

AS HISTORY

The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991

Component 1L Empire to democracy, 1871–1929

Wednesday 15 May 2019 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 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 7041/1L.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Germany suffered economically because of the terms of the Paris Peace Settlement. Reduced trade and a permanent loss of an important part of the industrial base limited the room for possible German economic growth. Economic growth also fell because of the level of wage settlements and because of the political strength of the labour unions. Germany's future looked bleak by 1928 and businessmen scaled back their investments. The lower level of investment in the later 1920s, when the Weimar Republic is generally thought to have been most prosperous, was also due to the reaction of the financial system to Germany's post-war inflation. Savers had lost a great deal of money and suffered a major blow to their confidence.

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Adapted from H James, *Economic Reasons for the Collapse of the Weimar Republic*, 1990

Extract B

The early post-war governments welcomed inflation, which helped them to pay off debts. This helped to stabilise the economy and mostly everyone benefited up to the end of 1921. The currency collapsed in late 1923, but this prompted the Allied powers to rethink their policy towards Germany. The result was a stabilisation package, which became known as the Dawes Plan. It allowed realistic reparations to be made annually and thus began a period of stability for the Weimar economy. During the period of economic stabilisation American loans flowed into Germany. Big business used the loans to carry out far-reaching restructuring and industrial production quickly recovered. The economy looked good and these years certainly may be counted as the 'golden years'.

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Adapted from A McElligott, *Rethinking the Weimar Republic*, 2009

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the economy of the Weimar Republic in the years 1919 to 1928?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2

'Opposition in the Reichstag had little effect on Bismarck's political authority in the years 1871 to 1890.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'German society was transformed in the years 1890 to 1914.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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