

**Pearson Edexcel**  
International Advanced Level

# History

International Advanced

**Paper 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation**

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

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Afternoon

**Sources Booklet**

Paper Reference

**WHI03/1B**

**Do not return this booklet with the question paper.**

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### Sources for use with SECTION A.

**Source 1:** An extract from *Memory Hold the Door*, the autobiography of John Buchan, published in 1940. During the First World War he worked as a journalist for the Times newspaper and also as Director of Information for the War Propaganda Bureau. In 1916 he worked directly with Haig drafting his military communiqués.

Character is at least as vital as intellect in a soldier, and there can be no question about the nature of Haig's character. He had none of the lesser graces which make a general popular with troops, and it took four years for his armies to understand his personality.

He had to feel his way in his task and was often conscious of blunders. He was more acutely conscious, I think, than most of his critics. He had difficulties with his allies, with his colleagues and with the home Government. 5

He had many bitter disappointments. In challenging situations, he clung to traditional methods, when a smaller man might have tried fantastic experiments which would have assuredly spelt disaster. He did not revise his plans until the old ones had been fully tested, and a new one had emerged of which his logical mind could approve. Under him we incurred heavy losses, but I believe that these losses would have been greater had he been the brilliant Nivelle\*. 10

When the last great enemy attack came, he took the initial shock with a quiet resolution; when the moment arrived for the advance he never fumbled. He broke through the Hindenburg line in spite of the doubts of the British Cabinet, because he believed that only thus could the War be ended in time to save civilisation. He made the decision alone – one of the finest proofs of moral courage in the history of war. It may be argued that, in the special circumstances of the campaign, his special qualities were the ones most needed – patience, calmness, unshakeable resilience. 15 20

\* Nivelle – French army Commander-in-Chief 1916–17

**Source 2:** An extract from the journal of Charles Hudson, published in 2007. Hudson fought with distinction on the Western Front and he kept a journal that documented his experiences. He fought at the Somme (1916) and Passchendaele (1917) and was decorated for bravery.

It is difficult to see how Haig, as Commander-in-Chief, living in the circumstances he did, so divorced from the fighting troops, could fulfil effectively the tremendous task that was laid upon him. I did not believe then, and I do not believe now, that the enormous casualties were justified. Throughout the war huge bombardments failed again and again, yet we persisted in employing the same hopeless method of attack. 25

Many other methods were possible, some were in fact used, but only half-heartedly. Our sudden unheralded attack at Cambrai was not followed up. Tunnelling under the enemy wire on a large scale would have got over the need for the destruction of the forward defences by the bombardments which made the ground impassable. Planned withdrawal, followed by a planned counter-attack, would have raised political difficulties and military risks, but would have created great possibilities. Had either the French or ourselves been able to find a general of the required calibre, the stalemate could have been overcome tactically. The one hopeless tactic, which was repeatedly tried, the mass bombardment, was proved again and again to be fruitless. 30 35