A collection of historical artifacts is displayed on a light-colored surface. On the left, there is a blue and brown checkered board with several small, round, light-colored objects. A red ribbon with a circular emblem is attached to a medal. Below it is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. A large, ornate silver star-shaped medal with a central emblem is prominent. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples is positioned in the center. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular compass with a white face and black markings.

1914-1918: The World at War

**Depth Study A: The First World
War 1914-1918
Pages 156-189
Mr. Corey**

A collage of historical military items including a compass, a medal, and a map.

What will we cover today?

- Why was there a stalemate on the Western Front?
- What was living and fighting in the trenches like?
- Why did the war become bogged down in the trenches?
- How important were new developments such as tanks, machine guns, aircraft and gas?
- What was the significance of the battles of Verdun and Somme?

A vertical collage on the left side of the slide. At the top, there are several circular buttons or medals. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. In the center is a large, ornate military medal with a red cross and a central emblem. At the bottom is a circular compass with a needle and degree markings.

Why was there stalemate on the Western Front?

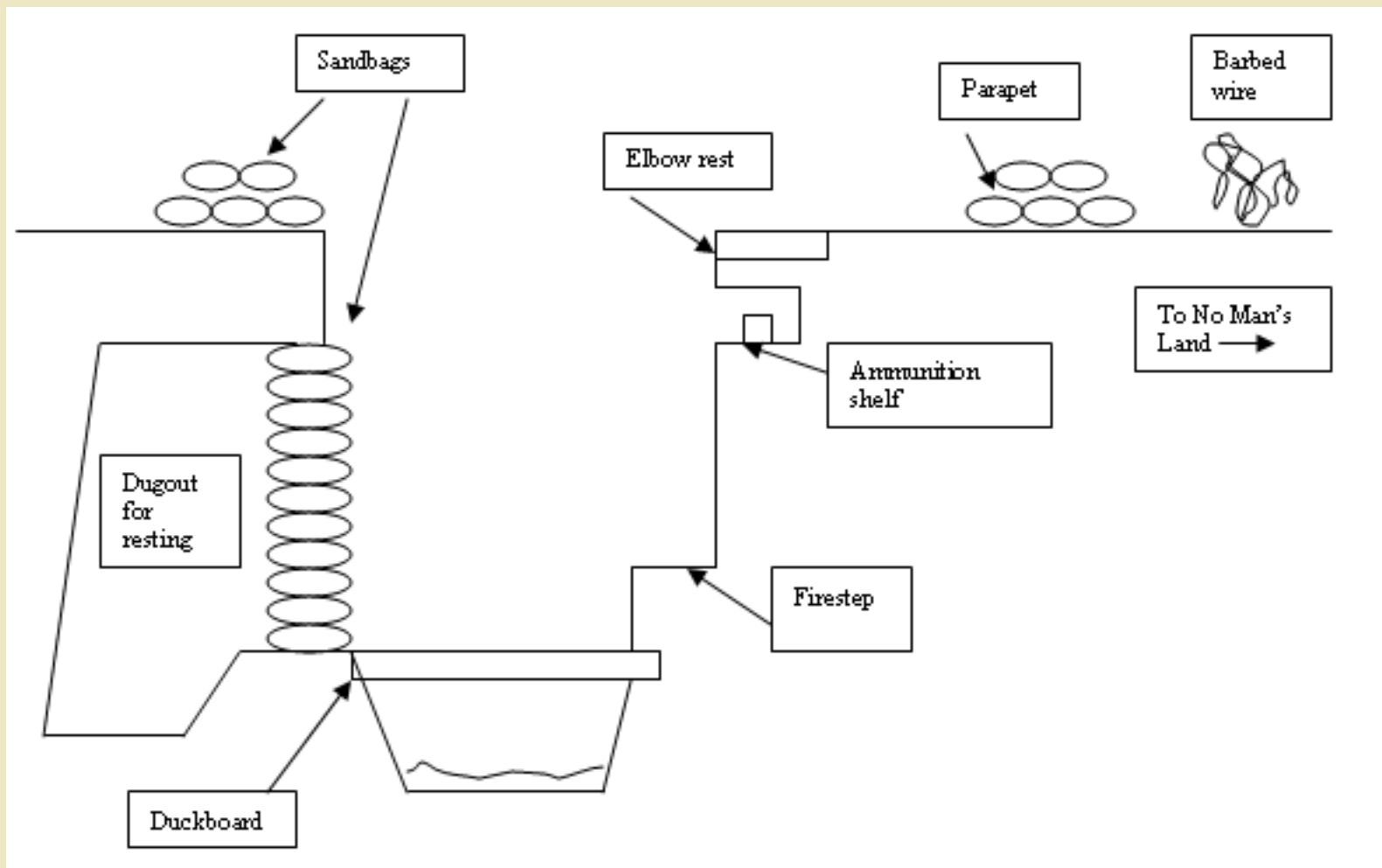
- By December 1914 the race to the sea was over.
- Neither side had managed to seize the advantage and outflank the other, therefore both sides had dug in.
- What had started as a war of rapid movement was now a war of attrition*.
 - Attrition - the act or process of weakening and gradually defeating an enemy through constant attacks and continued pressure over a long period of time.

