



2011 Modern History HSC Examination 'Sample Answers'

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee's 'working document', they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — World War I 1914–1919

Part A

Question 5

Answers could include:

Gas, bayonet, shot, shellfire (reference to sandbags)

Question 9

Sample answer:

Source *B* describes the use of tanks to provide effective movement on a battlefield. Source *B* states that this did not succeed in September 1916. The tank was to become more useful later in the war as its speed, manoeuvrability, reliability, armaments and armour improved.

Source *B* also describes the use of aircraft for reconnaissance duties. Aircraft were able to observe enemy positions and movements, act as spotters for the artillery, and pick weak spots in enemy lines.

Source *C* shows that gas was used as a tactic to drive troops out of their trenches and to force their retreat. It also shows soldiers with fused bayonets, perhaps in readiness for an attack 'over the top' in an endeavour to break the stalemate.

In general, the tactics and strategies used to break the stalemate consisted of conducting a sustained artillery barrage, such as at the Somme in 1916, which was designed to breach the barbed wire, collapse trenches and drive the defenders to the rear. When the barrage was lifted, troops would leave their trenches to charge across no man's land.

Answers could include:

- Tanks for movement against physical obstacles
- Use of aircraft for reconnaissance
- Gas
- Heavy bombardments (artillery)
- America's entry into war
- More effective use of troop movements/rotation/fresh troops
- Blockades
- Big battles – set piece battles, eg the Somme

Part B

Question 10

Answers could include:

<i>Sources</i>	<i>Perspective</i>	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Usefulness</i>
<i>C</i>	British photograph	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reliable regarding British response to early German gas attacks• Reliable as a form of trench construction• Photograph could be part of an official propaganda exercise (absence of dead bodies, mud etc). A posed photograph?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contemporary view of a trench at the time of the introduction of gas warfare• Realistic view of British trench
<i>D</i>	German source. Official German observer; contemporary report	Eyewitness view from German perspective; Extract; Translation issues; Use of emotional language.	German official view of the battle; reliable from German perspective; propaganda value impacts on usefulness

(Note: This is not an exhaustive list or a recommended format for responses.)