



**GCE AS/A LEVEL – NEW**

2100U80-1



**HISTORY – AS unit 2**

**DEPTH STUDY 8**

**Germany: Democracy to Dictatorship c. 1918-1945**

**Part 1: Weimar and its challenges c. 1918-1933**

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017 – AFTERNOON

1 hour 45 minutes

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **both** questions.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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

You are advised to spend around 50 minutes on answering each question.

The sources and extracts used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

**UNIT 2****DEPTH STUDY 8****Germany: Democracy to Dictatorship c. 1918-1945****Part 1: Weimar and its challenges c. 1918-1933**

*Answer both questions.*

**QUESTION 1**

Study the sources below and answer the question that follows.

**Source A****WORKERS AND PARTY COMRADES!****THE MILITARY PUTSCH HAS STARTED**

The Freikorps, fearing the command to dissolve, are trying to remove the Republic and form a military dictatorship. The achievements of the whole year are to be smashed, your dearly bought freedom is to be destroyed. Everything is at stake! The strongest counter measures are required. No factory must work while the military dictatorship of Ludendorff and Co rules! Therefore down tools! Come out on strike! Deprive the military clique of oxygen! Fight with all means for the Republic! Put all quarrels aside! There is only one way to stop the return of dictatorship, and that is to paralyse all economic life. No hand must move! General strike all along the line! Down with the counter-revolution!

[A pamphlet issued by Social Democratic Party members of the Weimar government, and circulated to the population of Berlin in response to the Kapp Putsch (March 1920)]

**Source B**

What did we try to achieve when we marched on Munich on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1923? We wanted to create in Germany the precondition which alone will make it possible for the iron grip of our enemies to be removed from us. We wanted to create order in the state. We wanted to throw out the idlers and restore economic prosperity. We wanted to re-introduce military service which is the highest honourable duty. And now I ask you: is what we wanted high treason? I know the verdict which you will pass. However gentlemen, you will not pronounce judgement upon us. It is the Eternal Court of History which will make its pronouncement upon the charge brought against us. That Court will judge us as Germans who wanted the best for their people and their fatherland.

[Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazi Party, in a speech at his trial for treason in Munich, (February 1924)]

**Source C**

The outcome of the Reichstag elections of the 6<sup>th</sup> November has demonstrated that the present Cabinet, whose honest intentions no one amongst the German people will doubt, has failed to find sufficient support among the German people for its actual policies. We therefore humbly beg you to consider reconstituting the Cabinet in a manner which would guarantee it with the greatest possible popular support. We declare ourselves to be free from any specific party political interests. However, we recognise in the National Socialist movement, which is sweeping through our people, the beginnings of an era of rebirth for the German economy which can only be achieved by the transfer of responsibility to the leader of the largest nationalist group.

[An extract from a letter written by leading German industrialists to President Hindenburg  
(November 1932)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying opposition to the Weimar Republic between 1920 and 1932. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

**Interpretation 1**

Between 1924 and 1929 the Weimar political system functioned successfully and the long term future of the Republic looked rosy. The political violence which had characterised the period 1919-1923 subsided. Germany's economic achievements after 1924 were considerable. The income of the nation returned to its pre-war levels. All the worn-out, antiquated equipment was replaced. Germany had the most modern merchant fleet and the fastest railways. The workers worked well. The inventors, engineers and technicians were of high calibre. Industrial planning was magnificent and effective. If the Wall Street Crash of October 1929 had not led to a world economic depression, the Weimar Republic would have been able to win the popularity of the German people permanently.

[G. Mann, an academic historian and specialist in European history, writing in a general book, *The History of Germany since 1789* (1968)]

**Interpretation 2**

The period 1924-1929 provided the illusion of domestic success. These years were only successful by contrast to the periods of crisis which came before and after. The period 1924-1929 was marked by a number of smaller crises that revealed the deeper tensions that still existed. The structural problems created by the Treaty of Versailles and the establishment of the Republic had not been solved. Nor had the problems arising in the years of inflation. Tensions and frustrations were carried over into the period of so called 'stabilisation'. The problems which arose in the period 1930-1933 can be said to have been brewing in the period 1924-1929. The electoral decline of the liberal parties between 1924 and 1929 was the decisive event of Weimar politics because it undermined the pro-Republican centre from within.

[D.J.K. Peukert, an academic historian and specialist in German history, writing in a specialist book on the Weimar Republic, *The Weimar Republic* (1991)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the Weimar Republic between 1924 and 1929. Analyse, evaluate and use the two extracts above and your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the years 1924-1929 were mainly a period of domestic success for the Weimar Republic? [30]

**END OF PAPER**