Why was there stalemate on the Western Front?

- Trench warfare developed, as both the German and Allied forces dug trenches as shelter from enemy fire.
- The trenches were used as positions from which to attack the other side.




The look of a trench



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a collection of military medals and a compass rose. At the top, there are several circular medals with intricate designs. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular medal. Further down is a large, ornate cross-shaped medal with a central circular emblem. At the bottom, a portion of a compass rose is visible, showing cardinal directions and degree markings.

What was living and fighting in the trenches like?

- 4-4-4 what does this mean?
- Rats and lice
- Disease
- The weather
- Psychological Problems
- Boredom

A vertical collage of military-related items on the left side of the slide. At the top, there are several circular buttons or medals. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. In the center is a large, ornate red and white cross-shaped medal. At the bottom is a circular compass with a needle and degree markings.

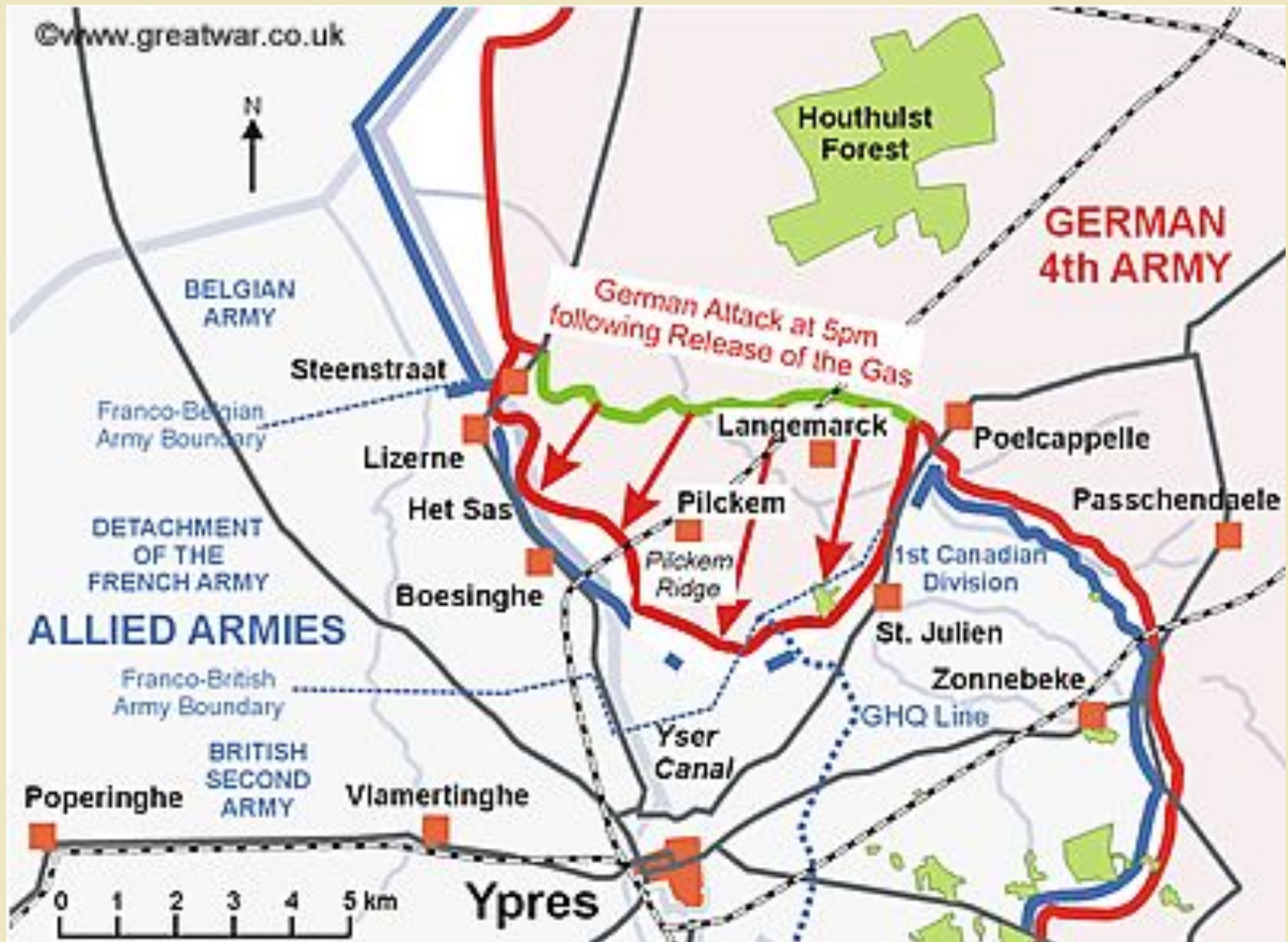
Why did the war become bogged down in the trenches?

