration could have been applied to make it sound...

more interesting...

Source D can also be seen as useful and reliable for an...

historian studying total war in Britain. The poster displays...

a woman cutting bread with words stating 'Keep 'Don't Waste...

Bread... Repeat the U-boat'. In this sense, it can be seen...

to be useful because the impact of the total war can be usually seen...

and also the effects of the U-boat campaigns. The fact people had to...

save their bread highlights the effect total war was having on the...

population. However, the poster was produced by the Ministry...

of Food in 1917, and thus is a large scale form of propaganda, and as a result...

the increasing shortages of food... The poster is useful as it shows...

the extent of British propaganda... However, for this reason its...

reliability should be questioned as propaganda was... usually...

exaggerated and emotive in order to persuade its audience, so...

is obviously involved... It is also not particularly useful to...

study all the effects of total war because... being a poster it only...

... displays one aspect of the state of society.

End of Question 3