Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours 15 minutes

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History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 37.1: The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991: perception and reality

Option 37.2: Germany, 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 37.1: The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991: perception and reality

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From a letter written by Crown Prince Wilhelm to the Kaiser's Military Cabinet, 29 August 1916. The Crown Prince commanded the 5th Army, but it had been under the overall command of Falkenhayn at the beginning of the attack on Verdun.

The strategy for the Verdun campaign had been planned by Falkenhayn, who was confident after successes on the Eastern Front. Our aim was to deliver the heaviest possible blow against France whose morale was on the verge of cracking after the losses of 1914–15. Verdun was key to the defence of France and regarded as the gateway to Paris. It was vulnerable as a salient that projected into German controlled territory. This territory contained vital railheads, which enabled us to move in our biggest guns. Falkenhayn stated that the campaign would bleed the French army to death and prevent any effective Anglo-French offensive.

The attack began on February 21 but Falkenhayn modified the plan by restricting the offensive to the east bank of the river Meuse. This left our forces vulnerable to fire from French artillery. Our own bombardment was massive with two million shells fired and would have been even more effective but for heavy mists, which limited aerial reconnaissance. Our forces had difficulty moving forward over the shell-cratered ground, especially when a thaw turned the clay to deep mud. The infantry showed marvellous courage and the capture of Fort Douaumont was a triumph. We could have built on this if the reserves promised had arrived on time.

The French abandoned some positions, but our troops were exhausted and sufficient rations were not available. This gave the French a breathing space and their new commander (Pétain) sent in more men, established a new supply line and restored morale. The French also gained air supremacy.

I make no accusations. I report facts and believe a great opportunity has been lost. The speed of the initial attack has been replaced by a gigantic struggle for every foot of ground. We have not broken the defences of Verdun and our losses exceed any gains. We set out to destroy the French army and we are in danger of sacrificing our own. I did everything I could to stop the carnage.

The battle is also undermining our overall strategy. Russia has been given time to advance in the East. The resistance of the French forces has shattered the plans of the German military staff and we now face new challenges on the Western Front because of the mobilisation of a much larger British force, which launched an offensive in July. This forced Falkenhayn to send forces to the Somme front and our heavy guns moved north.

Option 37.2: Germany, 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From a speech made by Bismarck to the Prussian parliament, 10 March 1873.

The question we are currently dealing with, in my opinion, has been misleadingly described. It is not about suppressing the Church, it is about building the State. It is not a conflict between believers and unbelievers, it is an argument, which must be resolved, between the power of the State and the power of the Catholic Church. My main objective is to unify and consolidate our new Reich.

We had hoped that a religious-based party would support the government, but I have heard speeches and read articles that have attempted to stir up feelings against the government. All politicians with liberal values must support our struggle.

It is crucial that we preserve the rights of our citizens to live in a liberal society. We are determined to build the State. The recent decrees of the Pope are a threat to that objective. Concepts belonging to the Middle Ages must not be used to hold our country back.

Up to now it has been required that all bishops and priests must accept the Vatican decrees and, in a recent case, a Catholic bishop sought to discipline a teacher in a state school who refused to teach the doctrine of Papal Infallibility. The Prussian government could never agree to this ruling. In our society, schools are regulated by the state and play a vital part in its development. All teaching appointments must be subject to state approval.

The Catholic Church has become a barrier to the creation of a unified, patriotic German nation. The Centre Party, founded two years ago, seems intent on sowing discontent by opposing the Constitution and supporting the continued use of the Polish language in areas that are now parts of our nation. We must not allow internal minorities to create division. The Catholic Church has become the enemy of the people.

In order to protect the freedom of our State a new minister of Culture has been appointed. He will deal with these matters with vigour and take urgent steps: the repressive Jesuit order will be expelled; the State will take responsibility for the appointment of priests and civil marriages will be compulsory. State authorities will inspect Catholic schools and the State will take responsibility for the appointment of all teachers.

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Acknowledgements

Source 1 from: *Source Records of the Great War*, volume 4, edited by Charles F Horne 1923

Source 2 from: www.zum.de/psm/imperialismus/bismarck3e.php