

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.

There were numerous turning points in WWI, including the failure of the Schlieffen plan, the U-boat campaigns at sea, the withdrawal of Russia and of course the entry of the US into WWI. The entry of the US into the war was significant as prior to their entry the Allies as ~~exhausted~~ ~~strained~~ were forced to endure hardships on the home front, such as rationing of goods eg. bacon, flour, sugar and imports, export and trade was impacted as ~~well~~ as the "German U-boats attempted to starve Britain by sinking its supply ships" apparent in Source A. Although, civilians continued to suffer hardships after the entry of the US, if the US had not entered Britain's social and economic structures would have collapsed relatively earlier. As apparent in Source A the Germany in 1918 launched their final off Spring offensive, led by Ludendorff. Britain due to the U-boat campaign ~~was~~ ^{initially} faced a campaign ^{in which} they suffered i.e. w. troop morale due to lack of supplies and war weariness, as defeat was imminent. However the US entry into war turned the British situation around as evident in Source B "French and British morale is boosted

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Question 2 (continued)

with the knowledge that the USA will request no effort which can hasten its troops". Due to the "continuous violations of American neutral shipping" apparent through source A, and notably the sinking of the Lusitania where 128 innocent American civilians died, the US was effectively forced to declare war on Germany. Thus this acted as a significant turning point as the ~~British~~ US entry, provided an ~~undisputable~~ undisputable boost to allied morale. ~~Of~~ Although Americans did not contribute much strategically, they offered the allies fresh men and relief to the allied soldiers who were demoralised by the senseless slaughter they had experienced since 1914. The US brought manpower, and it was a fundamental factor that led to the final defeat of the Germans in the Spring offensive. As the British and US ~~to~~ forced the Germans to retreat, the Germans overstripped their supply lines and their ^{troop} morale fell as they were made aware of the better and improved situation of their enemies, who enjoyed more comforts than the Germans due to the US entry. As source B states ~~that~~ "In war, Time is vital", highlighted as without the entry of the US at this crucial battle ~~that~~ there is a great possibility that the ~~to~~ outcome of the war would have been different.

End of Question 2