

BOARD OF STUDIES
NEW SOUTH WALES

2007

**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION**

Modern History

Source Booklet

Instructions

Detach this source booklet

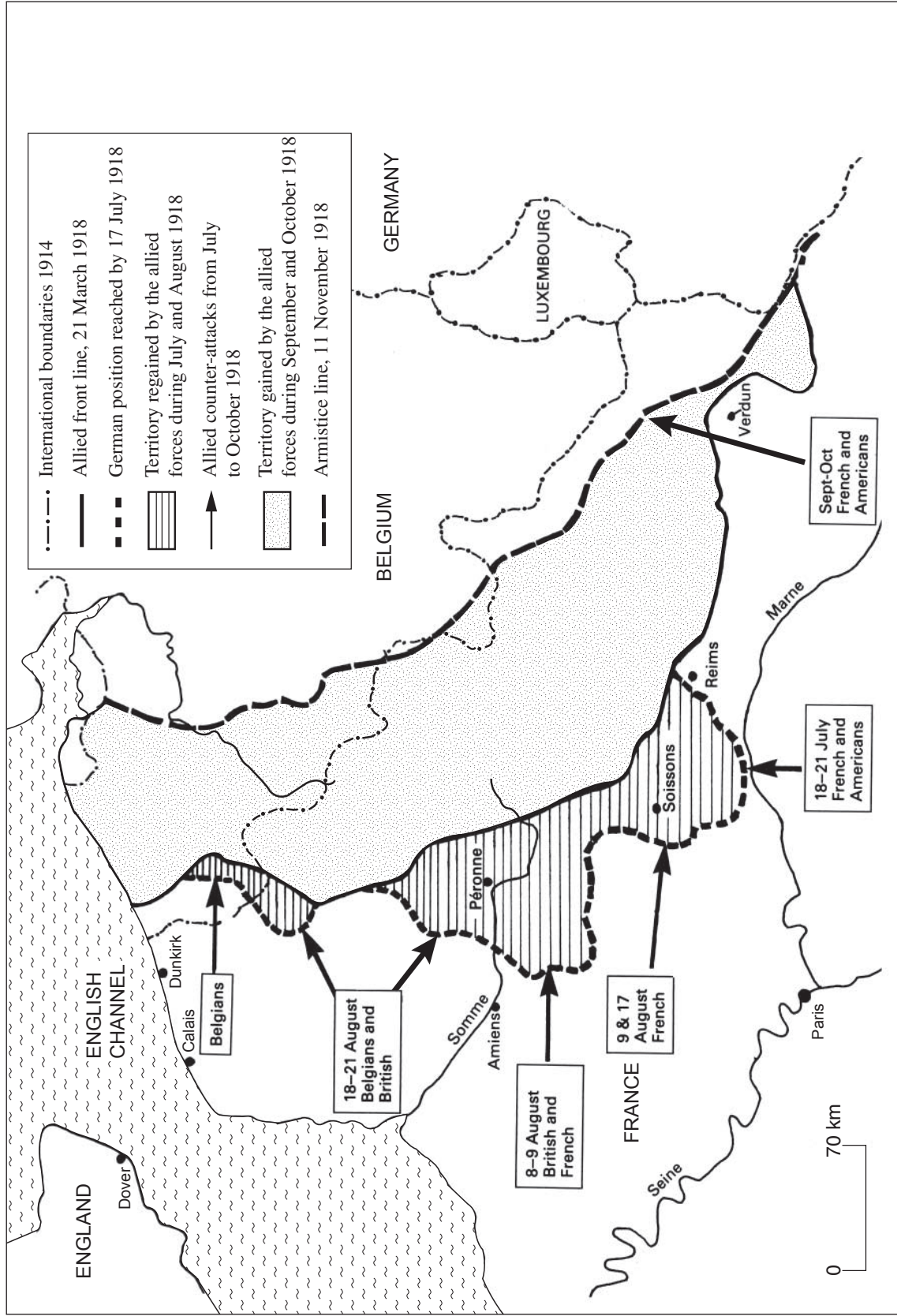
Source A Page 2

Source B Page 3

Source C Page 4

Source D Page 4

Source A German offensive and Allied counter-attacks 1918



Source B

An extract from Michael S Neiberg, *Fighting the Great War: A Global History*, 2005

. . . Ludendorff's great offensive plan had already failed. It had lacked a grand strategy from the beginning, with Ludendorff famously announcing that his only intention had been to "punch a hole into [the allied line]. For the rest, we shall see" . . . Ludendorff sat at a crossroads. He had inflicted heavy casualties, but his own forces had suffered more than 239,000 casualties, many from Germany's elite units; March 21 1918, had been Germany's costliest day of the war so far. Even with the odds in their favour, the Germans found that their attack had been very costly . . . the will of the French and British had not broken and the offensive had led the Americans to promise to move more men to Europe more quickly.

German soldiers had, in addition, broken discipline to loot French towns and eat and drink from British and French stores. Compared to the Germans' own often meagre rations, the Allies appeared to have limitless supplies . . . Germany's last gamble had failed, and the Allied armies were ready to resume the offensive. The war's final phase had begun.

Fighting the Great War: A Global History by Michael S Neiberg, p. 317, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, Copyright 2005 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College

Please turn over

Source C

London, December 1915



Source D

An extract from John H Morrow Jr., *The Great War: An Imperial History*, 2004

Many British youth greeted war with a zesty enthusiasm. Julian Grenfell, who perished in October 1914, wrote home that he “adored” war, found it “the best fun,” like a “big picnic,” and enjoyed nothing better than sniping at the enemy, commenting “One loves one’s fellow man so much more when one is bent on killing him.” Such youthful civilian “idealists” flocked to the colours in 1914 and 1915. Grenfell was dead by October, when the mood began to change at the front. Notes of despair began to creep into soldiers’ letters home that once brimmed with patriotic enthusiasm. One German university student wrote on 28 October from Belgium: “With what joy and pleasure I was drawn into the struggle, which seemed to me the greatest opportunity, to release my longing and zest for life. With what disillusionment I sit here, with dread in my heart.” A British professional soldier, suffering from no romantic illusions, echoed the German student more tersely: “This is pure murder, not war.”

The Great War: An Imperial History, by John H Morrow Jr, Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group