**Source E: Photograph of a man wearing a cotton wool pad respirator, April 1915. This was a simple form of gas mask. The Second Battle of Ypres also began in April 1915.**



**2a. How useful are Sources E and F as evidence of the use of gas during the First World War? (8 marks)**

***Source E is partially useful as evidence of the use of gas during the First World War. The photograph shows a British soldier wearing what appears to be a cotton pad over his mouth, fixed to the ears with elastic. His eyes are exposed and not protected by goggles. This makes the photograph useful, as this is typical of 1915. At this time, gas was a new weapon and the British had never come up against this before. At Ypres in 1915, the Germans used chlorine gas and cotton pad respirators were all that the Allied soldiers had to combat it. As this content is accurate, it makes the photograph useful. However, the picture is very limited as it doesn’t inform us of much. For example; it fails to show the devastating effects of chlorine gas on British soldiers such as choking and the lungs filling with fluid. Therefore, by not showing this, the source is somewhat less useful. The photograph was taken in 1915, which makes this source extremely useful. This is very useful because this was at the same time as the first real use of gas as the Second Battle of Ypres. This would suggest that this photograph was taken as part of a British Army training magazine. Perhaps it was made to show British soldiers how to protect themselves against gas. We can assume this because it is clearly staged in front a backdrop and looks like it has been taken from a magazine of that period. This makes the source very useful, as it allows us to know exactly how the British Army were combatting gas warfare at such an early stage in the war. What better way for a historian to find out about how the British Army combatted chlorine gas than by examining a training photograph issued by the British Army in 1915 during gas warfare.***

**Content – what can we learn from it about gas during the war?**

**Origin – When was it made? Who made it? What kind of source is it?**

**Purpose – Why was it made?**