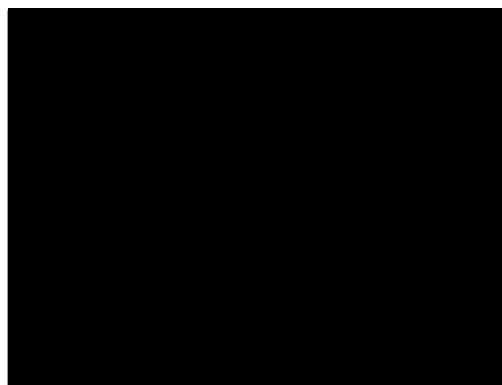


Script 2

SCRIPT

CENTRE MARKS

7/40



Coursework authentication sheet

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	
Assignment title: Historians have disagreed on to the extent to which Haig's failures are due to his leadership of the British army on the western front 1915-1917, what is your view about Haig's leadership of the British Army on the Western front 1915-1917?	
With reference to three chosen works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the ways in which the interpretations of the question, problem or issue differ Explain the differences you have identified Evaluate the arguments, indicating which you found most persuasive and explaining your judgements. 	
Have you received advice on the title from the <i>Assignment guidance service</i> ?	N
Centre name:	Centre number:
Candidate name:	Candidate number:
State the examined options that are being taken: Paper 1: Britain Transformed: 1918-1997 Paper 2: USA 1955-1992: Conformity and Challenge Paper 3: Britain's Experience of Warfare: 1790-1918	
Mark awarded	Comments [<i>Comment box expands as you start entering text</i>]

Bullet Point	Level	Descriptor	Additional Comments
1	1+	A limited range of material has been identified for use in the enquiry and appropriately cited. Information taken from reading is mainly used illustratively and understanding of the issue in question is limited	
2	1+	Judgement on the question is assertive, with little or no supporting evidence, and contextual knowledge is not linked to it.	
3	1+	Demonstrates only limited comprehension and analysis of the views in the three chosen works, selecting some material relevant to the question. Surface differences are noted as matters of information	

4 **1+** Evaluation of the chosen works relates to their information rather than their argument, or is based on questionable assumptions

5 **1+** Some accurate and relevant knowledge is included but it lacks range and depth and does not directly address the enquiry. There are only limited attempts to structure the answer, and the answer overall lacks coherence and precision, but the work is concise.

Overall L1 **7**
mark

Teacher declaration

I declare that the work submitted for assessment has been carried out without assistance other than that which is acceptable according to the rules of the specification.

Assessor name			
Assessor signature		Date	23/4/18

Candidate declaration

I certify that the work submitted for this assignment is my own. I have clearly referenced any materials used in the work. I understand that false declaration is a form of malpractice.

Candidate signature		Date	25/4/18
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Additional Candidate declaration

By signing this additional declaration, you agree to your work being used to support Professional Development, Online Support and Training of Centre-Assessors and Pearson Moderators.

Candidate signature		Date	25/4/18
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Coursework resource record

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History				
Centre name:				
Candidate name:				
Resources used. The three works chosen for the assignment must be asterisked.	Page/web reference	Student comments	Student date(s) when accessed	Teacher initials and date resource record checked
*The Donkeys, Alan Clark	P.21-121	Clark writes on the subject of British Leadership in World War One as if he possess a vendetta against their strategy, he criticises almost every major decision made during 1915, which led to the view of 'lions led by donkeys' being popularised throughout the latter half of the 20 th century.		
* John Terraine, 1961, Douglas Haig: The Educated Soldier	P. 133-318	John Terraine possess a revisionist view of Haig's leadership, he defends the choices Haig makes, citing that had he been given the resources he needed he would have won the war with less bloodshed, however he stands by the fact that as Haig was the Leader who won the war then he was obviously a good commander.		
* Gary Sheffield, 2011, the Chief: Douglas Haig and the British Army	P. 99-380	Gary Sheffield's work focuses on both the positives and negatives of Haig's leadership, on one hand he agrees with views such as Terraine's as he did indeed win the war but he does at times question whether Haig was indeed stupid as he makes catastrophic mistakes.		

A.J. P. Taylor, 1974, the First World War: An Illustrated History	P. 1- 296	A.J.P. Taylor writes to entertain more than anything else; his work does include some deep factual knowledge but overall is more entertaining	
Brian Bond and Nigel Cave, 1999, Haig: A Reappraisal 70 Years on	P. 1-271	Brian Bond and Nigel Cave, in my opinion, include excellent knowledge and like Gary Sheffield provide a more balanced argument to Haig's leadership.	
John Keegan, 1999, The First World War	p. 1-456	Keegan's book creates an excellent introduction to the First World War and covers every major area of the war in enough detail to be considered factual but also an entertaining read. He also provides a balanced argument on Haig's leadership such as Sheffield, Bond and Cage.	

