RADLEY

Entrance Scholarships

HISTORY

March 2015

Time allowed: 45 minutes

This question is about the intervention of the United States of America in the First World War and the defeat of Germany.

You do not need any prior knowledge of this topic but we suggest that you look at the 'Useful Definitions' before reading the sources.

Answer the following questions.

1. **Study Source A.**

   What can you learn from Source A about the reasons for US entry into the First World War?

   3 marks

2. **Study Sources B and C.**

   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about relations between the USA and Germany in 1917? Explain your answer.

   7 marks

3. **Study Sources A, B, C, D, E and F.**

   'The main reason for the defeat of Germany in 1918 was the intervention of the USA and the role played by US troops.'

   Use the sources to explain whether you agree with this view.

   15 marks

TOTAL: 25 marks

Useful definitions:

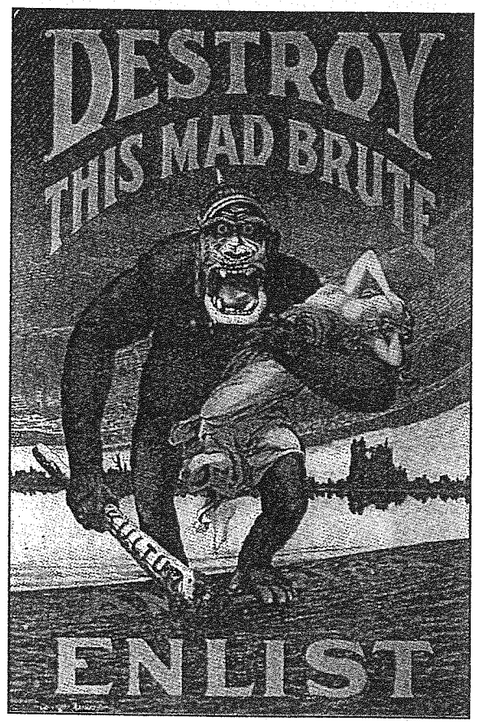
Mexico:	a country sharing a border with the southern states of the USA
Ultimatum:	a demand made by one person (or country) that something be done by another person (or country); normally the demand is accompanied by a request that it be carried out in a specified period of time and is backed up by a threat.
The Central Powers:	Germany and its allies in the war (Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria).
The Western Front:	The term used to describe the line of trenches running from northern France south to the Swiss border. For most of the First World War, neither the British nor the Germans advanced more than a few miles along this line.
Offensive:	refers to a military 'push' or advance.
Verdun:	A major battle in 1916 between French and German forces.
Blockade:	Refers to the blockade of German ports by the British Navy. British ships prevented goods and essential supplies from entering German ports – thus ensuring that there were serious shortages of food and essential supplies in Germany.
Allies:	British, French and American troops.

B2: The War to End Wars, 1914-19

Source A: From a school history textbook, published in 2001.

The USA's patience with Germany finally ran out when news of the Zimmerman Telegram, January 1917, was printed in the newspapers. The telegram suggested that Mexico should make an alliance with Germany if the USA joined the war. The Mexicans would then attack the southern states of the USA such as Texas and Arizona. This was the last straw. President Woodrow Wilson had no choice but to go to war.

Source B: A US army recruiting poster of 1917. The 'mad brute' represents Germany.



Source C: The US government's ultimatum to Germany, April 1917.

Unless the Imperial German Government should now stop submarine warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, the government of the US can have no choice but to break off diplomatic relations with the Central Powers.

Source D: From the memoirs of George Jameson, a British soldier, who was 100 years old when his memoirs were published in 1993. Jameson served on the Western Front in 1918.

At first the German offensive worked because it took us by surprise and pushed us back. But the vital point is that although it pushed our line back it didn't break it. They just couldn't get through. When they retreated, they didn't have time to get back into their trenches. We had them on the run, as it were. The German prisoners were exhausted and had the look of defeat on their faces.

Source E: An official German photograph of German troops advancing over a captured French trench, south of Verdun, June 1918.



Source F: From a school textbook on the First World War, published in 1992.

In 1918 Germany was weakened by the surrender of its allies – Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria– and the effects of the Allied blockade which led to serious food shortages and eventually revolution. US troops played a crucial role in the defeat of Germany. They took part in the Allied offensives of 1918, which finally drove the Germans back and led to their surrender in November. There were 1.7 million US soldiers in Europe by the time the war ended.
