

## Key Terms

## Question types

### End of World War One

'November Criminals'

The Weimar politicians involved in signing the armistice

Kaiser

The king of the German Empire.

Spartacist Revolt

A communist attempt to take over Berlin led by Rosa Luxemburg

Abdication

Resignation as the ruling monarch.

Red Rising in the Ruhr

An armed uprising in the Ruhr to remove Ebert and the Weimar Government and set up a communist state.

Armistice

The Allies and Germany signed a truce to end WWI.

The Freikorps

Ex-German soldiers used by Ebert to stop communist rebellions.

### Weimar Republic

The Kapp Putsch

Wolfgang Kapp led the Freikorps to overthrow the government

Council of People's Representatives

A temporary government established between the SPD and the USPD until January 1919.

### Challenges to Weimar (economic)

Democracy

The people say how they wish the country to be run (votes).

Reparations

Payment for the damages caused by Germany in WWI (£6.6 billion)

President

Head of the government and chooses the Chancellor.

Invasion of the Ruhr

France and Belgium troops invade Ruhr when reparations stopped.

Chancellor

In charge of day-to-day running of government.

Ruhr

The richest industrial part of Germany, it contained iron and coal.

Reichstag

The German parliament and elected politicians.

Hyperinflation

Production can't keep up with the amount of money in circulation, so money keeps losing value (Reichmark became worthless).

Proportional Representation

The proportion of seats a party wins in parliament, is the same as the proportion of the total votes they win.

### Gustav Stresemann the Saviour (1923-1928)

Article 48

In an emergency the President could pass laws without first going through the Reichstag.

Rentemark

A new German currency introduced to stabilise Germany's economy

Treaty of Versailles

A peace treaty signed between Germany, Britain, France and US. A set of sanctions imposed on Germany (LAMB).

The Dawes Plan

France and Belgium left the Ruhr and agree more realistic repayments. US lent Germany £40 million to pay off debts.

### Challenges to Weimar (Left and Right)

The Locarno Pact

Germany, France and Belgium respect joint borders.

Article 231

Germany had to accept the war guilt for causing WWI.

The League of Nations

Germany was allowed to join in 1926, now a re-established international power in Europe.

Diktat

Germans said the treaty was forced upon Germany by Ebert

The Kellogg-Briand Pact

Germany and 65 other countries signed to promise not to use violence to settle disputes.

'Stab in the back' myth

The idea that Jewish politicians had gone behind the back of soldiers on the front line and surrendered in the war

The Young Plan

The Allies agreed to reduce the reparation payments to a 1/4 of the original amount and given 59 years to pay them back

'Give two things you can infer from Source' [4]  
Two separate inferences about the Source supported by two separate quotes

Useful phrases: "I can infer from the Source that..."  
"A quote to show this is '.....'"

'Explain why' [12]

3 x PEEL paragraphs (3 different explanations for the question focus) Link back to the question throughout!

Useful phrases: "One reason why..."  
"This meant that..."

'How useful are Sources and for an enquiry into' [8]

Two separate COP paragraphs 1 about each source (Content, Own Knowledge and Provenance). DO NOT COMPARE THEM!

Useful phrases: "Source \_ is useful for an enquiry into..."  
"From my own knowledge I know that..."  
"The author being \_\_\_ is useful because..."

'Study Interpretations 1 & 2. What is the main difference' [4]

State what the difference is and provide a quote from each interpretation to evidence the difference

Useful phrases: "The main difference is..."  
"We can see this in the language used.."

'Suggest one reason why the interpretations differ..' [4]

State why they are different in a sentence. Then link the difference to the use of the sources for evidence.

Useful phrases: "The interpretations are different about \_\_\_ as they give different weight to different sources."  
"Interpretation 1 has used Source \_ ....whereas,...."

'How far do you agree with Interpretation 2...' [16 + 4 SPAG]

3 x PEEL paragraphs (Agree with Interpretation 2, Disagree including Interpretation 1, agree/disagree) + conclusion with a clear overall judgement

Useful phrases: "I agree with Interpretation 2 about..."  
"However, using Interpretation 1 I disagree..."  
"Overall, I agree/disagree with Interpretation 2.."

## Sample exam questions

'Explain why the Weimar constitution could be seen as making Germany weak' [12]

'Explain why there was opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles in 1919' [12]

'Explain why there was economic instability in the Weimar Republic between 1919-1923' [12]

'Explain why there was challenges to Weimar in 1920s' [12]

'Explain why Stresemann economically saved the Weimar Republic between 1923-28.' [12]

The Weimar Constitution

### The President (Friedrich Ebert)

Elected every 7 years by the public's votes  
Chooses the Chancellor and head of the army

### The Chancellor (Philip Scheidemann)

In charge of the day-to-day running of government

Democratic

### Article 48

The President can force through his own decision as an act of emergency

### The Reichstag

The new Germany parliament  
Members are elected every 4 years using proportional representation

### The Reichsrat

Second (less powerful) house of parliament  
Consists of members from each local region  
Can delay measures passed by Reichstag

### The German People

Everyone over the age of 20 can vote (men and women)

The Treaty of Versailles

### Land

Germany lost its empire, the Rhineland was demilitarised.

