

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Monday 19 January 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI03/1B**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

Option 1B: The British Experience of Warfare, 1803–1945

You must have:
Sources Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Sources 1 and 2 in the Sources Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1** How far could the historian make use of Sources 1 and 2 together to investigate the methods used to shape the public's perception of war on the Western Front (1914–18)?

Explain your answer using both sources, the information given about them and your own knowledge of the historical context.

(25)

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(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

EITHER

- 2 'Opposition to both the Napoleonic Wars (1803–15) and the Second Boer War (1899–1902) was minimal.'

How far do you agree with this judgement?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

- 3 'Churchill was a significantly more effective wartime political leader in the years 1940–45 than were Asquith and Lloyd George in the years 1914–18.'

How far do you agree with this judgement?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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**Paper
reference**

WHI03/1B

History

International Advanced

PAPER 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

Option 1B: The British Experience of Warfare, 1803–1945

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ►

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Sources for use with Section A.

Source 1: From the autobiography of Philip Gibbs, *The Pageant of the Years*, published 1946. Gibbs was a journalist who, in 1914, was sent to France to report on the war. In 1915, Gibbs was one of the five journalists selected by the government to become official war correspondents with the British Army.

During 1914, there was a conflict of opinion between the War Office and the Foreign Office regarding news from the Front. The War Office wanted to censor all but the official communiqués, and some harmless articles by an official eyewitness. A friend in the War Office warned me that I was in Lord Kitchener's bad books, and that orders had been given for my arrest.

5

The next time I was in France, I was arrested and taken to a General for questioning. He was very aggressive and said harsh things about journalists. He said we ignored all orders and wandered about the war zone smuggling back uncensored material that was nonsense. He said he had a good mind to have us all shot against a wall.

10

Our worst enemy for a time was Sir Douglas Haig. He had a prejudice against war correspondents and made no secret of it. When he became Commander-in-Chief, he said things which angered us. One of them was that 'after all you are only writing for the ordinary housewife in the kitchen'.

I would not let Haig get away with that and told him that it was not only for those ordinary people that we were writing, but for the whole nation and Empire. I said that he could not conduct his war in secret. Haig couldn't act as though the people at home, whose sons and husbands were fighting and dying, had no concern in the matter. The spirit of the fighting men depended upon the support of the whole people and their continuing loyalties. It was our job to report the war.

15

20



Source 2: From Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*, published 1930. Sassoon was an experienced British soldier and war poet who became a bitter critic of the war in its later stages. Here he is recounting an experience in 1917, when he was being treated for 'shell shock' in hospital.

I opened one of the weekly magazines and read an article about official war paintings. The article was a 'patriotic masterpiece' by a female writer who seemed obsessed by the images of war. She wrote about a particular painting in a positive way stating that: 'It almost makes you feel that you are there. It is a painting that makes your pulse beat faster.' Obviously, the writer was deriving enjoyment from the war, though she may not have been aware of the fact. 25

I wondered why it was necessary for the Western Front to be so attractively advertised in this way by such trivial writing. What was this 'camouflage war' that was manufactured by the press to help the imaginations of people who had never seen the real thing? These people probably felt that the papers gave them an exciting view of war. 30

The press probably felt that the lads at the front, if left to tell the truth, would be inclined to be a bit morbid about the events. That was to be expected after all they had been through. However, the press also probably believed that the soldiers' close contact with the war had reduced their understanding of the more moral aspects of it and writers would add in some rubbish about how the war was necessary. Such writers needed to have their noses rubbed in a few facts like what a company of men smelt like after they had been in action for a week. 35 40

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Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from: <https://spartacus-educational.com/Jgibbs.htm>

Source 2 from: <https://archive.org/details/memoirsofinfantr0000noau/page/262/mode/2up>

