History A (The Making of the Modern World)
Unit 3: Modern World Source Enquiry Option 3A: War and the transformation of British society, c1903–28

Monday 2 June 2014 – Afternoon
Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

You must have:
Sources Booklet (enclosed)

Instructions

● Use black ink or ball-point pen.
● Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
● Answer all questions.
● Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Information

● The total mark for this paper is 54.
● The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.
● Questions labelled with an asterisk (*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed.
● The marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar are clearly indicated.

Advice

● Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
● Keep an eye on the time.
● Try to answer every question.
● Check your answers if you have time at the end.
Answer ALL questions.

Look carefully at the background information and Sources A to F in the Sources Booklet and then answer Questions 1 to 5 which follow.

1 Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about the Somme offensive?

(6)
2 Study Source B and use your own knowledge.

What was the purpose of this article? Use details of the article and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(8)
3  Study Sources A, B and C.

How far do Sources A and B support the evidence of Source C about the Somme offensive? Explain your answer, using the sources.

(10)
4 Study Sources D and E and use your own knowledge.

How reliable are Sources D and E as evidence of the Somme offensive? Explain your answer, using Sources D and E and your own knowledge.

(10)
*5 Study all the sources (A to F) and use your own knowledge.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in this question.

‘The Somme offensive was a failure’.

How far do the sources in this paper support this statement? Use details from the sources and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(16)
Edexcel, a product of Pearson Education Limited, gratefully acknowledges the following source used in the preparation of this paper:

**Source A: Forgotten Scottish Voices from the Great War, Derek Young, Tempus. Reproduced with permission of The History Press.**

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The Somme offensive, 1916

Background information

On 1 July 1916 Britain and France launched the Somme offensive to take the pressure off the German attacks on Verdun. The offensive lasted until November 1916 when it was called off by Haig, the British Commander-in-Chief. Some historians believe that the Somme offensive was a failure. Others suggest that it had some successes.

Source A: From an interview given in 1988 by a British soldier who took part in the Somme offensive.

We were sent into High Wood in broad daylight in the face of heavy machine gun fire and shell fire. Everywhere there were dead bodies where previous attacks had taken place by British troops. It was criminal to send men to attack without any cover of any sort whatsoever. There was no need for the attack. There were heaps of dead men everywhere. They just seemed to be pushing men in to be killed for no reason. They couldn’t possibly capture the enemy position, not on a frontal attack. Not at High Wood.
Source B: From an article in a British newspaper about the first day of the Somme offensive. It was published the next day on 2 July 1916.

**British Advance.**

16 MILES OF GERMAN FRONT TRENCHES STORMED.

"THE DAY GOES WELL" FOR OUR HEROIC TROOPS.

Special Telegrams to the “News of the World.”

British headquarters, July 1. – Attack launched north of the River Somme this morning at 7.30 a.m.

British Troops have broken into German forward system of defences on front of 16 miles.

Fighting is continuing.

British raiding parties again succeeded in penetrating enemy’s defences at many points, inflicting loss on enemy and taking some prisoners.

Source C: An extract from the diary of a British soldier who fought at the Somme, 3 July 1916.

We attacked this morning, but owing to the German defences not having been destroyed we failed to get through. The enemy machine guns opened up on our men as soon as their heads appeared above the sand bags. We suffered heavy casualties with a great number of wounded. However, when we reached the enemy trenches, the Germans were delighted to surrender and go down on hands and knees and beg for mercy. Whenever they get the chance they run, walk or crawl over to our lines and surrender.
**Source D:** A sketch which was produced for *The Great War*, a British history book published in 1917. The sketch shows British troops capturing a German trench (15 July 1916) during the Somme offensive.

![Sketch of troops advancing](image)

**Source E:** From a personal memoir written by an MP in August 1916. He was a former government minister.

> I view with the utmost pain this terrible killing of our troops. We have not gained in a month’s fighting as much ground as we were expected to gain in the first two hours of the Somme offensive. We have not advanced two miles in a direct line at any point. Nor are we advancing on any point of military importance. It is all open country which can easily be defended by the use of trenches.

**Source F:** From a modern world history textbook, published in 1996.

> By November 1916, the British had lost over 400,000 men. The Germans had been pushed back a few miles but there had been no breakthrough. The Somme also damaged confidence in the military leaders, especially Haig, who was severely criticised after the offensive. On the other hand, the offensive saved Verdun, which was its main objective. The German war effort was seriously weakened as some of its best troops were killed or wounded. A new attacking tactic, the creeping barrage, was used very effectively by the British in September 1916.