

19/20 (7)

Excellent.

(Hellen)

External assessment

Note: The following elements of the objectives may not always apply to essay answers.

- Assessment objective 2: Show awareness of different approaches to, and interpretations of, historical issues and events.
- Assessment objective 3: Evaluate different approaches to, and interpretations of, historical issues and events.

The generic markbands should be read in conjunction with the paper-specific markscheme.

Marks	Level descriptor	Assessment objectives and mark range
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.	Low mark range:
1-2	Answers lack understanding of the demands of the question or accurate/relevant historical knowledge. Answers show little or no evidence of structure and consist of little more than unsupported generalizations.	Assessment objective 1: Knowledge and understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recall and select relevant historical knowledge• Demonstrate an understanding of historical context• Demonstrate an understanding of historical processes: cause and effect; continuity and change
3-4	Answers reveal little understanding of the question. While historical details are present, they are largely inaccurate and/or of marginal relevance to the task. There is little or no understanding of historical context or historical processes. While there may be a recognizable essay structure, answers consist of little more than poorly substantiated assertions.	Assessment objective 4: Use of historical skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deploy detailed, in-depth knowledge• Demonstrate the ability to structure an essay answer
5-6	Answers indicate some understanding of the question. There is some relevant, accurate historical knowledge but detail is insufficient. Understanding of historical processes and (where appropriate) comparison and contrast may be present but underdeveloped. While there may be a recognizable essay structure, the question is only partially addressed.	

ANALYZE THE FACTORS THAT LED TO THE DEFEAT OF THE CENTRAL POWERS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

~~The~~ A variety of factors influenced the defeat of the Central Powers in WWI. A major war in the Twentieth Century, WWI consisted of ~~the~~ the conflict between the Allies — mainly the USA, France, Russia, the UK and its empire — and the Central Powers, — mainly Germany, ~~the~~ Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire. Although the Central Powers superseded the Allies in almost all aspects of military superiority near the start of the war, in the final years of conflict victory nevertheless sided them. A range of tactical errors, poor decisions made by political leadership, internal conflict and lack of support, as well as the clear loss of Germany's allies led to the Central Powers' ultimate defeat.

Perhaps ~~one~~ of some of the most crucial reasons for the Central Powers' defeat lie in one crucial factor: tactical decisions made by ~~the~~ both sides in the war. The Schlieffen plan was a major tactical error made by Germany near the start of the war; it resulted in unnecessary spreading of German troops along two dramatic fronts. This weakened the compounded with lack of food and ammunition,

A very strong opening Hellen.

* Although there were large tank losses,

this weakened the strength and morale of the German army slightly on each side. Furthermore, the Schlieffen Plan helped strengthen the Allied forces ~~and~~ ~~help~~ because by invading Belgium, it brought the UK, an ally by the Treaty of London, into the war, creating a stronger Allied force against a weaker ~~the~~ group of Central Powers. The Ludendorff Offensive was another tactical error made by Germany. ~~One~~ Overconfident about his offensive, Ludendorff had decided to use only experienced troops, who were quickly killed and replaced by young, inexperienced recruits. * The offensive advanced too quickly; ~~and~~ vulnerable salients were created and ~~the~~ the German army ~~is~~ outran its supply line. As a result, the offensive wore down greatly on ~~the~~ the German troops' endurance, fighting spirit, morale and numerical superiority. Finally, the Allies played their card well with the Allied ~~the~~ Naval Blockade, which made the German economy deteriorate and produced an extreme shortage of food and supplies among the Central Powers. Consequently, Germany launched Unrestricted Submarine Warfare which brought the USA into the war on the side of the Allies. This resulted in an even stronger and even

well researched

Used
Storpaak.

You have used these tactical errors very well in this essay - you do not describe but analyse and therefore go to the heart of the essay title.

larger ~~own~~ group of Allies as the USA was able to import major supplies to the Allies.

