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Level 2 History, 2016

91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

9.30 a.m. Wednesday 23 November 2016

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Examine, in depth, causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL

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INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event, using the essay task below.

Your essay must include an introduction and a conclusion, and use detailed supporting evidence.

You should provide context for your discussion by adding a detailed paragraph describing the historical event.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

ESSAY TASK

Examine the long-term and short-term causes of a significant historical event, and explain the consequences.

Historical event: _____

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Description of the historical event	
Long-term cause(s) of the event	Examination/Evidence
Short-term cause(s) of the event	Examination/Evidence
Consequences of the event	

(E7)

Begin your essay here:

With 2016 being the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, it is crucial that younger generations are aware of the significance of the ~~event~~ ^{event}. The name 'Somme' evokes powerful feelings of sacrifice, hardship and brutality, ~~but~~ that are still felt to this day. To understand the significance of this battle specifically The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (A.K.A The Third Battle of the Somme) it is necessary to examine the circumstances that caused the battle. The long term cause is the failure of the Schlieffen plan, which left ^{major} northern France and Belgium a packmarked warzone, while the short-term cause was the failure of earlier Somme offensives, combined with the deadlock on the western front.

The long-term cause of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette was the failure of the Schlieffen plan. The Schlieffen plan was a German strategic plan conceived ~~in~~ a decade prior to the war as a means of avoiding a war on two fronts with France and her ally Russia. This would be achieved by swiftly striking through ~~west~~ Belgium and down through northern France to capture Paris, knocking France out of the war before she or Russia had a chance to respond. However, due to the unexpected British defence of Belgium and the outdated nature of the plan, frenzied allied counterattacks were able to stop the advance in the Somme river region. As the German armies bogged down, they began entrenching, a process that, over 1915, would see both sides carving the land into highly defensible trenches. This entrenchment and fortification meant that small-scale attacks became increasingly suicidal; the only hope of breaking the stalemate and capturing ground was through the cover of artillery bombardment and sheer numbers. ~~These strategies~~ ~~created the need~~ The failure

of the Schlieffen plan was a long term cause of the battle of Flers-Courcelette that created the deadlock in the western front, the short term cause of the battle, and thus created the need for the Battle of Flers-Courcelette.

This short-term cause of the battle of Flers-Courcelette was the deadlock on the western front, combined with the failure of earlier Somme offensives. As ~~the~~ both sides dug in due to the failure of the Schlieffen Plan, the defences on both sides developed to unprecedented levels and the ability of either side to advance was ~~the~~ devastated. As costs mounted and morale plummeted, due to the horrible conditions (trench foot, meager rations and constant shelling) the need for a decisive battle became clear. The deadlock on the western front caused allied commanders to plan an attack around the Somme area in Winter of 1915-16. However, just as the attack was nearing readiness, ^{the} German forces attacked the French Fortness at Verdun. This meant that the French forces who were going to take part in the allied offensive were recalled and sent to reinforce Verdun, meaning that the allied offensive would either have to be postponed or rely on British infantry. ^{The Allied} ~~the~~ Generals, not wishing to wait any longer, decided to proceed with the offensive anyway and launched the first battle of the Somme on the 1st of July 1916. The assault was a tragic failure, with 60,000 casualties (of which 26,000 were British) on the first day. A retreat was eventually ~~ordered~~ ordered, but the failure of this offensive had severely depleted the British infantry strength in the region while the need for a decisive victory had not been met, thus any further offensives would have to rely on other forces. A second, smaller, attack had some success but still did not

result in a decisive victory to break the deadlock on the western front. Had either of these ~~attacks~~ offensives succeeded then there would have been no need for the ~~the 2nd~~ a third offensive, thus the failure of earlier summer offensives was a short term cause of the battle of Flanders-Cambronne. Additionally, the depletion of British forces meant that the third battle would have to rely on other allied troops, thus the New Zealand Division's role in the battle was also caused by the scale of the failure of earlier Summer offensives.

The Battle of Flanders-Cambronne began on the 15th of September 1916 with the New Zealand Division among those used by the allies. The goal was to seize the high ground from the German forces, with individual divisions being given separate objectives. The NZ Division's role was to capture the German switchboard system and hold it against enemy counterattacks, which they did, however the failure of other allied units to achieve this objective turned the what should have been a decisive and swift victory into a grueling marathon. Over 23 days of constant fighting in mud and rain, the NZ Division captured two miles of enemy territory and was finally relieved on the 3rd of October 1916. The battle stretched on for another month until the whole Somme ~~campaign~~ ^{campaign} came to a close in November of 1916. The losses had been catastrophic, with an estimated casualty count of 20,000 men between both sides. All this had been lost for a mere 12 kilometers of ground, but the results of the battle were tremendously important. In addition to turning the tide of the German advance and facilitating the long march to victory in World War I, the Battle of Flanders-Cambronne still affects ^{NZ} society today. The short term consequence of the Battle of Flanders-Cambronne was the hinge point of life in the New Zealand

division, while long term consequences include the development of new military tactics and the emergence of the tank as a weapon of war.

