



# WESTMINSTER SCHOOL THE CHALLENGE 2023

## HISTORY

Tuesday 25 April 2023

**You have ONE HOUR for this paper. Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE essay from Section B.**

**You should spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.**

- **Please write in black or blue ink. Answer all questions in the answer sheet provided – do not answer in the exam paper.**

**Section A: HOW EFFECTIVE WAS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S PROPAGANDA DURING  
THE FIRST WORLD WAR?**

**Historical Background**

During the First World War (1914-18), it was crucial that men joined the British armed forces in large numbers and that public morale was kept high. It is often claimed that government propaganda was very successful in achieving these aims. Yet some historians claim that government propaganda was not that effective and that other factors were responsible for keeping the British people behind the war effort.

**Don't worry at all if you have never studied this period of history. No 'own knowledge' is expected or required. All the information you need is to be found in the paper.**

**Look at all the sources closely and then answer ALL the questions which follow.**

**Source A**

Much praise has been given to British propaganda for its contribution to victory, but one doubts that it was responsible for encouraging people at home towards greater effort. The most valuable propaganda work was done inadvertently by the Germans. They were very good at appearing evil, a fact which impressed the British people more than the constant messages about the worthiness of their own cause.

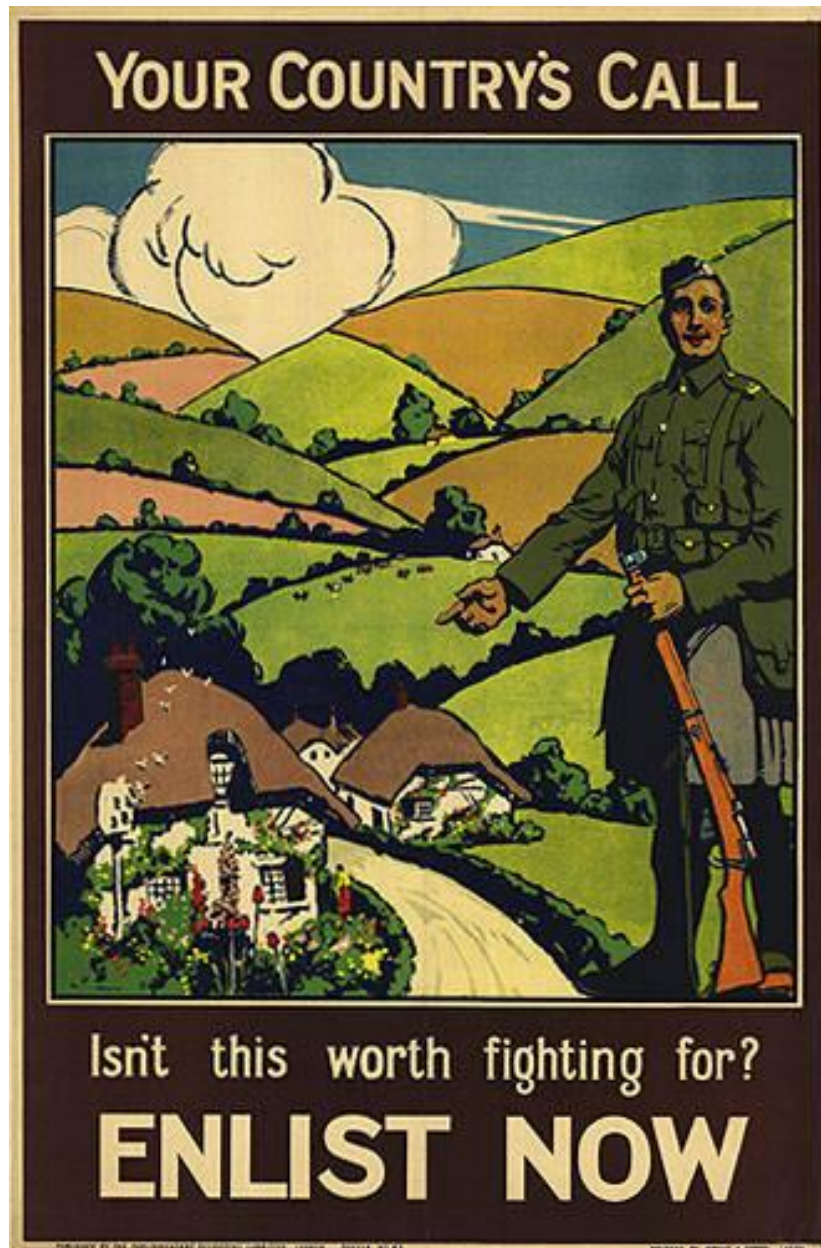
From GJ Degroot, *Blighty: British Society in the Era of the Great War*, published in 1996

**Source B**



*A recruiting poster produced in Britain in 1915*

Source C



*A recruiting poster produced in Britain in 1915*

## Source D

In 1916 with the knowledge that the war would not be a short one there was increasing pressure for more volunteers. Recruitment sergeants interrupted cinema shows with grisly descriptions of German brutality, of the killing of women and children for the fun of it, and in the war hysteria of the day we believed it. The truth is we wanted to believe it. The most effective recruiting agents, however, were the women and girls who handed out white feathers\* to men not in uniform and not wearing a war service badge.

\*white feathers were symbols of cowardice

From WHA Groom, *Poor Bloody Volunteers*, the memoirs of a First World War soldier.

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**Now answer ALL of the following questions.** Remember to use details from the sources in your answers.

1. **Look at Sources B & C.** How do these two sources differ in their attempts to persuade men to join the armed forces? [9 marks]
2. **Read Source D.** How useful is this source for telling us about why men joined the army? [6 marks]
3. **Examine ALL the Sources.** What do these sources tell you about the effectiveness of British government propaganda during the First World War? [10 marks]

**Total: 25 marks**

## **Section B: Essay**

### **Answer ONE of the following questions**

In answering your chosen question, you should try to use examples and comparisons from your own study of History, together with your wider knowledge and reading, and you must write in good English. Remember to explain your answer fully.

1. What distinguishes a good ruler from a bad ruler? You may discuss any historical period(s) and example(s) which you have studied.
2. Explain how the study of battles and/or the development of military technology can help our understanding of History. You may discuss any historical period(s) and example(s) which you have studied.
3. Many museums in the UK contain artefacts taken from countries that were formerly British colonies. Should these objects remain here or be sent back to their countries of origin? Discuss this question with reference to at least one specific example.
4. Choose any woman in History and discuss the extent to which her reputation is deserved.
5. 'Television history is only worthwhile if it confines itself to the facts'. How far do you agree with this view? Explain your answer by reference to your own historical reading and viewing.

**Total: 25 marks**

**END OF PAPER**