~~Had by itself, Germany could not have~~

By itself, Germany could not have won the war; it was the support of its Allies that had made the Central Powers even a formidable armed camp, and it was the fall of its Allies that eventually led to the Central Powers' defeat. The loss of allies was a major humiliation to Germany as it showed the Allies that they were fighting a most and unsupported war. Also, the loss of allies was a major blow to the pride and faith of the German leaders and civilians. The disintegration of Austria-Hungary's patchwork empire was most embarrassing of all as Austria-Hungary was Germany's ~~strongest~~ closest ally; when it ~~signed~~ appealed for an armistice on November 3, this pressured German leaders to do the same. However, the promise of defeat is evident even when looking toward the start of the war.

before.

As demonstrated by the decisive Battle of Tannenberg in the Austro-

Prussia war, Austria-Hungary was not a strong nation and was not suitable for large-scale warfare. Thus, it had been a flawed decision for the Kaiser to have assigned Austria-Hungary the position of chief security partner through the Dual Alliance before the start of WWI.

Errors made by the political leaders ~~of~~ of the Central Powers, especially Germany, and experiences learned by those of the Allies, was another factor that influenced the defeat of the Central Powers. While Gen British General Haig actively sought to change his tactics based on errors made by the Allies during the Ludendorff Offensive, Ludendorff remained obstinate and blamed defeat on ~~the~~ troops and the left-wing civilian population of Germany. This led to eventual failure ~~of the~~ ~~the~~ against the Allied Counteroffensive, widespread civilian discontent, and ultimate defeat in the war. Haig attributes much of his success in the Allied Counteroffensive to experiences gained from the failures of the 1916 and 1917 battles. Some historians such as John Lattin strongly disagree with this statement, and call Haig and his troops "bunglers" and "butchers" who fail to acknowledge the cruelty and bloodshed of their post

Good

was done

settles. Other historians such as Tim Travers agree that ~~the~~ cumulatively, ~~these~~ the failures from these smaller battles did help wear down the German army. Another poor decision ~~made~~ ^{was} by Ludendorff ~~by Ludendorff~~. ~~Attempting to negotiate the peace talks~~

Humiliated by the Allies' Fourteen Points and unwilling for the new civilian government to negotiate an armistice with President Wilson, Ludendorff's original resolve in ultimate German victory returned and he ordered the war to be fought to the end. However, as historian Hew Strachan evaluates, ~~it was~~ being provided such an immediate option for peace, it was now impossible for Ludendorff to ~~retract~~ reintroduce his action into war without stirring up widespread discontent. As a result, following October 1918, the German Army fought without will or motivation.

Finally, it was not only decisions of the political battlefield that determined the outcome of WWI; internal ~~and~~ ~~and~~ conflict and mistakes also pushed any prospect of a Central Powers victory to a dead end. Near the start of the war, the Austro-Hungarian armies were very ethnically equal; officers were even ~~mostly~~ ^{well}

to learn the languages of their regiments. However, as war progressed, there was no time to educate the new officers on languages of their troops, and soon the Germans became superior and jokers over the other ethnicities. This stirred up ~~the~~ discontent among the Austro-Hungarian ~~troop~~ minority troops, many of whom were unwilling to fight for a nationality that was not their own. The Slavic ~~troops~~ troops were especially unwilling to fight against Russia due to mutual Pan-Slavism. The Kiel mutiny created a domino effect at other fronts, eventually resulting in the abdication of the Kaiser and the fall of the German monarchy.

Wow - a truly excellent essay Hellen. I am very impressed with this. So much depth, detail, interpretation and evidence of personal research and reading. Fantastic.

I am finding it hard to come up with a reason not to give this an even higher mark but for 20/20 you need more background to the historiography. We can discuss this. →

reasons

A variety of ~~Factors~~ influenced the Central Powers' defeat in the war. These reasons can be categorized into four main factors: ~~poor~~ tactical planning, ~~poor~~ lack of Germany's allies, ~~poor~~ leadership and internal conflict ~~among~~ ~~the~~ within the Central Powers.

✓ Yes!