

2006 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION  
Modern History

## Section I (continued)

O  
M  
A  
C  
U  
R

## 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 former American Ambassador James Gerard's *My Four Years in Germany, London 1917*; is a primary source which means it is reliable to an extent as it ~~conveys~~ <sup>is useful</sup> in conveying a personal perspective and personal observations of the impact of total war on the home fronts. 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may have been to recount his personal thoughts or possibly to keep a record of life on the home front for future historical reference.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 debate, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>his perspective as he is of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> American nationality, and he is living in Germany, the enemy country, yet his language appears to be factual opposed to emotive, and whilst describing the German conditions it doesn't show prejudice or enemy hate, ~~and~~ <sup>conveying a lack of bias despite</sup> his nationality. The source is useful in conveying the hardships of rationing, the coal shortages and the impact on civilian social life ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> entertainment was decreased as the home front economic and social structures were fully devoted to the war effort, this is reliable as

these hardships and conditions corroborate with many other sources. -5- For a historian to gain a greater understanding of the impact of total war, such as the impacts of propaganda, censorship and increased

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## Question 3 (continued)

Government control they would need to collaborate with other sources, to find a wider range of perspectives. Source D, is a British poster produced by the Ministry of Food, 1917. The poster is a primary source and a useful example of the form and aim propaganda set out to achieve. The source obviously, is useful in conveying the government wishes and influence over the British people. The poster is useful in conveying how British propaganda specifically, this poster targeted women, and the emotive language such as "Defeat" and attempt to play on the emotions and encourage civilians to conscientiously contribute to the war effort in every possible way. ~~The source~~ <sup>whilst</sup> the source is useful in highlighting the perspectives of the British government and their attempts to encourage rationing ~~and it is also statements~~ in order to gain a wider understanding of the impact of total war on the homefront 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 size and placement of the U-boats in the image portrays the destruction that the German Fleet is causing to Britain, in an attempt to play to emotions and even encourage hatred of the enemy for these actions. Effective in showing methods employed by the govt to manipulate social conscience and gain the support of the homefront, for total war production ~~but does not~~

End of Question 3