

Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level

History

International Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

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

Sample assessment material for first teaching
September 2015
Source Booklet

Paper Reference

WHI03/1B

Do not return this source booklet with the question paper.

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Sources for use with Section A.

Source 1: From *Memorial de Sainte Helene: Journal of the Private Life and Conversations of the Emperor Napoleon at St Helena 1815–16*, written by Emmanuel, le Comte de Las Cases, published in 1823. Las Cases accompanied the ex-Emperor to St Helena and acted as an informal secretary recording his conversation. His record was published after the Emperor's death. Here he records Napoleon's reflections on the Battle of Waterloo and the Duke of Wellington. Napoleon left 10000 francs in his will to a French veteran who tried to assassinate Wellington.

The Duke of Wellington owes Blücher and the Prussians a great deal. Without them I've no idea where His Grace might be, but of course I would not be here on St. Helena. His troops were admirable, his strategy deplorable. Well, it would be better to say he had none. He placed himself in a completely impossible position; and the strangest thing, it is that which ended up saving him. Had he been able to start his retreat he would have been lost. He remained master of the battlefield, that is without doubt, but was it due to his troop dispositions? He received the fruits of a great victory, but had his genius created this? His glory is all negative, his faults are enormous. He, the European general, given such huge responsibilities, having in front of him an enemy as quick and as daring as I am, to leave his troops thinly spread, whilst he was sleeping in Brussels and to be taken by surprise! No, Wellington has but one special talent, he is lucky, but he has no creativity. Fortune has done much for him. His victories, their results, their influence will remain imprinted on history; but his reputation will be brought down even whilst he lives.

Source 2: From *the Greville Memoirs*, by Charles Greville, published in 1875. This was the entry for June 24th 1821. Charles Greville was a well-connected government official who kept a record of his meetings with important people. Here he records a conversation with the Duke of York, who was the king's brother and was Commander in Chief of the Army. York had been Commander In Chief of the Army throughout most of the Napoleonic Wars.

The other day, as I and the Duke of York were going to the races from his house at Oatlands in Surrey, he gave me the history of the Duke of Wellington's life. The Duke of York's prejudice against Wellington is excessively strong, and I think that if ever the Duke of York succeeds to the throne and becomes King that the Duke of Wellington will not become Commander in Chief of the Army.

The Duke of York does not deny Wellington's military talents, but he thinks that Wellington was false and ungrateful and that he never gave sufficient credit to his officers. He thinks that Wellington was unwilling to put forward men of talent who might be in a situation to claim some share of credit, the whole of which he was desirous of claiming for himself. York says that at Waterloo, Wellington got into a messy situation and allowed himself to be surprised, and he attributes in great measure the success of that day to Wellington's second in command, the Marquis of Anglesea, who he says was hardly mentioned, and that in the coldest terms, in the Duke of Wellington's official despatch after the Battle of Waterloo.

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Acknowledgements

Source 1 is from Emmanuel, *Memorial de Sainte Helene: Journal of the Private Life and Conversations of the Emperor Napoleon at St Helena 1815–16*, le Compte de Las Cases 1823. Source 2 is from Charles Greville, *the Greville Memoirs*, 1875.

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