### Army

Land army was reduced to 100,000 men, no tanks, aircraft.

### Money

Germany were forced to pay £6.6 billion in reparations

### Blame

Germany had to accept the War-Guilt Clause for WWI

THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC  
The History of Germany After World War I Before the Rise of the Nazi Party

<p><b>Left-wing Opposition</b></p> <p><u>The Spartacist Uprising</u> In January 1919, communists led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg tried to take over Berlin. They took control of important buildings like newspaper headquarters and 50,000 workers went on strike in support of the left-wing opposition.</p> <p><u>How were they dealt with?</u> President Ebert asked for help from the right-wing group, The Freikorps (ex-German soldiers) to stop the rebellion. Over 100 workers were killed. The Freikorps' use of violence caused a split on the left between the Social Democratic Party and the Communists</p>	<p>Political Challenge</p>	<p><b>Right-wing Opposition</b></p> <p><u>The Kapp Putsch</u> In March 1920, some of the Freikorps themselves took part in a Putsch (a revolt) led by Wolfgang Kapp. They wanted to create a new right-wing government. The Freikorps marched into Berlin to overthrow the Weimar regime. But the German workers opposed the putsch and staged a general strike. Berlin was paralysed and Kapp was forced to give up.</p> <p><u>How were they dealt with?</u> The Putsch was a failure and Wolfgang Kapp fled the country in fear of treason charges, the Freikorps soldiers were arrested and imprisoned.</p>	<p>Political Challenge</p>
<p><u>The 'November Criminals'</u> Many Germans denied they had lost the war and blamed the failure of WWI on the 'November Criminals' (Weimar Republic), who had agreed to sign the Treaty of Versailles.</p>	<p>Cultural Challenge</p>	<p><u>'Stab in the Back'</u> Many believed the armistice was a mistake, and that Germany could have actually won. They felt stabbed in the back by the Weimar politicians who had signed the treaty. This would later be linked to the idea of Jews stabbing Germany in the back during WWI.</p>	<p>Cultural Challenge</p>
<p><u>'Diktat'</u> The Treaty of Versailles grew resentment towards the Weimar Republic. Germans said that the treaty had been a 'diktat' (a treaty forced upon Germany) and many blamed President Ebert for accepting the terms.</p>			

Challenges of the Weimar Republic

**Hyperinflation**

Cost of living

Time

Failing Economy  
In 1923, Germany could no longer meet the reparation payments set out by the Treaty of Versailles due to rising inflation. 1

Invasion of the Ruhr  
France and Belgium decide to take Germany's resources instead, so they occupied the Ruhr – the richest industrial part of Germany. This gave them access to Germany's iron and coal reserves. This occupation led to fury in Germany, and caused a huge strike in the Ruhr. 2

Hyperinflation  
Germany industry was devastated. Germany tried to solve her problem by printing more money, but this plunged the economy into hyperinflation (the production can't keep up with the amount of money in circulation, so the money keeps losing its value). 3

<p><b>Gustav Stresemann's Reforms</b></p>	
<p>1923</p>	<p><b>The Rentenmark</b></p> <p>Stresemann replaced the failing German mark, which was damaged by hyperinflation, with a new currency to stabilise the economy.</p>
<p>1924</p>	<p><b>The Dawes Plan</b></p> <p>The USA could afford to lend money to other countries</p> <p>Britain and France used the money they'd received to pay off their own debts to the USA</p> <p>The USA lent Germany money to help it pay off its debts</p> <p>Germany was able to pay its reparations to Britain and France</p> <p>The Dawes Plan helped Germany's economy recover, but it meant its success was dependent on American loans.</p>
<p>1925-1926</p>	<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p><b>The Locarno Pact</b></p> <p>The treaty was signed in October in 1925. Germany, France and Belgium agreed to respect their borders – even those created as a result of the Treaty of Versailles.</p> <p>This improved international relations with other neighbouring countries.</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p><b>The League of Nations</b></p> <p>The League was an organisation which aimed to settle international disputes peacefully. In 1926, Germany was allowed to join.</p> <p>This improved international relations with other neighbouring countries.</p> </div> </div>
<p>1928-1929</p>	<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p><b>The Kellogg-Briand Pact</b></p> <p>Signed by Germany alongside 65 other countries. They declared that they would settle disputes with politics and meetings, rather than the use of violence and war.</p> <p>This improved international relations with other neighbouring countries.</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p><b>The Young Plan</b></p> <p>The Allies (Britain, France and the US) agreed to reduce the reparations to a quarter of the original amount, this allowed Germany 59 years to pay them.</p> <p>This improved international relations and the German economy.</p> </div> </div>