

A-level HISTORY

Component 1L The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991

Wednesday 6 June 2018 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/1L.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

The CDU, with Konrad Adenauer as its dominant figure, was founded shortly after the war's end. Adenauer was a devoutly Catholic and democratic Rhinelander, with a deep distrust of Protestant Prussian tradition, particularly with respect to its emphasis on the military. He thus acted as a bridge-builder, who enabled many of those who were nurtured within the old authoritarian culture and the Nazi dictatorship to reconcile themselves to a pluralistic parliamentary democracy. His other great achievement was that he integrated the Federal Republic into the western alliance against fierce opposition. The year 1957 was election year, and Adenauer was once again in an almost invincible position. The CDU had found a powerful election slogan that was pasted all over the country: "NO EXPERIMENTS!" A grateful electorate gave Adenauer's Christian Democrats an absolute majority. For all Adenauer's authoritarian style, which led many to draw a parallel with Bismarck, he left behind him a well-functioning democracy.

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Adapted from M Kitchen, *A History of Modern Germany*, 2012**Extract B**

When Adenauer took up office as chancellor in 1949 he already had a number of advantages over his predecessors in the Weimar Republic. He benefited from the decision of the Parliamentary Council to strengthen the position of federal chancellor. It was agreed that party squabbles under the Weimar system had weakened parliamentary government, so it was made difficult to depose a chancellor once he had been appointed. Furthermore, the electoral system was adjusted to avoid the supposedly damaging effects of pure proportional representation during the 1920s; additionally, only parties which gained five per cent of the votes cast could be represented in the Bundestag. This was to prove important in keeping fringe parties out of parliament. By the early 1960s, most of the smaller parties had disappeared and the Federal Republic was effectively represented by a three-party system. The danger of anti-democratic parties threatening the new Republic was diminished further by a constitutional provision which enabled the government to ban political organisations which threatened the democratic political system.

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Adapted from A J Nicholls, *The Bonn Republic*, 1997

Extract C

The economy of the western zones of occupied Germany was already beginning to pick up before the full impact of the Marshall Plan was felt. The role of Marshall Aid in furthering an economic recovery which was already underway was not only financial. It was also, perhaps more importantly, a stimulant to economic activity and a psychological prop, lending credibility to the Deutschmark and encouraging investment in an economy which had American backing. In the 1950s, the so-called 'economic miracle', with the astonishing leaps in West Germany's productivity, an economy growing at around eight per cent a year and rapid improvements in living conditions, made many Germans willing to accept a regime that seemed to be delivering the goods. This benefited the political system as democracy was at last being associated, not with economic crisis as in the Weimar Republic, but with economic success. People were prepared simply to assent, relatively passively, to the system that appeared to be working.

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Adapted from M Fullbrook, *A History of Germany 1918–2008*, 2009

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the establishment of a stable democracy in West Germany.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'The aristocratic elites successfully maintained their dominance in Germany in the years 1871 to 1900.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 To what extent was the German economy stronger at the beginning of 1929 than it had been in 1900?

[25 marks]

0 4 'Communist opposition posed a serious threat to the governments of Germany in the years 1919 to 1939.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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