**How Fully Questions. The A&E method**

The first thing to do in a How Fully question is always to make a judgement. This judgement is always the same. “Source A gives a partial answer to ……….. but does not tell the whole story.”

Relate this back to the question and decide what it is really asking you.

For instance a question might read “How fully does Source A explain the experience of Scots on the “Western Front?”

The judgement for this would be “Source A gives a partial answer about the experience of Scots on the Western Front but does not give the whole story”.

So, the real question that is being asked is “What was the full story of the experience of Scots on the Western Front?”

The **E** above stands for specific pieces of **evidence** of which you will be given 4 pieces of evidence in the source. You have to find and interpret 3 of them.

The **A** stands for the global **argument**. You will have to use these 3 pieces of evidence to show how they help to explain a global experience for Scots on the western front.

For instance, the Source explains that the British Army had tried to use gas on the Germans but the wind had changed direction and it blew back on the British soldiers (interpretation of a specific piece of evidence in the source).

This shows the experience the Scots had at the Battle of Loos where this gas was used. (Expanding the evidence to relate to the experience of all Scots at the Battle of Loos).

For the second half of the question try to think of at least 6 global experiences that Scots had on the Western Front.

Number of Scots there.

Number of Battles they fought in

Casualties suffered by Scots.

Range of jobs experienced by Scots

Trench conditions Scots experienced in the trenches

Dedication of Scots on the Western front.

Courage of Scots on the Western front.

At this stage you have answered the A part of the question but the quality of the answer that will really build up the marks is based on the exactness of the evidence you can offer to back up these global points.

Number of Scots can be gauged by the fact there were 3 Divisions 9th, 15 and 51st Division on Western Front as well as Scottish battalions in other Divisions such as 16th Royal Scots in 29th Division. Also Scots fought in units that were not Scottish such as Royal Flying Corps.

Numbers of Battles Scots fought in. The Battle of Loos was known as a Scottish Battle as half of the 72 battalions that fought were Scottish and 35,000 Scots took part. However, this was not the only battle they fought. Scots units were evident at the Somme and the greatest number of Scots that ever fought together was at Arras in 1917.

Casualties suffered by Scots. Niall Fergusson, a modern Historian has stated in *The Pity of War* that 27% of all Scots who fought were killed. This was the worst casualty rate of any country on either side apart from Serbia and Turkey and the reason for their casualties was more based on poor medical facilities rather than battlefield losses.

Range of jobs experienced by Scots. The source will probably be based on the experience of a Private soldier in the trenches but Scots were also in other levels and types of jobs. The Commander of the whole Army, Sir Douglas Haig was Scottish and his experience would be different from that of a private. An RFC pilot who was Scottish would again have a different experience, as would Mairi Chisholm, a Scottish Nurse who served in the Line at Pevyse with the Belgian army.

Trench Conditions. Scots lived in the trenches for most of the war when major battles were not happening. They suffered from the mud, rats lice just like the other troops but it was worse for the Scots as their kilts harboured lice and got heavy when wet.

Dedication of Scots on Western Front. The Black watch was a Scottish battalion which once served for 48 days on the front line although troops were only meant to do 10 days at a time in the front line.

Courage of Scots on western Front can be gauged by the number of V.Cs given. At the Battle of Loos 5 V.Cs were awarded, one of them to Piper Laidlaw of the K.O.S.Bs. In addition another 2 Scots were awarded the V.C on the 1st July at the Battle of the Somme. Many Scots were also awarded other gallantry medals throughout the war.

Once you have gone through this process, write it out in full sentences with the individual instances first followed by the statement “This shows that …. The global argument” for each point you make.

Try to use different stems to start each point:-

The source fails to mention ……..

If the source was complete we might have expected to be told that ………

A major omission from the source is that it fails to mention …………

A significant point of omission is that …………

The source does not talk about ………..