

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.

As source **B** illustrates, the Allies were vastly outnumbered by the beginning of 1918. Huge losses in previous campaigns including the Somme left Allied troops decimated & demoralised. It appears to Lloyd George that Germany has an endless supply of fresh reserves, while England's conscripts are fast running out. In order to win the war, ^{external} support was needed.

Traditionally, America favoured an isolationist policy. ~~B~~ From 1914 - 1917 it made huge financial gains supplying the war machine in Europe whilst remaining neutral.

In a tactical move described in Source A, Germany attempted to stop these supplies through U-boat attacks on

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Question 2 (continued)

"American neutral Shipping"
This ageracion "forced" America to declare war on Germany in April 1917, but it was not until March of 1918 that the reinforcing troops arrived to releave the pressure on the Western front.

The addition of American soldiers not only helped solve the numerical problem that British & French conscription could not, but, as Lloyd George points out in Source B, acted as a "Morale boost" to the exhausted and dissolusioned troops on the Western front.

The US entry into WWI was a significant turning point as they brought flexible leadership structures, modernised strategys, huge numbers of war supplies from ~~lighty~~ their flourishing heavy industries and seemingly inexhaustable fresh troops.

This force combined to give the war a decisive swing in favour of the Allies.

End of Question 2