- The first reason is that trench warfare was defensive rather than offensive.
- We will be looking at Ypres and the battle of Verdun.

The battle of Ypres



Ypres



Ypres (Before/After)



Why was it important?

- The city of Ypres in Belgium saw no less than five battles during the war, but it was the first one that proved most significant in helping explain why the war became bogged down in the trenches.
- Ypres was important due to its location along the roads leading to Channel ports.
- With German failure at the Battle of the Marne both sides wanted to establish control of the sea.



Why was it important?

- The allies arrived in Ypres first and manned a 35-mile long front line.
- The aim of the allies was to push the Germans back, retaking the cities of Lille in France and Brussels in Belgium.
- The Germans were hoping for the opposite, to push through Allies at Ypres and take the ports of Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne.



What happened?

- Fierce fighting took place for over a month.
- Both sides had the advantage at different points, but weaponry such as cavalry and machine guns were unable to break the stalemate.
- Horrific losses were suffered on both sides; an estimated half of the 140,000 British troops were killed or wounded in the battle.



Why was it significant?

- Ypres marked the end of two things for the war. Firstly, it was end of the BEF.
- The heavy losses suffered meant that the old army was largely gone and the British would now have to rely on volunteer recruits.
- More significantly for the war it marked the end of a mobile war.
- Neither side had shown itself to be stronger than the other, and so two evenly matched armies had resorted to defensive formations.
- Across the fronts troops dug in to trenches.



The battle of Verdun



Why was it important?

- The longest battle of the war was fought at Verdun, Germany believed that if it was to win the war, they had to force France to surrender, hoping that if they did so, the British would also withdraw.
- To make this breakthrough, the Germans attacked the town of Verdun. Verdun was important to the French because of its history; it was a heavily fortified town built to withstand Prussian attacks in the 1880s.
- Verdun was a symbol of French military pride.
- The Germans hoped a victory here would deal a devastating blow to French moral.



What happened?

- The Germans subjected Verdun to an intense bombardment.
- As the French sent extra forces to defend the town the Germans attacked.
- Their aim was to break through and open up the French line for a devastating assault.
- The French were unprepared for such a large assault, and at one point an army of 200,000 French faced up to over a million German soldiers.



What happened?

- Despite these numbers though, the Germans were unable to make a significant breakthrough.
- They got close several times, but the dogged determination of the French, despite huge casualties, kept the Germans at bay.



Why significant?

- The battle was the longest fought in the entire war and crucially led to the battle of Somme as the French persuaded the British to move to an offensive elsewhere to ensure that the Germans would need to withdraw some of their troops from Verdun.

