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 an extract from a memoir.

**Source C** is a primary source, which means it is reliable to an extent as it contains personal perspectives and personal observations of the impact of total war on one home front. The motivation of the extract may have been to recount his personal thoughts or possibly to keep a record of life on the home front for future historical reference.

As the source is a primary source, it is fair to assume it has not been influenced by hindsight or historical distance and is representative of the American frontality and life in Germany, the enemy country. Yet, his language appears to be factual as opposed to emotive, and whilst describing the German conditions, it does not show prejudice or enemy hate, even conveying a sense of bias despite his nationalism. The source is useful in conveying the hardships faced by the German civilians as entertainment was decreased as the home front economy and social structures were fully devoted to the war effort. This is reliable as these hardships and conditions corroborate with many other sources.

**Source D** for a historian to gain a greater understanding of the impact of total war, such as the impacts of propaganda, censorship and increased...
Question 3 (continued)

Government control they would need to collaborate with other sources in addition to. Specifically, the perspectives of the British government and their attempts to encourage rationing and the home front efforts.

In order to gain a wider understanding of the impact of total war on the home front historians would need to collaborate with other sources, as this source only shows a limited range of impacts. The source also contains elements of bias, as the choosing of the posters in the image portrays the perspective that the German threat is causing the Britons in an attempt to play on emotions and encourage hatred of the enemy. These emotions are effective in showing methods employed by the Royal Air Force to manipulate popular conscience and gain the support of the home front, for total war production.

End of Question 3