

Question 9 (10 marks)

How useful would Sources *E* and *F* be for a historian studying the different goals of Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Wilson in creating the Treaty of Versailles?

10

In your answer, consider the perspectives provided by the TWO sources and the reliability of each one.

Source E is a letter by Charles Seymour, a member of the US delegation at the Paris Peace Conference. The letter was written on the 11th of June 1919.

The recipient of the letter is unknown. This limits the source's reliability. The letter could have been written to the press, members of the US congress or to his family. This makes the motive unknown and therefore the way he reports events and people could be subject to different degrees of bias. The facts about the motives of Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Wilson are supported by other sources, increasing the letter's reliability. Furthermore, Charles Seymour, the composer, was a part of the US delegation. This means that his knowledge is likely first hand but as a member of the US delegation his attitude towards

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the French is likely ~~has~~ ~~heavy~~ bias due to the fact the French wanted different aims to the US. Overall this ~~text~~ ^{source} is ~~quite~~ ^{quite} reliable. Despite the fact it is an extract ~~all~~ and thus has omissions, it ~~has~~ uses little emotive language and is fairly objective.

[This source is ~~very~~ useful as it ~~briefly~~ discusses the overall aims of each leader, however the information provided is brief and other sources are required to gain more detail.

[Source F is an extract from 'The Truth about the Peace Treaties' by Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister at the time of the creation of the Treaty of Versailles.

[The source is ~~also~~ was written in 1938. This was many years after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles and it is thus unlikely Lloyd George still harboured strong feelings towards the other signatories as he was looking back in hindsight. This raises the reliability. However, it is ~~still~~ ~~can~~ contains some emotive language such as 'greatest trouble' and 'extortionate', this ~~also~~ suggests a limited ability to remain objective and thus lowers the reliability. The source was published in 1938, this would have created some bias towards the French as there was a degree of guilt amongst the Allies for forcing such harsh terms on Germany, evident in reparation reductions and the British policy of appeasement towards Hitler. This lessens the source's reliability. Also as an ~~an~~ individual who assisted in 'drawing up' the Treaty he would have had first hand knowledge. This raises reliability.

[The source is very useful to a historian. It discusses the public opinion in France, ~~also~~ influencing Clemenceau's intention of giving harsh penalties to Germany, ~~also~~ briefly explains the British and US motives and briefly describes the conflicting ~~opinions~~ ^{motives} of the British, US and French.