Name: ……..…..

RADLEY

Academic Scholarship 2018

History

Time allowed – 45 minutes

There are six sources and three questions. You should spend roughly 5 minutes on question 1, 15 on question 2 and 25 on question 3.

You are expected to write accurate, grammatical, well punctuated prose throughout this paper.

This question is about stalemate and the experience of trench warfare in World War 1.

You do not need any prior knowledge of this topic, just the information contained within the sources.

Answer the following questions.

1. Study Source A.

   What can you learn from Source A about the British attack on the first day of the Battle of the Somme?

   3 marks

2. Study Sources A, B and C.

   To what extent do Sources B and C support the evidence of Source A? Make detailed comparisons in reaching your judgement.

   7 marks

3. Study all of the sources (A to F).

   'The main reason for heavy British casualties on the Western Front, in the years 1915 to 1917, was the tactics used by the British commanders.'

   To what extent do these sources support this opinion?

   15 marks

SOURCES for History Scholarship 2018

Source A: **From an interview with George Morgan, a member of the Bradford Pals Battalion. In this interview George Morgan was remembering 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.**

We formed into one line and walked slowly forward. We had only gone a few yards when my mate, Billy Booth, was hit. Then the man on my left fell against me. Lines of men were just disappearing. The Germans' machine guns fired at us like it was target practice. The wire was 60 yards away but only a few made it as far as that. They became fastened on the barbs and the machine guns tore their bodies to shreds. It was all over in ten minutes.

Source B: **From a British newspaper News of the World, 2 July 1916, describing the events of the first day of the Battle of the Somme.**



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 River Somme this morning at 7.30 a.m., in conjuction with French.

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

Fighting is continuing.

French attack on our immediate right proceeding equally satisfactory.

On remainder of British front raiding parties again. succeeded in penetrating enemy's defences at many points, inflicting loss on enemy and taking some prisoners

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Source C: From a report by Sir Douglas Haig, the British Commander-in-Chief, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916.

Very successful attack this morning. All went like clockwork. The battle is going very well for us. Already the Germans are surrendering freely. The enemy is so short of men that he is collecting them from all parts of the line. Our troops are in wonderful spirits and full of confidence. All objectives achieved so far.

Source D: A sketch from the weekly British newspaper Illustrated London News, 29 July 1916. It shows British troops kicking a football as they launch an attack.



Source E: From the last letter from Private Peter MacGregor to his wife in September 1916. He was killed shortly afterwards by a direct hit on his trench by an enemy shell.

I am well and looking forward to the end of the war. I wish it would hurry up. One of our men was caught by a sniper. He was standing at the entrance to his dugout when the bullet went in under his shoulder. When I was standing at the cookhouse door, I saw the stretcher which came along to take the poor fellow away. How sad it was. He was carried out wrapped up in his waterproof sheet. The war has to go on. A dead man is no use to the army who have to get him out as quickly as possible.

Source F: From a school history textbook about the First World War published in 1993.

No one had prepared for this kind of war. The war plans had assumed it would be a war of movement. Behind the lines, the cavalry waited to make heroic charges which rarely happened. Faced with this situation, the Allied generals decided on a war of attrition. They would attack. They would lose thousands of men, but they would also kill many Germans. Eventually they would grind down the German army until there was nothing left, even if only a handful of Allied troops also survived.