

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, written by an American ambassador in 1917, describes the impact of total war on German citizens and the restriction of their liberties. Thus the perspective of an Allied ambassador may lead to the source containing an element of propaganda, additionally because it was published in 1917 it may be used to convince the Allies about the impact war was having on the German front and to show that they were suffering. The content of the source is supported by many other sources from the time, particularly those of women in the workforce and rising cost of living. Despite its potential to be subjective it is a largely reliable source because the source is supported, however when studying it an historian must remember it might be biased, although the ambassador concedes that suffering in Berlin was not so great and thus implies he is presenting an overall and objective viewpoint. Thus it is useful to an historian.

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who, what, when, where, why.

Question 3 (continued)

Studying the impact of total war on the home front in Germany but it does omit some information such as ersatz or substitute goods. Source D is from a credible source, the Ministry of Food and was released at the time of war, 1917 when rationing was still voluntary. The poster was one of many released to encourage women to make sacrifices around the home in Britain in order to contribute to the total war effort. It shows the perspective of the Ministry of Food and the propaganda techniques employed to influence the home front. The propaganda campaign had an extensive influence upon the home front and contributed to the war effort. However the source does not discuss other total war efforts such as the dilution of jobs, changing fashions, the entry of women into the workforce and that 80% of munitions were produced by women. Whilst it examines voluntary rations of bread it does not cover sugar and meat voluntary rations. Thus the source is reliable for the impact of total war on the home front however it does not present a complete representation. It is useful to an historian studying the impact of total war on the women of the home front but ~~and~~ an historian must note there were other aspects to total war in Britain.

End of Question 3