Historians have disagreed on to the extent to which Haig's failures are due to his leadership of the British army on the western front 1915-1917, what is your view?

3:1
Sir Douglas Haig was Commander of the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) from late 1915 until the end of the war. The debate on whether Haig's leadership failures such as the Somme were entirely his fault has sparked many a divisive opinion and to this day remains a highly controversial topic. Historians such as Alan Clark firmly believe that Commanders such as Haig were "butchers" of their own soldiers, this would have been a readily accepted opinion of Upper class people in Edwardian times as Clark's writing was popular in the 1960's where a second wave of socialism was sweeping the nation due to a younger generation of working class people who had been born either in the Second World War or just after it were becoming of a mature age where they formed their own opinions (Alan Clark's "the donkeys" was written in 1961). Other historians such as Gary Sheffield take the middle ground and believed Haig was a good commander for the type of war he was fighting, with the deadlock on the western front and the huge numbers of troops being lost attacking German positions by French, British and Russian armies, it was only the British army's morale that remained largely intact throughout the duration of the war. As the First World War was fought in a large part as a war of attrition it is safe to say this was a success of Haig's. The third aspect which many view to be the most controversial is the revisionist view, this states that Haig and his cronies were actually very good generals who had won a great victory in the end. This view was held by John Terraine who instead blames the lack of preparation for the war, the strength of the German army and the rapid technological advance in weaponry as the reasons for Britain's hindrance in the early years.

Alan Clark

1:1
Alan Clark represents one end of the spectrum regarding views of British generals on the western front in World War One. His view is quoted in the famous term "Lions led by Donkeys," this essentially compliments the fighting spirit of the British army while simultaneously criticising their commanders. Clark uses examples from both Haig and French as to why British generals were incompetent however he clearly portrays Haig as the much more incompetent of the two. He uses the fact that Haig was well connected in higher social circles including his marriage to one of Queen Alexandra's maids of honour as his reason for keeping his position as commander of the BEF as there were many men in the British Army that excelled him. This is further proved as Clark goes on to state that Haig had failed the staff college entrance exam and when he applied for the second time the examination element was waived. The first chapter of the Donkeys essentially uses foresight as a theme to explain why the British generals were incompetent in his view, this stems from labelling them a "band of brothers" to stating that Haig never actually passed the entrance examination to the Staff College, this fact alone portrays the British army as incompetent in its leadership as they were massively underprepared for the type of war they were fighting.

Clark presents Haig as ignorant to the effects of gas, he ridiculed the intelligence reports suggesting the Germans planned to use it and a fortnight previous had even ridiculed Lord Dundonald who wanted to see the conditions for which gas could be used. The effects of the gas attack were so

severe had the Germans realised the scope of the damage they had caused then they may have been able to press all the way to the Menin gate and taken the whole of the British force in the salient in a noose. Therefore it is only by sheer chance that Haig did not lose an entire British force by being 'too proud' to accept that gas could be used to weaken battle lines. The cost of Haig and the rest of the British commander's ignorance to intelligence reports was the lives of 3,000 commonwealth soldiers who hadn't even come to grips with the German army.

2:1 There is further evidence presented by Alan Clark to Haig's incompetence at Neuve Chapelle, following the unsuccessful attempt to take the village, on the 12th the Germans launched a counter attack with 12 battalions along the length of the British line. The attack was easily repulsed however no effort was made to take advantage of the German forces which were in disarray, this was a massive wasted opportunity to further press the British assault. Haig decided to stick to his original plan for the next day, the attack was supposed to be commenced at 9:25 however Rawlinson asked it to be put back 2 hours to allow the gunners to get into position, when at 11:15 Rawlinson informed Haig the gunners were still not ready he ordered the attack anyway. The attack was launched at 12:30 and was brought to a dead stop within 2 hours with very little gains. At 3:6 pm Haig ordered the Indian Corps and 4th Corps, which had already taken a severe beating, to 'push through the barrage of fire regardless of loss.' Clark interprets Haig's train of thought to consist of the more men he throws into the battle the more likely it is that he will get a positive result, however this does not tend to work against machine guns. The lack of patience showed by Haig in the commencing of the attack cost many lives and his stubbornness to change his original plan when an excellent opportunity presented itself following the failed German counter attack shows his inflexibility and ultimately his lack of care for the lives of his soldiers.

