Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname	Other names

Centre Number | Candidate Number

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Tuesday 2 June 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI03/1B**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

Option 1B: The British Experience of Warfare,1803–1945

You must have:
Sources Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  – *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
  – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ▶

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SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Sources 1 and 2 in the Sources Booklet before you answer this question.

1 How far could the historian make use of Sources 1 and 2 together to investigate the impact of the British Army on the Last Hundred Days Campaign in 1918?

Explain your answer using both sources, the information given about them and your own knowledge of the historical context.

(25)

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(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS

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SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

EITHER

2 'British success in both the Napoleonic Wars (1803–15) and the war against Nazi Germany (1939–45) was mainly due to the quality of the British Army.'

How far do you agree with this judgement?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

3 'The reporting by newspaper journalists was mainly responsible for shaping the attitudes of the British public to wars in the years 1854–1916.'

How far do you agree with this judgement?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: **Question 2** ☐ **Question 3** ☐

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS

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History

International Advanced

PAPER 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

Option 1B: The British Experience of Warfare,1803–1945

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ▶

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Sources for use with Section A.

Source 1: From *Out of my Life*, the autobiography of the German Army Chief of Staff Paul von Hindenburg, published 1920. Here von Hindenburg reflects upon the start of the Allied advance to victory that was initiated by the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918.

A strong British tank attack met with immediate success. The tanks met no major obstacles, either natural or – unfortunately – even our trenches. Our situation was particularly serious. The great enemy tank attack had penetrated our defences to a significant depth.

The whippet tanks, which were surprisingly fast, surprised our Divisional Staffs in their headquarters and tore up the telephone lines which communicated with the battle front. Therefore, the Higher Command-posts were isolated, and orders could not reach the front line. This was particularly unfortunate because thick mist also made supervision and control very difficult.

The wildest rumours began to spread in our lines. It was said that masses of English cavalry were already far behind the German infantry lines. Some of our men lost their nerve and left their positions.

The British realised the outstanding importance of our railways. Various railway junctions received a perfect hail of artillery shells and bombs from British aircraft. British aircraft swarmed over towns and stations in numbers never seen before.

The attack on 8 August had been carried out by the right wing of the British armies. We now expected that the great British success would set the French lines in motion.

Our failure of 8 August was revealed to all. We had now been defeated in defence. The amount of captured weaponry which our enemy could show to the world gave a clear message.

Source 2: From *The Last Four Months*, the war memoirs of British General Sir Frederick Maurice, published 1919. Here he recounts the events of the Battle of the Canal du Nord, from 27 September–1 October 1918. At the time of the battle, Sir Frederick was the military correspondent for the *Daily Chronicle* having resigned from the army in May 1918.

The British part in the great attack upon the whole German front was timed to begin in the early morning of 27 September. On the evening before, a great bombardment opened along a 30-mile front. It was a long time since the Germans had been subjected to such shelling. Many of their troops having come from the Eastern Front, or being fresh drafts from Germany, had never experienced a really intense and prolonged bombardment.

At 5.30 am, the British armies attacked the heart of the Hindenburg Line and over the following days the Germans were driven back on the whole front of the British Fourth, Third and First Armies. Within days much of the German Hindenburg Line trench defences were in our hands.

The victory was complete and decisive and, in winning it, the three British armies had captured 36,500 prisoners and 380 guns. The British armies had defeated the 39 German divisions that were holding the strongest defences ever devised. At last, after four years of determined effort, the great trench barriers had been pierced and German morale broke down there. German prisoners were taken in great numbers and without much resistance, and there were signs of confusion and disorder in their ranks.

With dwindling resources, Ludendorff saw himself faced by great danger. The British Army had beaten the best of his troops in their strongest defences, and there were no more Hindenburg Lines to stop its progress. Under the pressure of these calamities, Ludendorff insisted on an immediate request for an armistice.

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Acknowledgements

Source 1 from:
https://www.firstworldwar.com/source/amiens_hindenburg.htm

Source 2 from:
https://www.firstworldwar.com/source/candunord_maurice.htm