MA99 EDUCATION

The shaping of the modern world: The First World War: Summary

04

NSW MODERN HISTORY 11-12 SYLLABUS 2024 FOR HSC 2028 AND LATER

Every figure is dated and sourced, so you can quote it as written. Read this the week before an assessment.

1. The option on one page

NESA CONTENT POINT	KEY POINT	EVIDENCE
Long-term causes	Nationalism, imperialism, militarism and alliances fed Great Power rivalry, and fed each other	Moroccan Crises 1905 and 1911; Dreadnought 1906; Bosnia 1908; two blocs by 1907
Short-term causes and the outbreak, 1914	Sarajevo was the trigger; the decisions of July made it a war	Blank cheque 5 to 6 July; ultimatum 23 July; Belgium invaded, Britain at war 4 August
Changing warfare on two fronts	Industry first made defence stronger than attack, then, used together, broke the deadlock	Gas at Ypres 22 April 1915; tanks 15 September 1916; Hamel 4 July 1918, 93 minutes
Soldiers' experiences in key battles	Experience varied by battle, front, year, nation and role	Somme, 1 July 1916: 57,470 British casualties; Fromelles: 5,533 Australian casualties in 24 hours
Total war and social groups	The state mobilised every resource; civilians became workers and targets	DORA 1914; British conscription 1916; almost 7,000 interned in Australia (NAA)
The changing role of women	New work and the vote in some countries; much of it temporary	About 1 million British women in munitions by 1918; about 8.4 million British women enfranchised, 1918
Reasons for the Allied victory	Several reasons, linked; weigh them	US at war 6 April 1917; Spring Offensive 21 March 1918; Amiens 8 August 1918
Short-term effects	Revolution, pandemic, a new peace	Brest-Litovsk 3 March 1918; about 50 million influenza deaths (NMA); Versailles 28 June 1919
Legacy	A hope to end war, the League, collective security, self-determination, and their limits	League from 10 January 1920; the US Senate's last vote failed, 19 March 1920

2. The dates

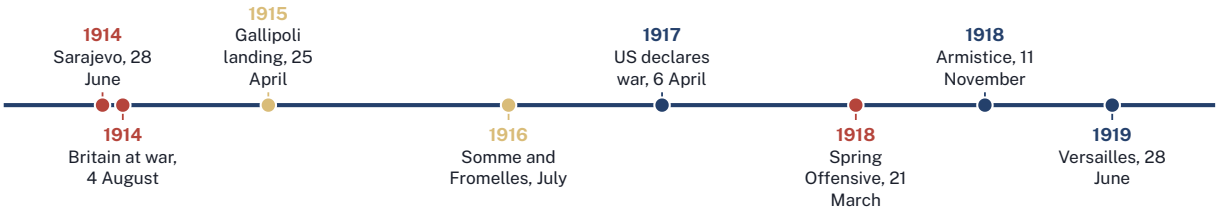


Figure 1 · The war in eight dates. Learn these and the rest hangs from them.

DATE	EVENT
1879, 1882	Dual Alliance; Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy)
1894, 1904, 1907	Franco-Russian Alliance; Entente Cordiale; Anglo-Russian Convention: the Triple Entente
1905 and 1911	First and second Moroccan Crises (Tangier; Agadir)

DATE	EVENT
February 1906	HMS Dreadnought launched
1908; 1912 to 1913	Bosnian Crisis; Balkan Wars
28 June 1914	Franz Ferdinand and Sophie shot in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip
5 to 6 July; 23 July; 28 July 1914	Blank cheque; ultimatum to Serbia; Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
30 July; 1, 3 and 4 August 1914	Russian general mobilisation; Germany at war with Russia, then France; Belgium invaded and Britain at war
September 1914	The Marne: the Schlieffen Plan fails
22 April 1915	Chlorine gas at Ypres
25 April to 20 December 1915	Gallipoli, from the landing to the Anzac evacuation
21 February to 18 December 1916	Verdun
1 July to 18 November 1916	The Somme; Fromelles 19 to 20 July; Pozières July to September
28 October 1916; 20 December 1917	Australian conscription votes: both No
1 February; 6 April 1917	Unrestricted submarine warfare; the US declares war
31 July to 10 November 1917	Third Ypres (Passchendaele)
31 October 1917	Beersheba
November 1917; 3 March 1918	Bolshevik seizure of power; Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
21 March 1918	German Spring Offensive begins
4 July; 8 August 1918	Hamel; Amiens, “the black day of the German Army”
29 September to 3 November 1918	Bulgaria, the Ottomans and Austria-Hungary sign armistices
9 and 11 November 1918	Wilhelm II abdicates; the Armistice, 11 am
18 January; 28 June 1919	Paris Peace Conference opens; Treaty of Versailles signed
10 January 1920	The League of Nations comes into being