The loss of 7000 able-bodied men from the New Zealand division was a short term consequence of the Battle of Fleurs-Camille, although it continued to affect New Zealand Society for decades afterwards. The savage fighting to capture and hold the Switch-French system resulted in 7000 casualties for the New Zealand division, of which 2000 were ^{approx.} fatalities, the other 5000 were sick or wounded. For a division with a total strength of 15,000 men this was a huge loss and meant that conscripts and reinforcements had to be ~~be~~ called up. ~~From~~ By replacing 7000 battle-experienced troops with green recruits the experience of the New Zealand division was diluted and thus the ~~the~~ Division became a less effective fighting force. Additionally, the ideological clash between volunteers who had chosen to fight for King and Country and conscripts who often did not want to be there would have increased tensions between the troops, thus lowering morale and further reducing the effectiveness of the NZ division. This ~~area~~ would have caused extra unnecessary losses in the future that could have been prevented had the New Zealand division not been so depleted by the Battle of Fleurs-Camille. The other aspect of this loss is the impact it had on New Zealand Society. From a population of roughly one million, 7000 men might never be able to work or provide for their families again. In addition to the emotional burden of caring for sick or wounded soldiers NZ families were forced to find ways of surviving without a man to provide food. This meant that women and children had to find work, which added stress to an already tough position. However,

this change thrust women and, to a lesser extent, children, into the working world which advanced social equality and forged New Zealand's hard-working identity which is still felt in society today. The Battle of Flers-Courcelette caused the loss of life of 2000 ~~more~~ NZ men, ~~or~~ however the negative and positive consequences that followed still affect NZ society today.

The second major consequence of the battle of Flers-Courcelette was the development of new military tactics. In World War I and especially at the Somme, ~~a~~ forces were commanded by Generals kilometers behind the front-line. ~~Broad~~ Broad sweeping orders that affected ~~thousands~~ ^{thousands} were debased by antiquated equipment and miscommunication was rife. Logically, such misunderstandings caused huge wastes of life, so after the war military technicians developed new strategies to prevent such waste again. Smaller organisational groups became favoured as individual flexibility and initiative became highly valued. This allowed for specialisation of tasks and groups like riflemen, bombardiers etc. became more prevalent. This change in mentality caused the Platoon to become the favoured unit size, and these tactics are still favoured today. Had these tactical changes not taken place, later conflicts such as World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War would have been even more costly and resulted in just a waste of life. The psychological and economic burdens the tactical changes has saved are simply enormous and ~~this~~ the world today would be a vastly different place had they not occurred, thus the tactical development towards smaller organisational units was a major consequence of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette.

The ~~3~~ third major consequence of The Battle of Flers-Courcelette

is the emergence of the Tank as a key weapon of war. The Mk I Tank was first used by the British at Flers-Courcelette and, despite limited numbers and reliability issues, both Allies and Germans saw enough potential to continue the development of the Tank. As ~~it~~^{there} was a highly tractor oriented mentality at the time, it is unlikely the Tank would have been taken as seriously by military commanders had it not been seen to be effective in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. As it was, the Tank rapidly developed into a crucial weapon in modern warfare, playing key roles in Hitler's Blitzkrieg of 1939, and the first Gulf war. Without the Tank being as highly valued, it is ^{the Korean war} difficult to see the Blitzkrieg succeeding, thus the face of the world would be vastly different. The second world war could have been over much more quickly, which, while a positive for those who might otherwise have been killed, would have reduced the amount and pace of technological advancement and set humans back years. This technological aspect is another positive of the tank's development, as technologies that benefit the whole planet such as armour, fireproofing and infrared cameras were developed around the tank and benefit the whole world. However, the emergence of the tank has increased military destructive capacity, allowing what are essentially mobile, armoured artillery pieces into city centres across the world. This has increased the potential for collateral damage to civilians and infrastructure and is thus a negative aspect of the Tank's development. On the contrary, soldiers are safer from within a tank, thus lives have been saved and the financial and emotional burden of war has been reduced. Finally, the Tank has further swung the balance of power away from the poor minority towards the rich majority as those without the resources to possess tanks are more or less powerless against them. This has ~~set~~^{thus} potentially weakened the will of the people and thus undermined democracy.

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across the globe. These aspects of the Tank's development are all due to the Battle of Flers-Courcelette providing a proving ground for the Tank, therefore the emergence of the tank as a key weapon of war, and ~~all of the benefits and~~ and its varying effects on society, is a major long-term consequence of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette.

100 years on, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette ~~is still being~~ continues to affect society. While the causes ~~remain~~ ^{are} clear, we still find ourselves asking the key question: How? The Schlieffen plan's failure meant that both sides dug in and fortified, creating the deadlock on the western front. The lives lost trying to break the deadlock are incomprehensible to our modern minds, but the only option was to continue hammering away until a victory occurred. The consistent failure of offensives meant that more men had to be thrown at the Germans, causing the need for the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. The Battle itself was a slog, with the NZ division fighting for 13 days and sustaining 7,000 casualties for 2 miles of territory. The success of the NZ division while other allied units failed was a key factor in forging our national identity. The consequences of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette are also clear. The loss of life from the NZ division weakened the division and the cult-up of casualties lured morale and caused future losses. These losses affected NZ society as women and children were forced to work to survive, further creating our national identity. The massive loss of life led to a tactical rethink that saved countless thousands of lives and the ~~burdens~~ ^{burdens} that came along with that. The

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Tank's emergence at Flers-Carcellette encouraged further development and changed the face of warfare, technology and society. The effects of these consequences echo throughout society today, and emphasize the significance of the Battle of Flers-Carcellette.

E7



E7

- Sufficient 'insight'