**Turning Points - Impacts of the entry of the USA and of the Russian withdrawal**

**Source Exercise**

**Source A –** Hart, B. L., *History of the First World War*, Pan, London, 1972, pp. 463-64.

*(In regards to the causes of the Allied victory…)* “The truth is that no one cause was, or could be, decisive. The Western Front, the Balkan Front, the tank, the naval blockade and propaganda have all been claimed as the cause of victory. All claims are justified. None is wholly right. In this warfare between nations, victory was a cumulative effect, to which all weapons – military, economic, and psychological – contributed. Victory came, and could only come through the utilization and combination of all the resources existing in a modern nation, and the dividend of success depended on the way in which these manifold activities were coordinated. It is even more futile to ask which country won the war… The United States did not win the war, but without their economic aid to ease the strain, without the arrival of their troops to turn the balance, and, above all, without the moral tonic which their coming gave, victory would have been impossible.”

**Source A Questions:**

1. According to Source A, how did Allied victory come about?
2. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of this argument?
3. According to Source A, what effect did American entry have on the war?
4. To which particular influence of American entry does the author place the greatest degree of importance?
5. Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?

**Source B –** Kitchen, M., *The Ending of World War One and the Legacy of Peace,* BBC.co.uk, 17/2/11.

Russia's exit from World War One, in 1917, must have made an eventual victory for Germany seem quite likely to German leaders, and vindicated their nurturing of Russian dissidents. From the very early months of World War One, the German government had been in touch with exiled Russian revolutionaries, many of them Bolsheviks, in the hopes that they could be used to undermine the Russian war effort against Germany. This didn't pay off in the first years of the war, but the February revolution in 1917 that eventually toppled the Russian tsarist regime raised German hopes that Russia would soon withdraw from the war. These hopes were soon dashed, as the new, provisional liberal government in Russia decided to continue to fight against Germany and the Central Powers. Towards the end of March, however, the German foreign office and the High Command agreed to send one of the exiled Bolshevik leaders, Vladimir Lenin, plus 31 other émigrés opposed both to the tsarists and the liberals, back to Russia from Switzerland.

This was in the hopes that they would topple the Provisional Government and sue to bring an end to Russia's involvement in the war. A sealed train passed through Germany during the night of 10 to 11 April, with the conspirators hidden on board, and within a few months the policy appeared to be crowned with spectacular success. Widespread war weariness among the general population of Russia was the major cause of the October Revolution of that year; this brought the Bolsheviks to power, and almost the first act of the new government was to publish its peace proposals on 8 November. The fighting on the Eastern Front ended within a few weeks, and a peace conference began its deliberations at Brest Litovsk on 22 December 1917.

**Source B Questions:**

1. According to Source B, what role did the German Government play in bringing about the withdrawal of Russia from World War One?
2. Why did these efforts not pay off initially?
3. What feeling amongst the general Russian population contributed to the Bolshevik revolution?
4. What impact did the Bolshevik revolution have on Russian involvement in World War One?

**Extended Response – *With references to Sources A, B and your own knowledge, access and analyse the impact of the entry of the United States and the withdrawal of Russia on the outcome of World War One.***