# Unit Y315: The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792–1945

Note: Based on 3x 50 minute lessons per week

Terms based on 6 term year.

This theme focuses on the changing nature and methods of land warfare during a period of significant change. Learners should draw their examples from the main wars of the period: the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, the Crimean War, the Wars of Unification (the 1859 Italian War, the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 and the Franco-Prussian war of 1870–1871), the American Civil War, the Russo-Japanese war, the First World War and the Second World War. The strands identified below are not to be studied in isolation to each other. Learners are not expected to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the specification content, except for the named in-depth studies, but are expected to know the main developments and turning points relevant to the theme.

Depth studies have been integrated in with the main thematic elements, and some additional key questions provided. Candidates should be prepared to answer questions on the range of content provided within the specification.

| **Topic** | **Week:** | **Indicative content from specification** | **Extended Content** |
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| The impact of factors directly related to the conduct of war | 1 | * Generalship and its impact; | Introduction to Course; Warfare in 1792   * Changing nature of generalship during the period. * Examples of good / bad generalship:   + Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars e.g. Napoleon, Davout, Scharnhosrt, Gnieisenau,   + Wars of the mid-century e.g. Helmut von Moltke, Robert E Lee, Ulysses S Grant, Raglan, Cardigan, leadership in the Boer War,   + First World War   + Second World War |
| 2 | * quality of soldiers including professional armies and volunteers and their impact; | * Armies of the age of dynastic warfare – tended to reflect social structure * Non-commissioned officer * Growth of professional army * Introduction and impact of conscription * Development of guerrilla warfare e.g. Garibaldi * Citizen army |
| 3 | * the development of strategy, the aims of campaigns and their determination; | * differing aims of war – e.g. protection, end of slavery, Atlantic Charter * Concept and examples of Grand strategy * Changing nature of strategies, including economic warfare |

| **Topic** | **Week:** | **Indicative content from specification** | **Extended Content** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | * the development of tactics, shock tactics, cult of the offensive; | * Differing strategies employed during campaigns, introduction of long-range/new weaponry, faster troop movements. * Shock tactics * the cult of the offensive e.g. Schlieffen plan, Normandy beachheads |
| 4 | * the work of military theorists; | Examples include   * The Compte de Guibert General Essay on Tactics 1772 * Marshal de Saxe ( 1732) * Jena Baptiste de Gribeauval (French Artillery Regulations1776) * Chevalier du Teil ‘A new use of artillery in field warfare’ (1778) * Pierre de Bourcet Principles of Mountain Warfare 1764-71 * Antoine Jomini Treatise on major military operations 1804-11; Summary of the Art of War 1838 * EB Hamley, The operations of War 1866 * Carl von Clausewitz On War (1832) * Charles de Gaulle ‘Towards a Professional Army’ 1934 * Basil Liddell Hart Strategy, the Indirect Approach, 1929 * Giulio Drouhet The Command of the Air (1921) |
| 5 | * The concept of ‘Total War’, the involvement of civilians, casualties. | * French Revolutionary Convention in August 1793 * Development and examples of Total war |
| 6-7 | * Depth Studies | * The French Revolutionary Wars 1792-1802   + How far did the quality of leadership bring about a change in nature in the nature of warfare between 1792-1802? * The American Civil War 1861-1865   + How important was the quality of leadership in the American Civil War? * The Western Front and the First World War 1914-1918 * How far was poor leadership the reason for indecisive warship and heavy casualties? |
| The Impact of Technological Change | 8 | * Industrialisation and technology; | * Technology in 1792 * Importance of technological developments and industrialisation in determining the nature and outcome of wars:   + The revolutionary and Napoleonic wars – minor impact, after more significant   + Crimea – Britain had vastly superior technology   + American Civil War – significant role – out producing enemy as important as outfighting them   + Wars of unification – Austria’s lack of development   + Russo-Japanese war – Japanese superior troop movement   + WW1 – massive developments   + WW2 – even more development – very dependent on industry |
| 9 | * developments in communication and transport including telegraph, radio, telephone and radar, steamboats, railways, internal combustion engine; | * Developments throughout the period, including troop movements, railways, electric telegraph, aeroplanes, sea transport, development of the combustion engine. * How developments impacted on warfare during the period, including the importance of quick communications (e.g. telegraph, radio and telephone), and troop movements in determining the outcome of wars. * Use of radar to support / counteract movement. |
| 10 | * Development of weaponry including the rifle, artillery developments, machine gun, tanks, aeroplane. | * Development of weaponry changed significantly throughout period.   + The revolutionary and Napoleonic wars – musket-bayonet, artillery   + Crimea – percussion cap ignition, minie bullet,   + American Civil War – rifle musket   + Wars of unification – further development of infantry. Needle-gun, breach-loading rifled canon, mitrailleuse   + Russo-Japanese war, minefields, sea power.   + WW1 – high explosives, artillery range, recoilless canons, rifle, machine gun, impact of tranches on weapons, chemical warfare, tanks, artillery, infantry weapons, air warfare   + WW2 – tanks, motor vehicles, airpower, sea power, atomic weapons. |
| 11-12 | * Depth Studies | * The French Revolutionary Wars 1792-1802   + How important were developments in weaponry? * The American Civil War 1861-1865   + How significant were developments in transport in the American civil war? * The Western Front and the First World War 1914-1918   + How important were developments in weaponry? |
| Planning and Preparation | 13-15 | * The effectiveness of alliances and military plans; | * Differences in the alliances in the revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars from earlier 18th century. * Importance of alliances during the Crimean war * Significance of the failure to gain alliances by the South in the American Civil War * Bismarck policies in preventing Austria and France gaining allies * Significance and important of the Alliance system in WW1/2 in determining outcome * Growing importance of war plans in determining outcomes of war * Significance of the Anaconda Plan in the American Civil War * Failure and consequences of war plans in 1914 |
| 16-17 | * Developments in the organisation, command and control of armies. | * Changes brought about by the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, including changes in the command structure and why they were made. * Impact of the First World War on command structures * Extent of the changes made to command structures in WW2 |
| 18-19 | * Depth Studies | * The French Revolutionary Wars 1792-1802   + How far was French success due to the weakness of coalitions? * The American Civil War 1861-1865   + How significant in the defeat of the South was their failure to secure alliances? * The Western Front and the First World War 1914-1918   + How far did alliances determine the outcome of the war? |
| The relationship between domestic factors and warfare | **20** | * The organisation of the state for war, recruitment, the procurement and delivery of supplies, the scale of war, government intervention; manpower and resources. | * Growth of state power through wars * Taxation * Need for control of key areas of production * Great state control of industry and transportation * Growth of medical care * The ‘home front’ * Deployment of manpower and resources |
| 21 | * public opinion, morale, patriotism and the impact of mass literacy, franchise and the popular press, censorship; | * Growing public interest in war * Opinion as a causal factor for war * Growth of media coverage * Use and methods of propaganda * Use of censorship during wars and need to suppress opposition to war |
| 22 | * Conscription; manpower and resources. | * importance and development of conscription * Different forms of conscription * Usage in wars * Impact of conscription |
| 23 | * economics and the cost of war, the mobilisation of the economy, mass production; | * Growing cost of war and how it was paid for * Development and growth of industry and its utilisation to support the war effort * Impact of economic factors on WW1 and 2. |
| 24-25 | * Depth Studies | * The French Revolutionary Wars 1792-1802   + Did the organisation of the state bring about a turning point in the history of warfare? * The American Civil War 1861-1865   + Did organisation and economic factors determine victory? * The Western Front and the First World War 1914-1918   + Did Germany lose the war because of the Home Front? |

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