

20 min

8 Use your own knowledge and Sources B and D to answer this question.

6

Outline how the experiences of trench warfare changed soldiers' attitudes to the war over time.

The life in trenches was not only harsh and dangerous but it was also demoralising on the soldiers. Source A shows the account an extract from a letter by Robert Graves, a British soldier, and he portrays a dismal image "The parapet of a trench we don't occupy is built up with ammunition boxes and corpses". The condition of the trenches were appalling and often inhabited disease due to its lack of sanitation and hygiene. Source B is by John Laffin from his book The Western Front Illustrated and he writes "On the Somme front, there were no 'proper' trenches, only weather-eroded muddy ditches. This had a demoralising effect on soldiers as Robert Graves described his trench as "Everything here is wet and smelly" and John Laffin supports this image through his statement "the miserable men huddled under whatever shelter they could scratch together.