

Section
1
Weimar
and Nazi
German



Work
Book

Germany like before
Republic

1919-1929
ans were a proud peop

Notes:

2

Exam Practice

Give **two** things you can infer from Source A about how well Germany was being governed in November 1918. [4 marks]

From the papers of Jan Smuts, a South African politician who visited Germany in 1918

“... mother-land of our civilisation (Germany) lies in ruins, exhausted by the most terrible struggle in history, with its peoples broke, starving, despairing, from sheer nervous exhaustion, mechanically struggling forward along the paths of anarchy (disorder with no strong authority) and war.”

Source A suggests _____

I know this because the source says _____

Source A suggests _____

I know this because the source says _____

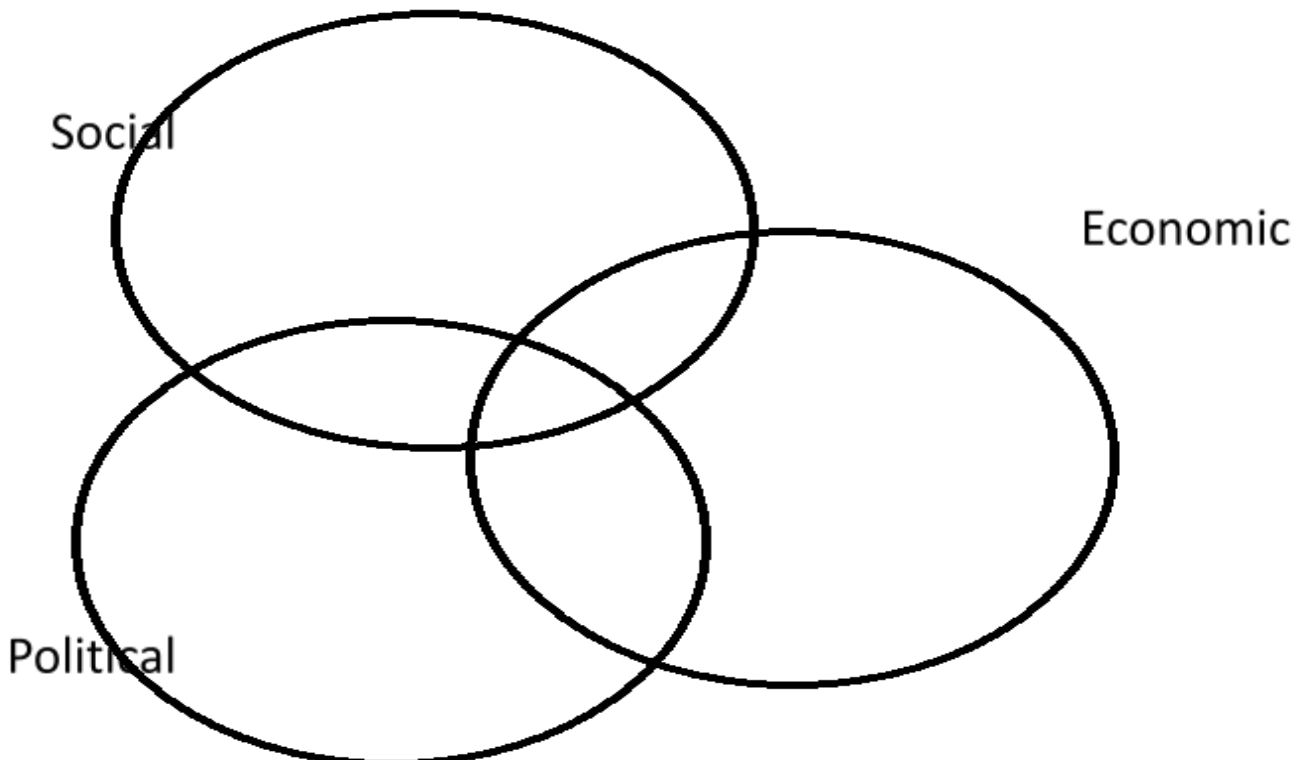
Weimar

Constitution – July 1919

On the 11th November, Ebert and the new republic signed the armistice. THIS WAS A FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE ALLIES TO END THE FIRST WORLD WAR. This was the first real challenge for the new Republic. THE REPUBLIC WAS TEMPORARY UNTIL ELECTIONS COULD HAPPEN. The leader, Ebert took several steps to increase people's confidence so that moderate parties were voted for:

1. Ebert did not get rid of civil servants (government workers) who worked for the Kaiser.
2. Ebert reassured the army that they would not be changed.
3. Ebert told leaders of industry (FACTORIES ETC) that the new government would not remove land or factories and they would stay in the control of the owners.
4. Ebert told the Trade Unions that he would try to achieve an 8-hour working day.

