

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.

While the US entry into the war was late in the course of events, its ~~entry~~ entry was the ~~major~~ turning point that finally turned the tide definitively against Germany. Lloyd George in Source B acknowledges the true benefit of American entry when he says that "French and British morale is boosted" - although the US did provide material support in the final year of the conflict, their most significant impact was upon morale.

The knowledge that the US, a massive economic power, was readying itself for entry in the war was of huge benefit to British and French confidence and morale. Conversely, it was damaging to German morale as it made the struggle seem increasingly futile.

Indeed, this view is supported by

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Question 2 (continued)

Source A, which affirms that after the declaration of war in 1917, the US took "many months to raise and equip an army" - clearly, the ultimate benefit of US entry was psychological, although their material assistance in 1918 was extremely helpful.

After all, even in 1917 it was unclear who would emerge as the victor of the war. This is supported by Sources A and B. Source A describes the damaging effect of the German ~~the~~ U-boat campaign on Britain and the seeming advantage that the Germans had after the defeat of Russia - they were strong enough to launch a new offensive even as late as March 1918.

This is affirmed in Source B, in which ~~Mr~~ Lloyd George describes, in March 1918, the war as being at crisis point.

The ~~the~~ war ^{was} ~~was~~ at a stage in 1917 and early 1918 where it seemed that either side could be victorious, as both were suffering from ~~war~~ problems caused by the naval blockade and the U-boat campaign. Thus, it was the entry of the US that tipped the balance in favour of the Allies, both materially and psychologically.

End of Question 2