3. The figures

FIGURE	VALUE	SOURCE
AIF enlistments	416,809, from a population under five million	Australian War Memorial
Australian dead	More than 60,000; 156,000 wounded, gassed or captured	Australian War Memorial
Gallipoli	26,111 Australian casualties, including 8,141 deaths	Australian War Memorial
Fromelles	5,533 Australian casualties in 24 hours	Australian War Memorial
Pozières	About 23,000 Australian casualties in about six weeks	Bean, Official History, volume III
Somme, first day	57,470 British casualties, 19,240 killed	British official history
Verdun	About 400,000 French and 350,000 German casualties	Encyclopaedia Britannica
Beersheba	31 Australians killed in the charge	Australian War Memorial

FIGURE	VALUE	SOURCE
Conscription votes	No 51.61 per cent (1916), 53.79 per cent (1917)	National totals
Internment	Almost 7,000 people in Australia	National Archives of Australia
Women	About 1 million in British munitions (Woollacott); about 8.4 million gained the vote in 1918 (UK Parliament)	As named
US troops	About 10,000 a day arriving by June 1918; about two million in France by the Armistice	US Army figures
Military dead	About 8.5 million; about 13 million civilians	Encyclopaedia Britannica estimate
Influenza	About 50 million worldwide; 12,000 to 15,000 in Australia	National Museum of Australia
Reparations	132 billion gold marks (1921)	London Schedule of Payments
League	41 member states at its first Assembly, 15 November 1920	League records

4. Sources and historians to quote

Four short quotations, checked

“just for a scrap of paper Great Britain was going to make war on a kindred nation”: Bethmann Hollweg on 4 August 1914, as reported by Sir Edward Goschen (report dated 8 August).

“The lamps are going out all over Europe”: Sir Edward Grey, recalled by a friend, in Twenty-Five Years (1925).

“It was all over in ninety-three minutes”: Monash on Hamel, The Australian Victories in France in 1918 (1920).

“August 8th was the black day of the German Army in the history of this war”: Ludendorff, My War Memories (1919).

DEBATE	HISTORIANS AND THEIR VIEW
Who caused the war?	Fischer (1961): German aims and acceptance of risk. Taylor (1969): war by timetable. Clark (2012): shared responsibility, “sleepwalkers”. MacMillan (2013): not inevitable; a few leaders chose
Was the outbreak greeted with enthusiasm?	Verhey (2000): enthusiasm mostly urban and middle class; many felt anxiety
Did war change women’s lives?	Marwick (1965): a “deluge” of change. Braybon (1981): gains mostly temporary
Why did the Allies win?	Sheffield (2001): a learning curve and real victories in 1918. Ferguson (1998): German morale collapsed. Stevenson (2011): a combination, including resources and blockade
Was self-determination for everyone?	Manela (2007): colonised peoples’ disappointment in 1919 turned many against the West

5. The method recipes

Five recipes that carry most of the marks

Causes question. Long-term causes, then the trigger, then the decisions of July. Link the forces ("the Franco-Russian alliance produced the Schlieffen Plan"). End with a weighted judgement.

Changing warfare. 1914 (movement), why deadlock (defence beats attack), the attempts to break it, 1918 (combined arms). Two fronts, compared.

Experience question. Name the battle, the year and the soldiers. Give one figure and one piece of first-hand evidence. Say how it differed from another battle.

Assess or to what extent. A judgement in the first sentence, a criterion, each factor weighed, the case against put fairly, a conclusion that commits.

Source question. What the source says, who made it, when and why, what that does to its reliability for this question, and what corroborates it.

The six mistakes that cost the most

Writing the long-term causes (militarism, alliances, imperialism, nationalism) as a list with no links between them. Writing that Britain went to war because of Sarajevo, or that Germany declared war on Britain.

Describing weapons without saying how warfare changed. "All soldiers lived in trenches with rats": the content point is about variation.

"Women got the vote because of the war": one cause among several, and British women voted at 30, not 21. "America won the war": US entry worked through other factors.

6. Checklist

Tick each line only when it can be done on blank paper, without notes. Each line left at "not yet" is the next study priority.

CAN I DO THIS WITHOUT NOTES?	YES	NOT YET
Explain how two of the four long-term forces strengthened each other, with dates.	☐	☐
Tell the July Crisis in five dated steps and say why Belgium mattered.	☐	☐
Explain why defence beat attack on the Western Front, in five steps.	☐	☐
Compare the Western Front and Gallipoli on movement and technology.	☐	☐
Describe two battles and how soldiers' experience differed between them.	☐	☐
Explain the impact of total war on three social groups, including women.	☐	☐
Weigh four reasons for the Allied victory and name two historians.	☐	☐
Explain three short-term effects and three parts of the legacy.	☐	☐
Assess the reliability of a memoir as a source, using Grey or Ludendorff.	☐	☐

> If you can do only one thing before the assessment, learn one dated fact for each content point.

About this resource

MA99 EDUCATION

Scope

NSW Modern History, Year 11. Written to the NSW Modern History 11-12 Syllabus 2024, The shaping of the modern world: The First World War, for students sitting the HSC in 2028 and later years. Written to the new syllabus, taught in Year 11 from 2027. Sources are real and attributed; quotations are short and checked, and any source written for MA99 says so.

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