



**GCE AS/A Level**

2100U80-1 – **NEW AS**



**HISTORY – Unit 2**

**DEPTH STUDY 8**

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

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

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 25 May 2016

1 hour 45 minutes

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

### **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

Amongst smoking ruins, between the pools of blood and corpses of murdered Spartacists, the so-called heroes of 'order' hasten to entrench their rule. The Weimar government is setting to work with frenzied energy to consolidate its power. Henceforth it will rule by the bayonet. This is how Ebert, Scheidemann and the others hope to re-establish their governing power, with the material assistance of the counter-revolutionary military, the Freikorps and the Army. Today it is obvious that Ebert and Scheidemann can rule only by the bayonet. The bourgeoisie is going all out for the restoration of the 'old order'.

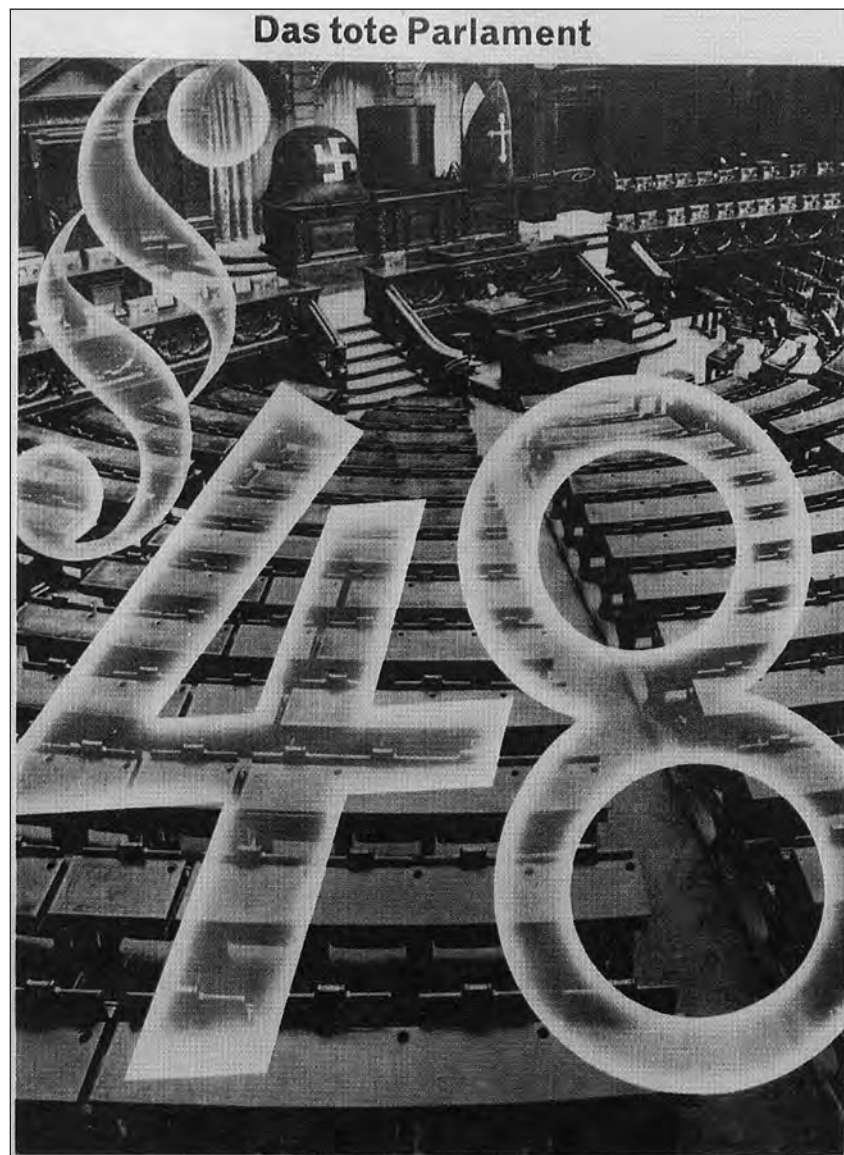
[Rosa Luxemburg, a leading German Communist, writing in an article entitled *House of Cards*, published in the Communist newspaper, *Red Flag* (January 1919)]

## Source B

In many ways the League of Nations is the heir and executor of the treaties of 1919. Out of these treaties there have arisen in the past many differences and problems between the League and Germany. I hope that our co-operation within the League will now make it easier to discuss these differences and resolve these problems. Even before her entry into the League, Germany endeavoured to promote friendly co-operation. The action which she took and which led to the Pact of Locarno is proof of this. The German government is resolved to persevere unswervingly in this line of policy and is glad to see that these ideas, which at first met with lively opposition in Germany, are now becoming deeply rooted in the conscience of the German people.

[Gustav Stresemann, the German Foreign Minister, in a speech to the League of Nations (September 1926)]

## Source C



[A cartoon captioned: 'The Dead Parliament', published in the satirical German magazine, *Kladderadatsch* in October 1930. It shows an empty Reichstag with nothing to do, because the Weimar President was using Article 48 of the constitution to make laws]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the problems facing the Weimar Republic between 1919 and 1930. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

**Interpretation 1**

The main reason for the growing strength of the Nazis was Hitler's appeal and the force of his personality. It was his ability to get out into Germany's provincial cities and mobilise people politically who were alienated from the established parties or who had no real experience of the democratic tradition. Hitler was not part of the traditional political classes. Hitler was a man of the people, whose own efforts, as he constantly reminded his listeners, had dragged him from local obscurity to national prominence. He promised to take the problems of his ordinary supporters and give them a national platform.

[Richard Overy, an academic historian and specialist in modern European history, writing in an article entitled *Hitler* in the magazine, *Modern History Review* (1989)]

**Interpretation 2**

In bringing the Nazis to power, chance events played a larger role than any actions of the Nazi leader himself. Five years earlier, the Nazi Party had been a fringe irritant in German politics but no more than that. External events, the Young Plan to adjust German reparations payments, the Wall Street Crash, and Brüning's entirely unnecessary decision to have an election in the summer of 1930, put the Nazis on the political map. Although democracy in Germany by that time seemed to have an unpromising future, a Nazi dictatorship under Hitler seemed far less likely than some other form of authoritarian dictatorship or even a restored monarchy.

[Ian Kershaw, an academic historian and specialist in Nazi Germany, writing in a specialist book, *Hitler* (1991)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the reasons for the Nazi rise to power. 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 Hitler was mainly responsible for the rise to power of the Nazis by 1933?  
[30]

**END OF PAPER**