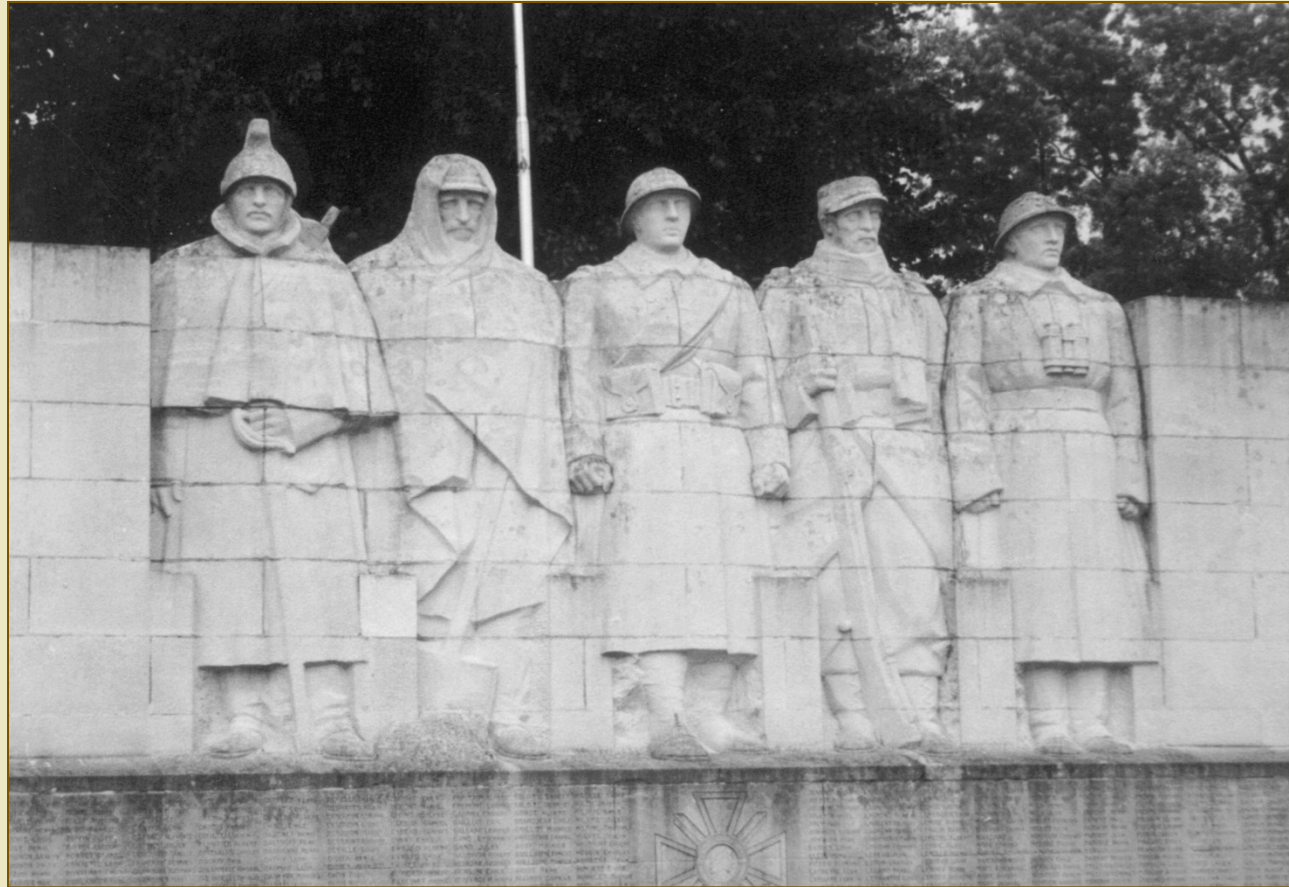


Why significant?

- The other significance of Verdun was that it showed how hard a breakthrough was to achieve.
- Despite vast numbers of men, as long as the defending side were willing to suffer large casualties there seemed little chance of a breakthrough with trench warfare.
- Other methods of warfare were needed.



Verdun - February, 1916




- e German offensive.
- e Each side had 500,000 casualties.

The Somme - July, 1916



- e 60,000 British soldiers killed in one day.
- e Over 1,000,000 killed in 5 months.

A collection of military medals and a compass are arranged on a wooden board with a blue border. The board has a checkerboard pattern of dark and light squares. There are several medals: a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a white star with a central emblem, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem, and a large white star with a central emblem. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses is also visible. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular compass with a white face and black markings.

How important were new developments such as tanks, machine guns, aircraft and gas?

