

2006 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
Modern History

Section I (continued)

Question 2 (10 marks)

Explain why US entry into World War I proved to be the most significant of the war's turning points.

Use Sources A and B and your own knowledge to answer this question.

The US entry into the war proved to be the most significant of the war's turning points.

As we can see from source A, the situation at that time was very tense and uncertain. Germany attempted to starve Britain by sinking its supply ships and to make the situation worse, Germany had defeated Russia in the East and was sending those troops to fight against the allies.

From this source alone, we can see that the war was looking pretty grim. This is only confirmed in source B. 'We are at the crisis of the war', 'our Army has been forced to retire.' So from these sources, we learn that the outlook is pretty grim. The allied forces have been forced to retire, but we also learn that they are waiting the arrival of fresh new American troops to arrive.

French and British morale is boosted with the knowledge that the USA will neglect no effort which can hasten its troops and ships to Europe. →

Question 2 continues on page 4

Question 1-3

Question 2 (continued)

And from our own knowledge, we know that this is exactly what happened. The war was dragging on. More and more men were getting killed everyday. Morale on the side of the allies was low. Then, with America declaring war on Germany there came a ray of hope. Fresh new troops arrived giving a morale boost to the allies. It was this, the arrival of the American troops that turned the war around.

End of Question 2