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Revision

The experience of warfare: AS Unit 2/C (p. 10)

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You can use this material, alongside the Edexcel exam focus on p. 10 of this issue of the magazine, to help you revise this topic.

Task

Using the mark scheme below, and the advice given in the exam focus on p. 10, decide what marks you think the example answer on p. 3 of this document deserves in AO1 and AO2. You can check your assessment of the answer by scrolling down to read the comments on p. 4.

See p. 10 of the printed magazine for the sources.

Question

(b) Using Sources 1, 2 and 3 and your own knowledge.

Do you agree that morale of the British troops on the Western Front was sustained through inspiring leadership? (40 marks)

Unit 2 mark scheme: part (b)

AO1: Using historical knowledge to form an explanation

Level	Marks	Requirements
1	1–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements with no focus on the question • Inaccurate supporting evidence • No integration of sources and own knowledge
2	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements with some focus on the question • Accurate and relevant — but generalised — supporting evidence • Attempts integration of sources and own knowledge

3	13–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements which focus on the question • Mostly accurate and relevant supporting evidence • Some integration of sources and own knowledge
4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements which focus on the question • Accurate and relevant supporting evidence • Integration of sources and own knowledge

AO2: Analysing source material

Level	Marks	Requirements
1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies or paraphrases information from the sources • Little focus on the question
2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarises information from the sources and uses this to provide a simple answer to the question
3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects evidence from the sources to support and challenge the view expressed in the question
4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS level 3 • Weighs the evidence and interpretations of the sources and uses this in reaching an overall judgment

Example answer

Punishment was clearly one reason for morale. Source 1 discusses 'Field Punishment Number 1'. Importantly, it indicates that the punishment was seen as fair. This implies that there was respect for the Army's leaders and the structure of the Army. This is also evident from Source 3, which shows a good leader appealing to his troops' best instincts such as 'justice', 'freedom' and their homes. Source 2 also implies that the leadership was good due to the fact that they provided good food to all of the troops. This shows good organisation among the leadership. Source 1 is also an eyewitness account which indicates that it is truthful, nonetheless, it was published in 1979 many years after and therefore the memories might have faded.

Good leadership was also a reason for high morale. Source 3 contains the most evidence for this. It is addressed to all of the men. It shows that the high-up generals understood the way the troops were feeling. Also Haig appealed to their heroism by encouraging them to 'fight to the end'. Source 1 also implies that the leadership was fair. The punishment was not too harsh, and the real way in which people were motivated was moral pressure: 'it was the moral effect that was supposed to be the deterrent'. This shows considerable wisdom on the part of the leadership and is therefore evidence that good leaders kept the morale of their troops high. Sources 1 and 2 were written by historians and therefore they can be trusted.

Finally, food and supplies kept morale high. Importantly, Source 2 tells us that poor people were better fed in the Army than they were in their normal lives. The availability of rum and tobacco clearly shows that the leaders of the Army understood what their men wanted. However, neither of the other sources mentions food and therefore it is not the most important reason for the high morale.

The sources discuss a series of reasons for high morale. However, all of the sources contain some indication that good leadership played the main part. The fairness of the punishment in Source 1, the provision of food and other comforts in Source 2, and the inspirational tone of Source 3 all indicate that the morale of the troops was high in the First World War due to the leaders more than any other reason.

Comments

This answer scores very highly in AO2, as it cross references the sources, taking their interpretations seriously and weighing them to reach a balanced judgement. However, it scores nothing in AO1, as it does not use any own knowledge. This answer seems to have used the technique appropriate to answering a part (a) question when answering a part (b) question. Therefore, sadly, the overall mark is very low.

Marks

AO1: 0/24

AO2: 13/16

Total mark: 13/40

Useful tip

Make sure that you understand the different techniques appropriate to the two parts of the Unit 2 exam.

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