Assessment

- ◆ Today will be the start of your formative assessment.
- ◆ You need to answer the question: How important were new developments such as tanks, machine guns, aircraft and gas?
 - You will have two parts to this formative:
 - 1-2 page essay on the question (answer the question and give examples and reasons to your answer).
 - Poster (A4 size) on new technologies during world war 1.



Assessment

Level

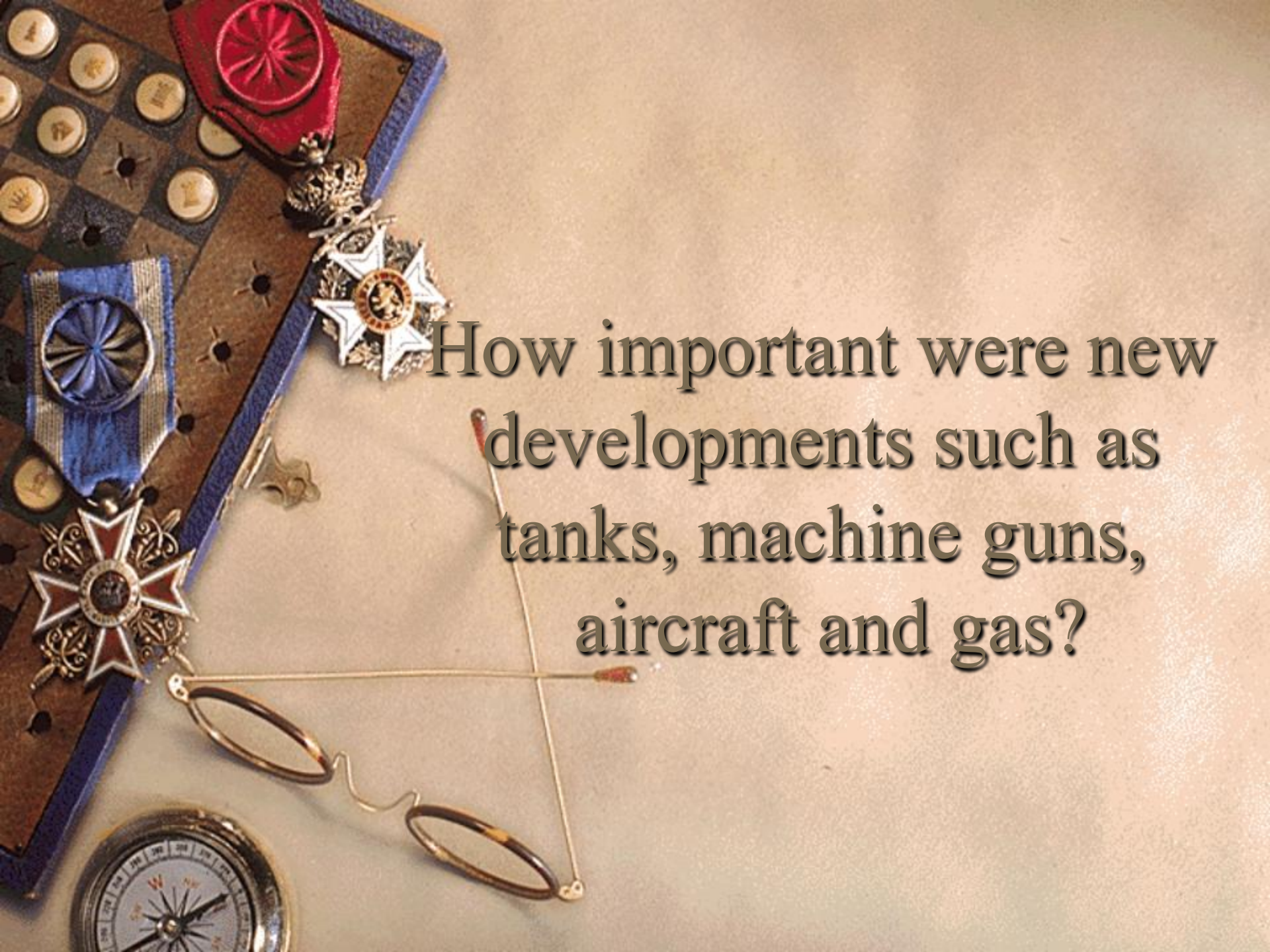
Marks

Description

5

36-40

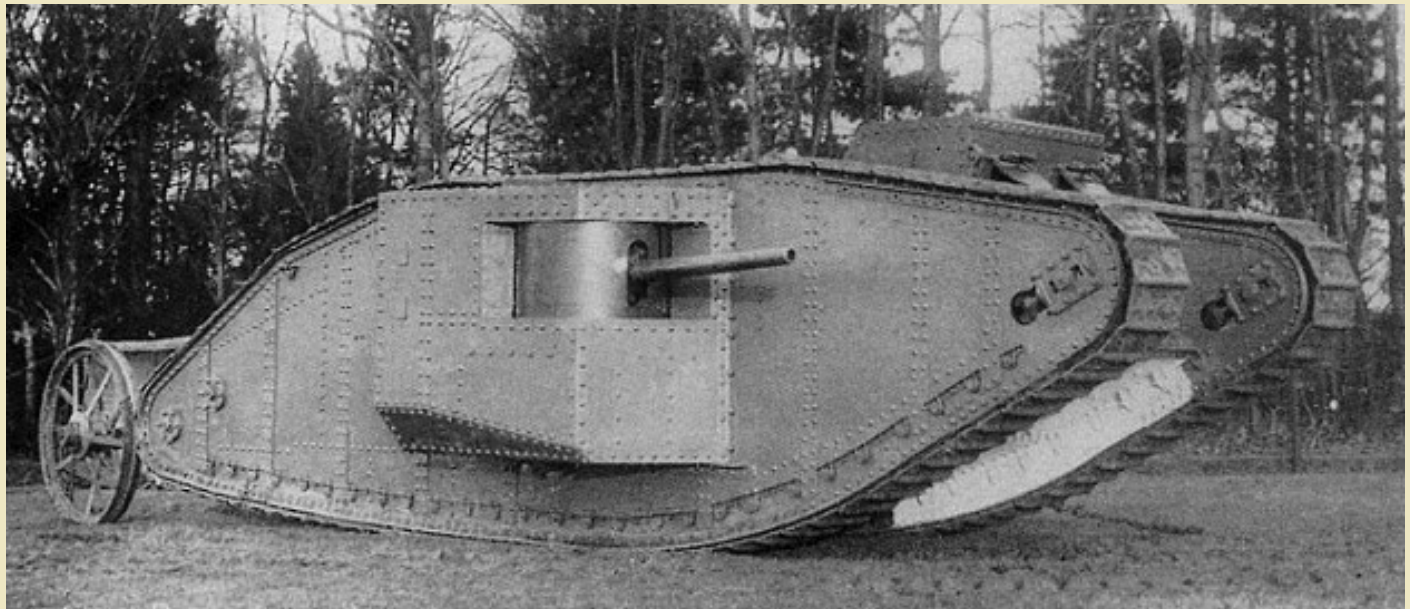
- Candidates demonstrate and select and effectively deploy relevant and accurate contextual knowledge.
- Candidates select a wide range of relevant information which is well organized and deployed effectively.
- Candidates demonstrate excellent understanding of the significance of the key features, reasons, result or changes of societies, events, beliefs, people and situations studied with good awareness of the importance of interrelationships and the broad context.

A collection of military medals and a compass are arranged on a light-colored, textured surface. On the left, a blue ribbon with a red rosette is pinned to a dark blue rectangular plaque with a checkered pattern and several small circular medals. Below it, a silver star-shaped medal with a central emblem is pinned. Further down, another silver star-shaped medal with a central emblem is pinned. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples lies across the lower part of the medals. In the bottom left corner, a circular silver compass with a white face and black markings is visible.

How important were new developments such as tanks, machine guns, aircraft and gas?

The Tank

- ◆ Tanks were first used by the Allies in the summer of 1916. There were initial fears among the British leadership that they were not up to the harsh conditions, but after the failure of the mass attack at the Somme, they were put into use.



A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide. It features a dark, textured background with several military medals and a compass rose. At the top, there are several circular medals with intricate designs. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. In the center, there is a large, ornate red and white cross-shaped medal with a central circular emblem. At the bottom, a portion of a compass rose is visible, showing cardinal directions and degree markings.

The Tank

- ◆ The first deployments were not a complete success. Of the 59 tanks in France only 49 were considered to be in good working order.
- ◆ Of these, 17 broke down before they had even had a chance to engage the enemy.
- ◆ However, their impact was at first successful.
- ◆ The sight of the tanks created panic and had a profound effect on the morale of the German Army.



