
A-level HISTORY

The Quest for Political Stability: Germany, 1871–1991

Paper 1L

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **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.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

It is sometimes said that Weimar Germany experienced boom conditions between 1924 and 1929. Certainly iron and steel, coal, chemicals, and electrical products recovered quickly after the war. Recent research suggests, however, that the extent of the 'boom' has been greatly exaggerated. In the late 1920s growth rates were unsteady; capital investment was already falling by 1929; unemployment was never less than 1.3 million and reached 3 million by February 1929.

The relative affluence of these years was reflected politically in a sharp decline of support for parties on the extreme right and left. Middle of the road parties were making steady progress. When the Republic celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1929, there seemed reasonable grounds for optimism. A closer look at political life in the late 1920s quickly destroys these illusions. From the start the existence of a multi-party system made the task of creating a viable democracy difficult. Proportional Representation accentuated the difficulty. It proved immensely difficult to form coalitions with majority support in the Reichstag.

Adapted from William Carr, *A History of Germany, 1815–1985*, 1987

Extract B

The middle years of the Weimar Republic, sometimes referred to as the Roaring or Golden Twenties, saw a temporary return of domestic prosperity. Many western loans were made to Germany creating an impressive boom that persuaded many that the crisis of 1923 had been resolved. Germany used the borrowed capital in two profitable ways: financing a programme of public works and investing in the modernisation of industry. In 1923 German industrial output had fallen to 47 percent of 1913 levels, but by 1929 it surpassed 1913 levels by 4 percent.

The return of prosperity brought with it a corresponding improvement in international relations, partly because the Western powers recognised that their economic well-being in an increasingly interconnected economic order rested on cooperation rather than on conflict. This also lowered the political temperature in Germany. In 1925, the Weimar Republic gained new respectability with the election as president of the venerable Paul Von Hindenburg, who would painstakingly observe his oath to the republic despite his monarchist convictions.

Adapted from K Fischer, *Nazi Germany: A New History*, 1995

Extract C

The unemployment insurance bill of 1927 was admirably suited to deal with the problems of moderate unemployment as existed at the time, but was stretched to the limit when the Depression began to be felt in the following year. The Depression had already had a devastating effect on the economy by the spring of 1929 and it was obvious that Germany would not be able to meet the increased payments demanded by the Dawes Plan that year. With 3 million unemployed by February 1929 it was unlikely that the unemployment insurance fund would be able to meet the demands made upon it.

A new reparations commission was formed and the resulting Young Plan, published in June 1929, reduced the annual payments. The right-wing parties mounted a massive campaign against the Young Commission. Hitler and the NSDAP joined the campaign and Hitler's tactics paid handsome dividends. He was now in respectable company and he began to focus his attention on the disaffected middle classes. The response was immediate. Money began to flow into the party's coffers and spectacular gains were made in state elections. All this seems to have escaped the notice of politicians in Berlin.

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

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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 economic and political strength of the Weimar Republic before 1929.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions.

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- 0 2** How successful was Bismarck in preserving his political authority in the years 1871 to 1890? **[25 marks]**
- 0 3** 'Political change in Germany, in the years 1919 to 1949, was driven by economic factors.'
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**
- 0 4** 'The years between the chancellorships of Adenauer and Kohl were marked by extensive political and social instability.'
Assess the validity of this view in the years 1963 to 1983. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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