

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.

Source C is extremely useful for a historian studying the impact of total war on the German homefront. Source D is somewhat less useful, and applies to the British home front.

Source C is very useful as it gives a broad picture of the impact of total war on life on the German home front. The ambassador ~~talk~~ discusses the rationing system and food shortages, the ability of those in higher classes to get around the shortages, the shortages of fuel and the impact that this had on public life and also goes into women in the workforce. All of these, particularly women, rationing, shortages and women, are essential aspects of the impact of total war on the home front; thus, this source is very useful for a historian seeking to understand this.

In addition, the source is ~~quite~~ fairly

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## Question 3 (continued)

reliable. Although it is a public account of the ambassador's experiences, which could ~~not~~ cause bias, he is not describing anything that he played an active role in, thus he has no ~~reason~~ need to lie to protect his reputation. He is merely describing daily life during the war in Germany, so has no reason to lie. This enhances the usefulness of the document as it gives a credible account of events.

Source D is less useful than Source C, as its content is somewhat more limited. However, it shows a working woman and demonstrates that total war extended to the home life and impacted upon daily habits including eating. It also demonstrates that there were food shortages and caution was needed in conserving food. Therefore, it is useful, though it does lack the breadth of Source C.

However, it is less reliable than Source C, as it is a propaganda poster. What is presented is what the Ministry of Food wants people to do - it presents an idealised version of how they want total war to impact upon the home front, and this may differ from the reality. It provides a possible assessment of the impact, but (beyond showing the use of propaganda) it is not <sup>necessarily</sup> reliable. Thus, its usefulness is somewhat diminished.

End of Question 3