



**General Certificate of Education
June 2011**

History 1041

Unit HIS1J

Report on the Examination

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Unit HIS1J

Unit 1J: The Development of Germany, 1871–1925

General Comments

Candidates achieved a more proportionate balance between the 12 mark questions and the 24 mark questions than in previous years. Appropriately, responses to parts 01, 03 and 05 tended to be around half the length of those to parts 02, 04 and 06. There was a tendency, however, towards an imbalance between the depth of responses to Question 1 in comparison to the other two questions. The vast majority of candidates answered Question 1 on Bismarck and it was clear in a significant number of cases that this had taken more than half of the allocated time. This resulted in many responses to either Question 2 or Question 3 being rather more limited in depth. Candidates should be aware, of course, that there is an equal allocation of marks to all questions and should aim to divide their time accordingly.

Question 1

- 01** There were a lot of good answers to this question which gained Level 4. Many candidates were able to provide a range of reasons behind Bismarck's resignation and link them together effectively, usually focusing on the key role of Wilhelm II. Weaker candidates in Level 2 tended to restrict their answers to general comments about the difficult relationship between Bismarck and the Kaiser without providing enough specific detail of the differences and arguments between them.
- 02** There was a pleasing number of responses which gained Levels 4 and 5. These stronger candidates demonstrated an effective range of knowledge from 1871 to 1890, covering not just the Kulturkampf and anti-socialist laws but also Bismarck's social welfare policies and his relations with the Reichstag in the 1880s. Many candidates also included Wilhelm II as an opponent which was usually dealt with in a relevant and effective manner.

Many candidates achieving Level 3 restricted the range of their answers to just the Kulturkampf and the Anti-socialist laws. There was also quite a lot of descriptive content in some answers detailing the reasons why Bismarck attacked Catholicism and Socialism without focusing sufficiently on how successful he was. This lack of precise focus prevented some detailed responses from achieving Level 4.

The most common factual errors in responses to this question came in providing details of the growth of the SPD in the Reichstag. Many candidates stated that the SPD were the largest party in 1890 and there were widely varying estimates of the number of seats the SPD won in the elections between 1878 and 1890.

Question 2

This was the least popular of the three questions.

- 03** There was a wide variation in the quality of responses to this question. Stronger candidates showed an awareness of a range of vested interests in naval expansion. There was also some effective development in several answers along the lines that the

Kaiser was the key figure who linked these interests together, whether this was as a 'personal ruler' or as a 'shadow emperor'.

Weaker answers tended to focus on a limited range of reasons. Responses in Level 2 were usually restricted to one or two points, usually focusing on Weltpolitik or the fear of foreign powers, especially Britain.

- 04** This was the question which elicited the weakest responses on average. There were a significant number of Level 1 and 2 answers which provided some generalised comments about the Kaiser being able to dismiss chancellors and dissolve the Reichstag. There were many answers with a very limited knowledge of the internal crises facing the Kaiser's government between 1907 and 1913.

Responses in Level 3 tended to show an awareness of the Daily Telegraph and Zabern Affairs but provided a limited range and depth of assessment and little content beyond that. There were some responses, but not very many, at Levels 4 and 5. These answers demonstrated a wider range of knowledge incorporating the Eulenburg Affair, the rise of the SPD and the problems of the military budget.

It appears that there is a need for many candidates to tighten up their factual knowledge of the second section of the specification covering the Kaiserreich 1890–1914. Common errors/omissions in the answers to this question included:

- many candidates referring to Caprivi and Hohenlohe in their answers, neither of which are relevant to this question
- very few candidates mentioning the Eulenburg Affair which is clearly important in analysing the Kaiser's political dominance in this period
- there was a very limited understanding of the problems facing Bulow and Bethmann-Hollweg in dealing with an increasingly hostile Reichstag.

Question 3

- 05** There were some very impressive answers to this question covering a wide range of relevant factors, often showing a developed awareness of the different motivations of different groups within Germany such as the right-wing elites and the socialists. Weaker answers, in Level 2, were much more restricted in the range of reasons provided.
- 06** There was a full range of responses to this question covering all of the levels on the mark scheme. Answers in Levels 2 and 3 tended to contain rather a lot of descriptive material with limited explicit links to the question and/or limited depth of assessment. Answers in Levels 4 and 5 maintained a more consistent focus on the question with some developed assessment in most paragraphs. These higher levels responses also tended to have a wider range of content, perhaps considering not just the extremist threats themselves but also the period of greater stability after 1923 and its effect on support for political extremism.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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