

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

**Pearson Edexcel**  
**International**  
**Advanced Level**

Centre Number

Candidate Number

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Time 2 hours

Paper  
reference

**WH103/1B**

**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.
- Good luck with your examination.

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 impact of the introduction of the tank on trench warfare on the Western Front in the years 1916–18?

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**



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**SECTION B**

**Answer ONE question in Section B.**

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

**EITHER**

- 2** 'New technology was the least important factor in securing victory for the British both in the Napoleonic Wars (1803–15) and in the Crimean War (1854–56).'

How far do you agree with this statement?

**(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)**

**OR**

- 3** 'Opposition in Britain to Britain's involvement in both the second Boer War and the war against Nazi Germany was minimal.'

How far do you agree with this statement?

**(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)**

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 2**  **Question 3**

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



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# Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

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**

**Sources Booklet**

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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### Sources for use with Section A.

**Source 1:** From a despatch written by Sir Douglas Haig, 23 December 1916. Haig was reporting back to the British government on the military events of 1916.

A bombardment started at dawn on 12 September and continued steadily and uninterruptedly till the moment of attack. At dawn on 15 September, the infantry assault commenced and, at the same moment, the bombardment became intense. Our new heavily-armoured cars, known as 'tanks', which were now brought into action for the first time, successfully co-operated with the infantry. The 'tanks', coming as a surprise to the enemy soldiers, gave valuable help in breaking down their resistance. 5

The advance was successful on almost the whole of the front where 'tanks' were used. After just two hours, 'tanks' were seen to be entering the village of Flers, followed by large numbers of troops. Fighting continued in Flers for some time, but our troops quite quickly reached the north side of the village. By midday, they had occupied the enemy's trenches for some distance beyond the village. 10

The result of this fighting was a more considerable gain than any which we had achieved in the course of a single operation since the beginning of the Somme offensive. In the course of one day's fighting, we had broken through two of the enemy's main defensive systems and had advanced on a front of over six miles. 15

I have already brought to your notice the part played by the new 'tanks' in some of my daily reports. These 'tanks' proved of great value on various occasions in later fights, and the personnel in charge of them performed many deeds of remarkable valour. 20

**Source 2:** From a letter by Charles Rigg published in the *Evening Times* newspaper, 14 November 1934. Rigg had served in the 1st Brigade of the Tanks Corps during the major battles of 1917.

Tanks were the greatest invention of the war. They were designed to save the lives of the infantry by leading the attacks on entrenched and fortified positions by breaking the enemy's wire. However, surprise was to be the essential feature of the tank attack. No preliminary artillery bombardment was required or wanted, as this would only advertise the attack. 25

Tanks were never used in the intended manner until the battle of Cambrai in November 1917, fourteen months after their introduction. Then, their success was so startling and overwhelming that British and German General Staffs alike were completely surprised. Eventually, we did not achieve a great victory at Cambrai, because our General Staff had not organised for a continuance of the 'push' after the 'break-through' and had no reserves available. 30

Earlier in the year, on the Passchendaele front the Tanks Corps was first used in July 1917. There they were used after three weeks of the most intense bombardment, which just advertised the attack. The condition of the ground after this bombardment was terrible and a sea of mud. Over this ground, the tanks were asked, impossibly, to trundle their 40-ton weights. Irritatingly tanks became frequently stuck, which left them as easy targets for the German artillery. This also held up attacks through time lost in recovering them. Tanks failed to give the infantry the expected support, not through lack of skill or determination, but because the ground was better for submarines than tanks. Only once in that dreadful three months' long battle, were the tanks allowed to attack in the proper manner and then every objective was taken just as planned. 40 45

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