

AS HISTORY

The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991

Component 1L Empire to democracy, 1871–1929

Wednesday 18 May 2016 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/1L.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Bismarck had no fear of the Reichstag and was right not to have any. Even though after 1871 the Reichstag developed a certain momentum of its own which he had not anticipated, this was merely inconvenient to him. In the last resort, if all else failed, Bismarck relied on the electorate to support him if he had to dissolve an obstructive Reichstag. Bismarck had created a Reichstag elected by equal suffrage not in order to introduce parliamentary government, but to control it. He held the political parties in contempt and regarded them at best as groups to be manipulated and controlled. In practice, the Reichstag and therefore the parties, participated in legislation but had no control over the government.

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Adapted from W M Simon, *Germany in the Age of Bismarck*, 1967**Extract B**

Any proposed piece of legislation had to have the consent of the Reichstag before it could be enacted. Bismarck took considerable notice of political parties: after all majorities depended on them. Although the Chancellor was not responsible to the Reichstag he was still subject to its control and had publicly to give account of his actions. The Reichstag's right to discuss the budget was extensively used and it was the Chancellor's duty to be present and to try to justify his actions. The Chancellor needed his majorities, and if he could no longer provide them he was of no use to the Kaiser. One of the reasons for Bismarck's fall is that, in 1890, he suffered a heavy electoral defeat.

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Adapted from H W Koch, *A Constitutional History of Germany in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century*, 1984

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of Bismarck and the Reichstag in the years 1871 to 1890?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2 'The social structure of Germany changed little in the years 1871 to 1914.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3 'The weaknesses of the German economy in the years 1914 to 1929 were due to the First World War.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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