Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 23 May 2025 – 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.

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Section A

Read the **two** passages and answer Question 1.

1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages.

Explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the effectiveness of generalship on the Western Front. **[30]**

Passage A

© Neil Stewart, The Changing Nature of Warfare 1700-1945, p90-1, Hodder & Stoughton, 2001. From first line "The blanket condemnation of the British Generals denies the fact that the British army under the guidance of its commanders made tremendous improvements," to last line "their readiness to take

Passage B

Probably the greatest charge levelled against the leaders is a failure to learn. Similar tactics failed for similar reasons with similarly tragic consequences for over three years. Although some changes were made, essentially the terrible British attacks in 1917 were not much different from earlier unsuccessful attacks in 1916 and 1915. Similarly, the French attacks in 1917 were not much different from the attacks in 1915 and 1916. Only the Germans in their attacks of March 1918 showed any significant large-scale adaptation of these tactics, but the policy of 1916 of 'bleeding the French white' by deliberately attacking their strongpoint was the crassest strategy of attrition of the war. In any case, this attack was not properly followed up. Generals so slowly fathomed the crucial difficulty of trench warfare, and they failed to understand that with more and more artillery, the more the surface of the ground would be damaged and from a normal battlefield it would become a crater area. By the time this ground had been repaired and roads built to get men and supplies to the front, the enemy would have re-entrenched, so another attack would be needed. Given the very large number of casualties on the Western Front and the harrowing personal accounts of hardship and loss, it is difficult to reject these criticisms.

N. Fellows and M. Wells, The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792–1945, published in 2016.

Section B

Answer any **two** questions.

2* How far did developments in weapon technology change the nature of land warfare in the period from 1792 to 1945? **[25]**

3* Assess the effectiveness of alliances in wars during the period from 1792 to 1945. **[25]**

4* How far did victory in war during the period from 1792 to 1945 depend on the effective organisation of the state for war? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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