1:1 The first day of the Battle of Loos had been preceded by a 4 day artillery bombardment and a half hour gas discharge along the front, the second day had nothing of the sort, Haig ordered the 21st and 24th divisions to cross no man's land in broad daylight with no gas or smoke cover and the only artillery support was that on a divisional level. In all this was a hopeless and careless order that cost lives and it was mistakes such as these that epitomized the First World War. Surprisingly Clark does not delve deeper into the cost of this mistake, one supposes for it says everything it needs to in the actual order itself. This order was then followed by an assault of 12 battalions, a strength of just under ten thousand men, the diaries of German soldiers said their machine gunners had 'never had such straightforward work to do nor had done it so effectively,' another then described the discipline of the men under such heavy fire as they doggedly made their way to the wire but could not find a way through it. The result of the battle was the loss of 385 officers and 7,861 men of the British army with the German army suffering no losses whatsoever. Clark really emphasises the use of the phrase 'lions led by donkeys,' as he tells us that when General Haking asked what went wrong, the answer he got from all was 'we did not know what it was like, we will do alright next time.' This quote from the unnamed British soldiers shows their fighting spirit as they are willing to go back there.

In conclusion, Alan Clark was nothing but critical of Haig's leadership and believed the British Army's leadership was nothing short of incompetent. Incompetency that led to the deaths of thousands of British Soldiers on the western front throughout the First World War, not just in 1915.

John Terraine

4:1 John Terraine's view of Haig's leadership of the British army contrasts Clark's in almost every way. Terraine believed that Haig was an economical leader who cared for the lives of his men just as much as he wanted to win the war. Terraine does however concede that 1915 was a disastrous year for the British army but questions whether the disasters could have been avoided. He questions other historian's views on whether Haig actually cared about the lives of his men by stating that throughout Haig's diary he was constantly looking for opportunities to better the equipment his troops had been provided with, everything from reducing the varieties of hand grenades, to a lighter machine gun were just a few of the things Haig wanted. He believed that by improving the equipment they carried his men would stand a much better chance against the superior German army. By giving them the best chance possible he shows either his compassion for his men or his ambition to win, both of which can be seen as excellent leadership qualities.

no ref? contradicts Clark? Terraine's view of the battle of Neuve Chapelle is that although there was very little overall success, there can be positives to take from the battle. For example the village of Neuve Chapelle was captured within 45 minutes of the assault and tactics were developed there that would go on to be used up until the end of 1916. Terraine does however disagree with Haig here as he believed the bombardment should have been compressed to 3 hours followed by a sudden rush of infantry. This shows that while for the most part Terraine agrees with Haig's leadership in 1915, here he disagrees with him however he does not blame the loss at Neuve Chapelle on Haig's decision to bombard the German positions by compartments over 4 days. Instead he blames the loss on the breakdown and delays that had occurred in the mornings of the first and second days which gave the defenders five hours in which to reorganize and begin the movement of their reserves. unsupported

1:1 Whereas Clark mentions the lack of the element of surprise which Haig seemingly so desired, according to Terraine, it is within the dispatches sent to General Rawlinson in which one can see Haig did in fact methodologically plan his attacks and micromanaged his subordinates to which he placed the responsibilities of the planning of finer details of assaults. It is reported by Terraine that Haig rejected Rawlinson's plan twice as he did not think it suitable for the assault at Neuve Chapelle. This again further proves the care Haig had for the lives of his men as he believed Rawlinson's plans would cause unnecessary loss of life for little reward, the plan that was eventually decided on caused the deaths of 583 officers and 12,309 men. However the German army lost a similar number of men including 30 officers and 1,657 men being captured. unsupported

The assault of Loos in 1915 was the last major assault conducted by the British army in 1915. It is also heavily disagreed upon by Clark and Terraine. Clark states that Haig ridiculed the use of gas as an effective weapon due to the unreliability of the wind that it so depended on, whereas Terraine states that Haig believed no attack should be launched on Loos without gas cover (page 158), he claims this fact from a letter written by Haig to Field Marshall Robertson. The fact that this was in a private letter to a fellow commanding officer of the army shows that it is likely to be more accurate. not cited correctly

than Clark's claim as he was only aiming to please the masses with what could be seen as "tabloid" history.

? The battle of Loos was a very costly one to the British army with losses numbering 2,466 officers and 59,247 men by 16th October. Terraine, however, explains that the gains made by the British Army were meager but stresses that they did exist. Terraine focuses on the positives that could be taken, for example that the two mile penetration made in some places was the furthest made by any British forces since the war had begun. Many had doubted the ability of the new army in trench warfare, with Henry Wilson writing that they were the laughing stock of every soldier in Europe, Haig proved that under proper command they could play a vital role in the great war as he certainly didn't see them in the way many of his European peers did.

not
sufficed
3:1 To summarise the view of John Terraine in reference to Haig's leadership of the British Army with a particular focus on 1915 is that while 1915 wasn't a successful year for Haig, tactics developed during this time helped win several battles over the German army in 1917 and 1918. Terraine states that the main reason for Haig's tactics not working in the early years of the war were because there were no troops available to him that could traverse the broken terrain quickly enough to make use of the hole that had been punched through the enemy lines by the artillery until 1918 when the first tanks appeared (reliably) on the battlefield. Terraine indirectly accuses anyone who would believe Haig a fool who muddled his way through the war from one blunder to the next of not being competent, conscientious or scientific enough to understand why Haig's leadership of the British Army was a key reason for British victory in World War One.

