



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Thursday 26 May 2022 – Morning**

**A Level History A**

**Y315/01 The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792–1945**

**Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document has **4** pages.

**ADVICE**

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

## SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the role of the state in the First World War. [30]

**Passage A**

An expansive and escalating use of force on the Western Front rather than its concentration would ensure victory. Operations came to be guided by the sense that 'more is better'. The unrestricted use of all possible means of warfare was necessary to break the enemy. Managerial organisation of violence and unlimited warfare came together. Escalation of force as the new strategic principle necessitated an intensification of the war effort at home. Politics became a means to improve the effectiveness of the people through permanent activity. Politics followed strategy as the purpose and meaning of strategy changed. Politics sought to inspire and direct people to an unlimited war effort. Propaganda became its principal tool. The aim was to mobilise the nation for unlimited war. The mobilisation of the means of war began to determine the goals and methods of war. Strategic plans were determined by asking 'How much can society take?' 'How much can industry produce?' The more society and industry were mobilised, the greater were the goals of the war. There was the belief that the war could only end with the complete and unconditional subjugation of the enemy to the victor's will. This put the capability of social mobilisation at the centre of strategy and escalated warfare.

**Adapted from: Michael Geyer, 'German Strategy in the Age of Machine Warfare 1914–1945', in Makers of Modern Strategy, published in 1990.**

**Passage B**

In 1914 and 1915 both sides attempted to gain a decisive result by victories on the battlefield but by the end of 1915 it was clear that Napoleonic principles of war on which soldiers had been raised for a hundred years were no longer valid. More relevant were wars which aimed at the destruction of the enemy's resources. This involved attacking without necessarily expecting any major tactical success but to force the enemy to use up resources faster. Such was the reasoning behind the German attack on Verdun in 1916, and the justification for the prolonging of the British attacks on the Western Front in 1916 and 1917. Armies were the instruments to bleed one another dry of resources. This imposed burdens on the civilian population which were accepted without complaint. Immense war loans were raised. Women took the place of men in factories and fields. Civilians forfeited luxuries, submitted to increasingly severe rationing of necessities, tightened their belts as consumer goods disappeared from the shops. In the process fundamental change took place in the belligerent societies themselves. Government acquired control over new areas of social and economic life. As one British general put it bluntly, the richest side would win.

**Adapted from: Michael Howard, War in European History, published in 1976.**

**SECTION B**

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2\*** 'Generals had little impact on the outcome of battles.' How far do you agree with this view of warfare from 1792 to 1945? **[25]**
- 3\*** 'Tanks have been the most important development in weaponry in changing the nature of warfare.' How far do you agree with this view of the period 1792 to 1945? **[25]**
- 4\*** To what extent was the American Civil War the most important turning point in the organisation of the state for war in the period from 1792 to 1945? **[25]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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