

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 suggested in Source A, US entry brought into the war a new source of weaponry and war resources, thus allowing the Allies to gain the military and economic advantage over Germany. Russia having just withdrawn allowed Germany to focus all her war efforts on just one front, and thus the US entry allowed the Allies to prevent Russian defeat having a large negative impact upon them. Source B also suggests that Allied morale was boosted at the sight of US troops, their arrival also had the opposite effect on German troops. The arrival of endless supplies of fresh troops when they themselves were war weary and exhausted crushed their morale. The US admiralty also had an immediate impact upon the war, as US troops were not involved until the second battle of Marne in which 250,000 US troops fought. Sims negotiated with British admiralty and put into place a Convey Scheme which allowed US supplies and soldiers

Question 2 continues on page 4

## Question 2 (continued)

to cross the Atlantic Ocean safely without being affected by the German U-boat campaign. The US admiralty also placed a mine barrage in the North Sea to making it all but inaccessible to the German submarines. Thus US entry had a large economic impact on the war, allowing the Allies a new source of troops, food, weapons, ships etc which proved to be a major turning point. This also was more significant than Russian defeat in 1917 because the US was a much more superior fighting force economically and militarily. US also had the ability to enable technological innovations to be produced, such as the tank in mass quantities, this proved to be a major factor as it was an area which Ludendorff failed to develop. Thus US entry was the major turning point in the war as it broke the stalemate and gave allies further superiority. Throughout the war the Allies mobilised 40 million men in comparison to the German and her allies with just 23 million. However one must remember that there were other factors precipitating German downfall.

End of Question 2