Gary Sheffield

4:1
3:1 Gary Sheffield represents the afore mentioned "middle ground" between the heavy criticism of Alan Clark and John Terraine's defense of Haig's leadership decisions. He does credit Haig's overall leadership of the British Army on the Western Front with the victory, however he criticises the number of casualties sustained by the British Army during his assaults in 1915. For example he criticises the battles of Neuve Chapelle and Loos as being too costly for how much was actually gained by the British Army. His criticism of Haig does extend to the same level as Alan Clark as he does praise Haig's record for innovation and learning.

The assault of Neuve Chapelle, in the opinion of Gary Sheffield, was very costly in human life but did show signs of near success. By midday of the first day of the assault, Sheffield tells us that the British forces had captured the village of Neuve Chapelle and had advanced 1100 yards into enemy territory {page 107}. Advancements this deep would become a rarity throughout the later stages of the conflict as it became not so much about gaining a breakthrough into enemy lines but rather a war of attrition where actually killing the enemy would become the main goal of meticulously planned assaults. Even though Sheffield does give Haig some praise, his criticism of his plan really emphasises the weaknesses of World War One leadership in general. Sheffield states that after the initial (successful) assault, a general advance was not ordered until 2:50pm and by the time the

advance was ready it was 5:30pm, (this was due to a lack of communication and was not the fault of Haig) this was far too late for any advantage to be pressed. Sheffield, like Terraine, commends Haig for his use of Generals for planning assaults such as those at Neuve Chapelle and Loos. Clark also mentions Haig's use of other Generals when planning battles however he mainly criticises them and thus Haig further for trusting them in these matters.

3:1 Haig's leadership of the British forces at Loos were, as described by Gary Sheffield, was over-optimistic in his planning. He planned for every detail to work and nothing less, this drew much criticism from GHQ however he would have been criticised if he hadn't planned for the operation to be a success. Sheffield does go on to say that Haig was denied flexibility by GHQ, preventing him from really being able to control his forces in the way he wanted to. This would lead one to conclude that while Haig was a major figure in the leadership of British forces, he was not the omnipotent figure that many blame for the massive casualties taken in battles such as Loos. It is also worth mentioning that Sheffield praises Haig for being cautious of the use of gas by the Germans, this disagrees with Clark's view of Haig and what he says is Haig's perception of gas as an effective weapon.

Sheffield criticises every major aspect of the planning and execution of the Battle of Aubers Ridge which took place in May 1915. Sheffield states that not only was the bombardment of the enemy trenches inadequate but the fighting methods used by the soldiers was also inadequate. He does however then go on to say that Haig would have redeemed himself by telling the gunners to fire on the parapets of the German trenches which he did order only for his gunners to fail to deliver. Haig then spared the lives of many men by cancelling the second attack on realising its futility.

2:1 In conclusion, Sheffield provides two excellent arguments on why Haig was, and wasn't, an excellent Leader. His analysis of what he calls Haig's four major achievements as a leader prove that his successes far outweighed his blunders. Two of these four achievements were Haig's role in transforming the BEF into a war-winning army and the actual role his generalship played in securing an allied victory. However that victory came at the cost of many men's lives that may have been saved had other courses of action been taken, Sheffield does at one point rhetorically question whether Haig was stupid as he persevered with a plan that cost a lot of lives for very little gain.

My Opinion

The sheer weight of casualties sustained by the British Army during the First World War is the only factor many people take into account when judging their leaders. This in itself is a huge error as they would be missing the simple fact that it was Britain who won the war, there is an argument that it was in fact the power of the Royal Navy who blockaded and starved the Germans of resources that won the war but without the BEF the French themselves would have not been able to hold off the German war machine off for long especially past 1917 with the collapse of Imperial Russia. Therefore it would have not been winnable without the BEF and its commanders. Haig's tactics themselves would have worked well had he had the technology for it to work, he needed mobile troops which at

the start of the war meant cavalry which was suicide for them to charge machine guns. With the reliable appearance of the tank in 1918, Haig finally had what he was needed to break through enemy lines and press the advantage. With regards to whether Haig cared for the lives of his men there is a strong argument he did not, why else would he order men to walk across no mans land, his over-confidence in the success of the artillery bombardment at the Battle of the Somme remains the gravest mistake in British military history and is the only piece of evidence required to settle the debate.

Bibliography

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