

A-level HISTORY

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

Friday 9 June 2017

Morning

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

Continuity from the Kaiserreich may be identified in the power elites attempting to maintain their positions against the rising forces of democracy and Social Democracy under the Weimar regime. The Third Reich would not have been possible without the alliance between Hitler and the traditional agrarian and industrial elites. After 1930, Hitler made clear, in discussions with industry representatives, that his assumption of office would mean no significant change in the existing free-enterprise system. It was not the electoral results which brought Hitler to power but the policy of the power elites, who put the NSDAP leader to work in the service of their social and economic interests. Those business magnates who supported National Socialism before 1933 did so precisely for the goals realised immediately following the change of government: elimination of the trade unions, abolition of the parliamentary system of government and rearmament. During the first years of the Hitler government, the army, in the closest collaboration with big business, pursued the rearmament programme more ruthlessly than Hitler himself.

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Adapted from F Fischer, *From Kaiserreich to Third Reich*, 1986**Extract B**

The 1918/19 revolution represented a temporary abdication of responsibility by the old elites, who were unwilling to take the blame for defeat or shoulder the burdens of post-war reconstruction. Fearful of more radical revolution, they made concessions to moderate socialist forces; but they did not view these concessions as permanent and remained in the wings. Eventually, the elites felt they must ally with the Nazis to gain a mass base from which to bring democracy down. However, with the passage of the Enabling Law, Hitler no longer needed to pay attention to the views of most of the non-Nazi members of his government, nor did he need President Hindenburg's signature for the passage of legislation. After 1936, it was increasingly clear that economically it was essential for Germany to go to war sooner rather than later. This realisation occasioned a new rift between the increasingly radical Nazi regime and the old elites: Hitler's clash with Army leaders marked a further step in the gathering momentum of the Nazi regime.

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

Extract C

In the Weimar years, Nazism emerged in an advanced industrial state whose fragile political system was, in an unprecedented crisis of capitalism, ripped apart by class conflict. After 1933, the Nazi regime's initial objective was to re-establish the socio-economic order and the threatened position of the ruling elites. Ultimately, there can be no question of a revolutionary transformation of German society between 1933 and 1945; 5
the social position of the elites remained unchanged down to the last phase of the war. Big business, the civil service and the army recruited their leadership from the same social strata as before 1933. The SS also recruited heavily from the elite sectors of society. Nazism in power strengthened the position of capitalism and upheld the reactionary forces in the social order. If the traditional ruling classes had to make some 10
room for social upstarts from lower ranks of society, such changes amounted to little more than a slight acceleration of changes already perceptible in the Weimar Republic.

Adapted from I Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship*, 1989

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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 influence of the right-wing elites in Germany in the years 1919 to 1945.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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 How significant was the role played by political parties in influencing government policy in the years 1871 to 1890? **[25 marks]**

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 'Opposition in the Reichstag had little influence on the Kaiser's government in the years 1890 to 1918.'
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

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 How far was the economic growth of the 1950s and 1960s in West Germany due to the legacy of the Second World War? **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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