**Essays National 5**

**How to answer Essay Questions**

You must make a judgement about the extent to which different factors contributed to an event or development, or to its impact. You are required to provide a balanced account of the influence of different factors and come to a reasoned conclusion based on the evidence presented.

The essay question will always start “To what extent was the issue affected by factor A”.

This means that you will always have 1 factor provided. You need to add the other factors that affected the issue from your own knowledge.

Essay questions are worth 8 marks.

Marks can be awarded as follows:-

A maximum of 5 marks can be given for relevant, factual, key points of knowledge used to support factors, with 1 mark given for each point. If only 1 factor is presented a maximum of 3 marks should be given for relevant points of knowledge.

A further 3 marks can be given for providing the answer in a structured way and coming to a reasoned conclusion.

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**Your task is to mark each of the following answers awarding marks on the basis of the above general marking scheme. You will also be expected to explain why you gave, or did not give marks.**

**Once you have marked the 2 answers for Question 1, answer Question 2 yourself.**

To what extent was mud the main concern of the soldiers in the trenches during World War One? **8**

**Answer A**

*Mud was undoubtedly a worry for soldiers in the First World War but it was not the only, or possibly even the worst one. This mud could keep their feet wet and cause trench foot. They were constantly irritated by lice and found rats always close to them. These pests could cause disease. Finally, there was the constant fear of death by shellfire, gas and snipers.*

*Mud was a fear for the soldiers in parts of the line when the weather was wet.*

*This mud was caused when the land was low and age old drainage systems had been destroyed by shellfire. This could cause irritations as the soldiers feet and clothes would become coated and cause every movement to take more effort than usual. Also they would continually feel wet and cold which, with the fear and tiredness would sap their morale. Frequently, the mud proved more deadly as tired and wounded troops might fall into mud filled shell holes and could drown in front of their shocked comrades.*

*Another result of cold, muddy feet was Trench Foot which meant that the soldier’s feet would go numb and swell. In severe cases this could result in the need for amputation.*

*Even when the weather was dry the soldiers would be tormented by lice and rats. Lice would collect in the seams of their clothes, especially the kilts of the Scottish soldiers and would create such an itch that it was difficult for the soldier to get any rest. There were millions of rats on the Western Front because of all the dead bodies. Apart from the disgust of knowing that the rats fed on the bodies, they also brought disease.*

*Added to all this was the threat of death from enemy action. Shells, which could have been fired from up to 7 miles away could land in the trench at any time, causing death or dreadful mutilation to the unlucky soldiers underneath. Gas could be a silent assassin as it crept over the ground towards the troops. If they did not get their gas masks on in time they could become blinded or have their lungs burnt out.*

*Finally any soldiers who became careless because of exhaustion during their ten day stint in the trenches might be shot by a sniper if he accidentally showed his head above the parapet of the trench.*

*In conclusion, although mud and the discomforts and risks it brought were frequently on the soldiers’ minds, they were always in the company of rats and lice and worried about the disease that could result from close proximity to them. The final fear of death or mutilation from enemy action was again always with the soldier in the front line. Mud was undoubtedly a worry during wet weather in the trenches but the main worry was the possibility of death in any of the many ways it could strike in the trenches.*

**Reasons**

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**Mark Given**

**Answer B**

*Mud was a worry for the soldiers but there was also fear of rats, lice, shellfire, gas and snipers.*

*Mud could bring disease and if very deep could drown soldiers. This made it very dangerous.*

*Rats were a problem as there were so many of them and the soldiers did not like them running over their faces or eating dead bodies close to them.*

*Lice were very itchy and stopped the soldiers getting to sleep. As the soldiers liked being clean this made the lice even more annoying to them.*

*Shell could land at any time and kill or maim the soldiers in the trenches without warning, so the soldiers were scared of them.*

*Gas could kill them if they did not wear gas masks and frightened them.*

*Finally if the soldiers were tired they could become careless and be prey to enemy snipers.*

*In conclusion, the soldiers were concerned with mud, rats, lice, shellfire, gas and snipers. Mud was the worst of them for most soldiers.*

**Reasons**

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**Mark Given**

To what extent was World War 1 a factor in changing attitudes to immigration in 1918? **8**