The Tank

- ◆ The head of the Tank Corps Colonel John Fuller was convinced that the tank was vital to winning the war.
- ◆ He persuaded Sir Douglas Haig to ask the government to supply him with another 1,000 tanks.
- ◆ He offered clear guidance on how they should be used in order for success. At times this worked, such as at Amiens where General Henry Rawlinson used over 400 tanks supported by soldiers and aircraft to break through the German front line.

A vertical collage on the left side of the slide featuring a compass, a blue ribbon with a circular medal, and a red and white star-shaped medal.

The machine gun

- ◆ Both sides used the machine gun as an effective weapon.
- ◆ Capable of firing 400-600 rounds of small-caliber ammunition per a minute, each one had the firepower of about 100 rifles.
- ◆ Larger machine guns required a crew of three to six men and were positioned on a tripod.
- ◆ For added protection, German machine guns were often housed inside concrete blockhouses.
- ◆ Smaller machine guns were manned by one or two soldiers and were deployed effectively along the Western Front, particularly by the Germans.



Gas

- ◆ The use of chemical weapons and in particular poison gas was limited.
- ◆ Despite the horrors that it caused, it only accounted for 4 per cent of war deaths.
- ◆ Nevertheless, it was terrifying weapon that caused panic and fear among the troops.
- ◆ The two most common chemical weapons used were mustard gas and chlorine gas.
- ◆ Mustard gas was the most lethal of all the poisonous chemicals used during the war.



Classwork

- ◆ Please read the article provided to you and write a couple of paragraphs.
 - <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-31042472>
 - You will have a grade of 10 points based on your analyses of the question:
 - How deadly was the poison gas of WW1?
 - Read the article then answer the question
 - Describe what you thought after reading the question



Gas

- ◆ Small amounts were added to high explosive shells and then released.
- ◆ Once in the soil, mustard gas remained active for several weeks.

British Gas Casualties: 1914-1918	Deaths	Non-fatal
Chlorine	1,976	164,457
Mustard Gas	4,086	16,526



Aircraft


- ◆ The First World War also saw the introduction of the use of aircraft in conflicts.
- ◆ Aircraft did not yet play a decisive role as in later conflicts, but did serve a purpose.
- ◆ The main role of aircraft at the time was observation and reconnaissance, allowing battlefield positions and troop movements to be observed from the air.
- ◆ The usefulness of aircraft, however, was limited by the ability to communicate.



Aircraft

- ◆ With no radios to communicate between land and air, it took valuable time for messages to be passed on to ground troops.
- ◆ As well as observing, there were some attempts at bombing raids, however, these were also limited.

Country	Aircraft	Airships
Germany	246	11
Austria-Hungary	35	1
Britain	110	6
France	160	4
Russia	300	11
Belgium	25	-

A collection of military medals and a compass are arranged on a wooden board with a blue border. The board has a checkerboard pattern of light and dark squares, with several small, round, light-colored objects scattered across it. The medals include a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a white star-shaped medal with a central emblem, and a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses is also visible, along with a circular compass in the bottom left corner.

What was the significance
of the battles of Verdun
and the Somme?

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide. It features a dark, textured background with several military medals and a compass rose. At the top, there are several circular medals with intricate designs. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. Further down is a large, ornate cross-shaped medal with a central circular emblem. At the bottom, a portion of a compass rose is visible, showing cardinal directions and degree markings.

Background

- ◆ By 1916 the First World War had been raging for nearly two years.
- ◆ Since the winter of 1914 the fighting had been a stalemate.
- ◆ On July 1st, 1916 the British tried to break through the enemy lines with an all out attack on the German Trenches at the battle of the Somme.
- ◆ The battle was designed to relieve pressure on the French at Verdun, as well as securing an all important breakthrough of the German line.

A vertical collage on the left side of the slide. At the top, there are several circular objects, possibly buttons or medals, on a textured surface. Below that is a blue ribbon with a circular medal featuring a starburst design. In the center is a large, ornate military medal with a red and white cross and intricate scrollwork. At the bottom is a portion of a vintage-style compass with a white face and black markings.

Why was the attack launched?

