



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U80-1



S24-2100U80-1

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 8

Germany: Democracy and dictatorship c.1918–1945

Part 1: Weimar and its challenges c.1918–1933

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example

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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

Answer **both** questions.

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the changing fortunes and tactics of the Nazi Party during the period from 1923 to 1932. [30]

Source A Adolf Hitler, in a speech during the Munich Beer Hall Putsch (8 November 1923)

The Bavarian Ministry is removed. I propose that a Bavarian government shall be formed consisting of a regent and a prime minister invested with dictatorial powers. I propose Herr von Kahr as Regent and Herr Pohner as Prime Minister. The government of the November Criminals and the Reich President are declared to be removed. A new National Government will be nominated this very day, here in Munich. A German National Army will be formed immediately ... I propose that, until accounts have been finally settled with the November Criminals, the direction of policy in the National Government be taken over by me. Ludendorff will take over the leadership of the German National Army. The task of the provisional German National Government is to organize the march on Berlin, that sinful Babel [a biblical reference to noisy confusion], and save the German people. Tomorrow will see either a National Government in Germany or us dead.

Source B A civil servant in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, describing, in a report, the election tactics of the Nazi Party (May 1930)

Hardly a day passes in which there are not several meetings. Carefully organized propaganda headquarters in the individual *Gaue* [regions] ensure that the speaker and subject are adapted to the local and economic circumstances. Through systematic training, correspondence and, recently, through a school for NSDAP speakers, established on 1 July 1929, such agitators are trained for this task over a period of months, even years. If they prove themselves, they receive official recognition from the Party and are put under contract to give at least thirty speeches over eight months. Rhetorical skill combined with subjects carefully chosen to suit the particular audience, which in the countryside and in the small towns is mainly interested in economic matters, ensure halls filled with enthusiastic listeners. Meetings of up to 5000 people are a daily occurrence in the bigger towns. Frequently a second meeting has to be held because the halls cannot hold the numbers who attend.

Source C

An election poster issued by the Nazi Party (1932). The caption translates to:
 “Women! Millions of men without work. Millions of children without a future. Save the German family. Vote Adolf Hitler!”



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Historians have made different interpretations about **the political and economic instability of the early Weimar Republic during the period from 1918 to 1923**. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations and use your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the Treaty of Versailles led to the instability of the early Weimar Republic?

[30]

Interpretation 1

AJ Nicholls, writing in his academic book *Weimar and the Rise of Hitler* (1968), provides an interpretation that the Treaty of Versailles was the main cause of instability in the early Weimar Republic.

The political demoralisation the treaty (of Versailles) caused within the Reich was serious. The real damage the treaty did to Germany was to disillusion more moderate men who might otherwise have supported the new Republic. The parties most seriously harmed were the Social Democrats, the German Democrats and the Centre Party. These groups were forced after an apparently successful revolution to turn to the German people with nothing to offer them but failure. Issues connected with the peace settlement poisoned the political atmosphere in Germany for many years.

Interpretation 2

Mary Fulbrook, writing in her academic book *A History of Germany 1918–2020: The Divided Nation* (2021), provides an interpretation that the early Weimar Republic was destabilized by internal divisions.

A deeply polarized society was hardly coming to terms with the new political circumstances of the time. The fledgling Republic was subjected to onslaughts from a variety of quarters at home. Its first four years were characterized by a high level of political violence, with frequent assassinations, coup attempts, strikes and demonstrations, these last generally being put down with considerable force. An attempted national right-wing putsch, led by Kapp in March 1920, was only brought down by a general strike. Faced with repeated strikes, demonstrations, and political violence, the SPD (Social Democrats) sadly misjudged the situation and, instead of responding to the causes of distress, sought to use force to suppress the symptoms of unrest. Moreover, the judiciary displayed considerable political bias in treating left-wing offenders very harshly, while meting out lenient sentences to offenders on the Right.

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