

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 entry of the U.S. in WWI proved to be a major turning point. ^{in that} they ~~added~~ contributed an abundance of resources, soldiers, and boosted the morale of the Allied forces. As Germany had defeated Russia in the east, ^(shown in source A) the soldiers could be redeployed on the west, French boarder in an attempt to brake the deadlock. And with superior numbers and force Germany could have won the war ^{in its plans} ~~at all~~ such as St Helens, had the U.S. not joined. As source B indicates Germany had ^{the} ~~been~~ upper hand in Europe. This was until the U.S. joined, bringing with them the hope that the Germans could be defeated. This morale boost significantly helped the French and British who had almost given up. With the U.S. contribution came the mass soldiers of whom were critically needed at the time. With conscription wearing thin, the U.S.

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Question 2 (continued)

involvement allowed for better strategic planning on the front lines. Thus the inexperienced U.S. soldiers could hold the lines while British and French forces executed planned attacks to brake the German spirit. With this increased military power, provided by the U.S., the war ~~was~~ ^{took} a turning point.

Just as source A tells of the U.S. declaration of war through violations of destroying its ships, this in turn proved costly, as supplies and resources were now rapidly sent to Europe and the front lines to aid the Allies. And because ~~the~~ at this time WWI had become a war of attrition, Germany was ~~rapidly~~ ^{fastly} becoming unstable due to its limited resources and high upkeep. This meant that Germany could not afford to push out the opposition through time, as the Allied powers now could.

Thus it was the timing and contributions that made the U.S. involvement so significant. Allowing so many more advantages over Germany, this proved to be the turning point in the war.

End of Question 2