- ◆ The German attack at Verdun had stretched the French: an attack by the British would mean that the Germans had to withdraw some of their troops from Verdun.
- ◆ There was a widespread belief that a major victory on the Western Front could result in a decisive breakthrough in the war.
- ◆ A major victory would have three effects on the Germans:
 - It would weaken their army
 - Reduce their Morale
 - Force their army to be stretched further.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows various military medals and a compass rose. At the top, there are several circular medals with different designs. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular medal. In the center is a large, ornate cross-shaped medal with a central circular emblem. At the bottom is a circular compass rose with a needle and degree markings.

Why was the attack launched?

- ◆ The Commander-in-chief of the British army Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig believed in the “Big Push”. He was convinced that the enemy could be overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers.



The Plan

Step One

Heavy shelling for 7 days in the run up to 1st July. Shelling designed to remove German Defenses, inflict heavy casualties and clear barbed wire. Additionally 5 large mines were planted beneath the German trenches to cause maximum damage.



Step Two

Coordinated infantry advance at 7:30am on 1st July. Soldiers told to walk slowly rather than charge at speed in order to clear remaining Germans from front line trenches.



Step Three

Second wave of attack including cavalry would sweep through the seized trenches and onwards, attacking the fleeing Germans.



On the day

- ◆ The Battle of the Somme was one of the biggest battles of the war so far, and initial newspaper reports showed it to be a success.

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide. It features a dark, textured background with several military medals and a compass rose. At the top, there are several circular medals with intricate designs. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. Further down is a large, ornate cross-shaped medal with a central circular element. At the bottom, a portion of a compass rose is visible, showing cardinal directions and degree markings.

On the day

- ◆ The reality of the Somme, however, was very different to those initial reports.
- ◆ July 1st 1916 was the worst day in the history of the British army.
- ◆ German soldiers survived the shelling before the attack as they were dug into elaborate trench system deep underground with all the food and supplies they needed and were therefore largely undamaged by the bombardment.
- ◆ Once the shelling stopped, the Germans knew an attack was coming.
- ◆ Twenty thousand British troops were killed and 40,000 were wounded on the first day of the attack.

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide. It features a dark, textured background with several military medals and a compass rose. At the top, there are several circular medals with intricate designs. Below them is a blue ribbon with a circular emblem. Further down is a large, ornate cross-shaped medal with a central circular element. At the bottom, a portion of a compass rose is visible, showing cardinal directions and degree markings.

On the day

- ◆ The British shelling before the attack had been largely ineffective.
- ◆ It had failed to clear the barbed wire or damage the German machine guns.
- ◆ Very little ground was gained; few German trenches were taken and held.
- ◆ The battle of Somme continued from July until November 1916.
- ◆ Far from being a rapid breakthrough for the British forces, it turned into a battle of attrition that by the end of the fighting had claimed a million casualties on all sides.

Why did the attack fail?

- ◆ Read source 9 on page 166 and lets discuss.



A vertical collage on the left side of the slide. At the top is a map with a compass rose. Below it is a blue ribbon with a circular medal. In the center is a large, ornate red and white cross-shaped medal. At the bottom is a circular compass with a needle and degree markings.


Why did the attack fail?

- ◆ The battle of Somme was a horrific loss of life, for very little land gained.
- ◆ When the battle ended in November 1916 the British had made gains of just over 7 miles.
- ◆ It was also significant for several other reasons:
 - The allies first realized just how long the war could be
 - The soldiers were heavily demoralized
 - New technology, designed to be decisive, had been limited by the poor conditions. Tanks struggled in the mud and over half of the tanks deployed on the Somme broke down before they can even reached the front line.



Does General Haig deserve to be remembered as the “Butcher of the Somme”?

- ◆ Some of the criticism after the Somme was directed at the leader of the British forces Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig.
- ◆ Historians since have portrayed the soldiers as being sacrificed in an unwinnable battle, and have instead looked at them as “lions, led by Donkeys”, meaning those in positions of power were responsible for the loss of life.

A collage of military-related items including a compass, a medal, and a map.

Does General Haig deserve to be remembered as the “Butcher of the Somme”?

- ◆ Haig famously claimed that the heavy bombardment before the battle meant that “not even a rat would be alive” and so instructed the army, mainly made up of new recruits, to approach the German trenches at walking pace to shell avoid confusion.
 - Is the the criticism of Haig fair though?
 - Or was he doing the best he could with limited resources?
- ◆ Source 10-15, page 167-168