



A-level HISTORY

Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918–1945

Paper 20

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

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 **20**.
- 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 two questions in Section B.
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Section AAnswer Question 01

Source A

From an article by Ernst Troeltsch entitled, 'The German Democracy', published 29 December, 1918 in the 'Spektator', a political magazine. Troeltsch was a German philosopher and historian. A liberal, he joined the German Democratic Party (DDP) in 1918. He became a strong supporter of the Weimar Republic.

Overnight we have become the most radical democracy in Europe. Democracy has been suppressed in this country since 1848, both by the constitution and by the military system. It took the horrors of the First World War to deliver up victory for democracy. But the war introduced another danger: that Germany will not stop at democracy. The war has opened up the possibility that a terrorist minority on the left who believe in the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' could seize control. Germany must also build a new administration and a new constitution to resist the danger from the demagogues of the right; the army too needs to be re-organised and acquire a social conscience. We need principled anti-militaristic thinking. However, we Germans have no talent for democracy, none at all for politics; we have not been trained for it by our history and are unprepared. We need to establish the ideal of conservative democracy. If not, Germany could become a volcano of misery and civil war.

Source B

From the response of a working class war veteran and SS member published by Theodore Abel in his book of 1938, 'Why Hitler came into Power', which was based on interviews carried out in 1934.

I joined the Hitler movement in 1930. I saw clearly that once again the existence or non-existence of Germany was at stake and that there was only one solution: Hitler. It was not difficult to see that the system of parties and liberalism had to break down if Germany itself was not to be plunged for ever into the abyss of ruin. It was not hard to see and to draw conclusions from the fact that a moral basis was lacking among the men in power. They clung only to external power. They grew fat and satisfied, vain and arrogant. Every thinking man could see that the foundation itself was decayed and therefore not capable of bearing weight. It is unnecessary to describe the sacrifices I have made. They were nothing unusual. They were made in the spirit of Volksgemeinschaft. If we have been permitted to help Adolf Hitler erect the Third Reich, we have an obligation to help to preserve it. The Leader is calling, gun in hand!

Source C

From the reminiscences of a German headmaster who moved from Berlin to a smaller town in 1925. His views were recorded by the historian William Sheridan Allen in 1967.

I had lived in Berlin for thirty years and observed many things there which could not be noticed in small towns. I saw the Communist danger, the Communist terror, the "bourgeois" parties being utterly helpless, the Nazis being the only party that broke terror by anti-terror. I saw the complete failure of the "bourgeois" parties to deal with the economic crisis (6 to 7 million out of work). Only National Socialism offered any hope. Anti-Semitism was common in Berlin. Most Jews persisted in being loyal to their Jewish fellows, helping them so that more and more Jews got positions not only in trade, banking, theatre, film, the newspapers, doctors, lawyers, whole branches of the economy and key positions were in the hands of Jews. Many people saw the danger of that problem. Nobody knew how to deal with it, but they hoped the Nazis would know.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the collapse of Weimar democracy.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions

0 2

'The improvement of Germany's international position in the years 1924–29 could not have been achieved without the significant contribution of Gustav Stresemann.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 3**

To what extent was Josef Goebbels responsible for Reichkristallnacht?

[25 marks]**0 4**

'Opposition and resistance in wartime had little impact in weakening the Nazi dictatorship.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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