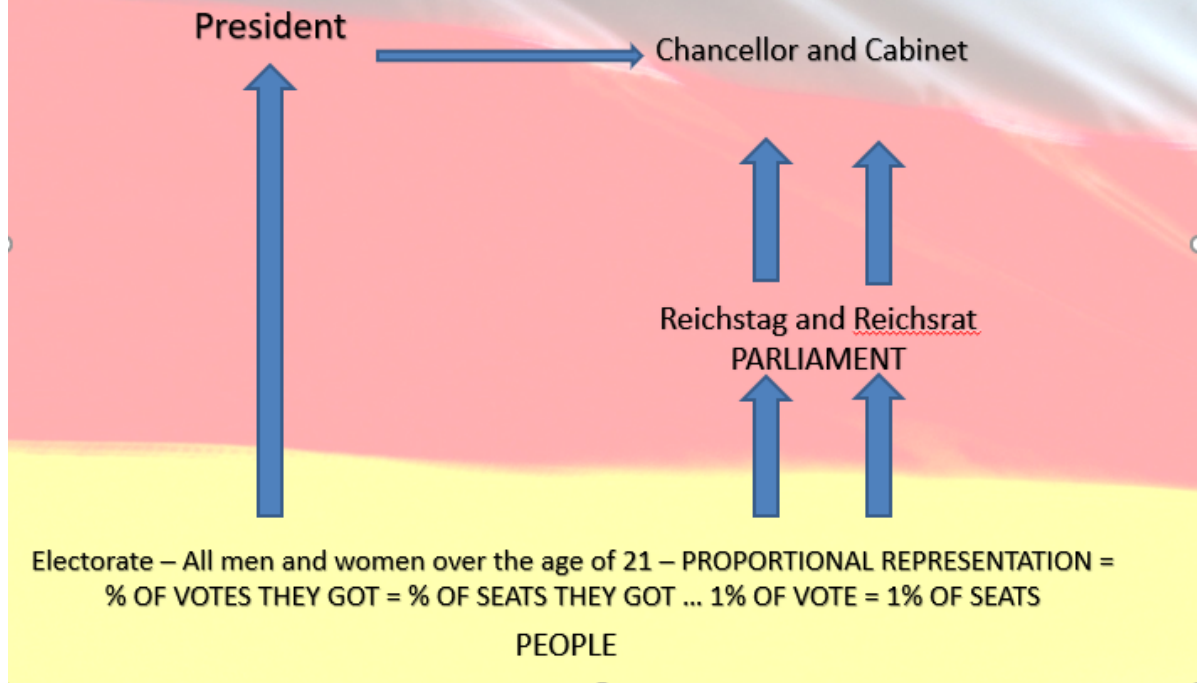
Task: Read the following statements, what were the overall effects of WW1?



National income was about 1/3 of what it had been. They were getting nowhere near as much money.	Workers rebelled against their leaders who they believed had led them to defeat in WWI.	War left 600,000 widows and 2 million children without fathers – by 1925 the state was spending about 1/3 of its budget in war pensions.	In 1916-17, the potatoes ran out in Germany, this led to severe starvation during the Turnip Winter.
During the war women were called up to work in factories. Many people saw this as damaging to traditional family values and society as a whole.	The war had deepened divisions in German society.	Stresses of war led to a revolution and became a democratic republic – the Weimar Republic.	Only 50% of the butter and 60% of milk was being produced. It could not import goods because the British blocks ports.
There were huge gaps between the living standards of the rich and poor.	Industrial production was about 2/3 of what it had been.	Germany was virtually bankrupt.	In 1917 Spanish Influenza hit Germany, killing 750,000 people
Many German workers were bitter at the restrictions placed in their earnings during the war while factory owners had made vast fortunes.	The German people felt 'stabbed in the back' by the politicians who had signed the armistice (peace agreement to end WWI).	Many ex-soldiers and civilians despised the new democratic leaders and came to believe that the heroic leader Field Marshall Hindenburg had been betrayed by weak politicians.	The Kaiser abdicated to Holland because the British would not call an end to the war unless that happened.

How did the Constitution work?

Use page 12 and write 2/3 sparkly specific facts around each group of the constitution.



President – Held the role for 7 years and was chosen for by the people of Germany. He chose the Chancellor of Germany. PLAYED NO PART IN DAY TO DAY POLITICS. In a time of emergency, he could use ARTICLE 48 – PASS LAWS WITHOUT THE REICHSTAG

Chancellor – Head of government and chose the government ministers. Usually the leader of the party with the highest number of votes.

Cabinet – Helped the Chancellor with key decision making

Reichstag – National German parliament elected at least once every 4 years. Proportional Representation was the voting method (% of votes received = % of seats obtained)

Reichsrat – Represented the regions of Germany and elected every 4 years.

ALL MEN AND WOMEN OVER THE AGE OF 21 COULD VOTE - DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY.

Questions

- Who could vote in Germany?
- What could the President use that gave him unlimited powers?
- How were the Reichstag voted for?
- How did the Chancellor get into this position?
- Who chose the cabinet?

Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Task: Look at the following statements, decide if they are a **positive** of the Weimar Constitution or a **negative**

All Germans had equal rights to vote.	Proportional Representation meant that whoever got votes, got a say in the running of the country.	President had too much power. If he used Article 48, he could be a dictator.
Proportional Representation meant small parties got a say, these parties hated the government.	Women were able to vote for the first time. Voting Age reduced from 25-21.	President could choose the Chancellor, who was the leader of the most popular party.
The Chancellor decided on the laws but the Reichstag had to vote for them.	If the Reichstag did not have a MAJORITY, then laws could not be passed.	If there was a crisis or the Chancellor was weak, the President would have to pass laws using ARTICLE 48.
Proportional Representation meant that there were lots of parties in the government. In 1920s there were 29 parties.	Every 7 years the President could change.	The government had a lot more power than it did under the Kaiser, it was much fairer.

Notes:

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Exam practice: Study interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the Weimar Republic. What is the main difference between the views? Explain your answer using details from both interpretations. (4 marks)

These features of the Republic served to ensure that it was the perfect democracy:

A **Bill of Rights** guaranteed every German citizen freedom of speech and religion, and equality under the law.

All men and women over the age of 20 were given **the vote**. This was even better than Britain where only women over 30 could vote.

There was an **elected president** and an **elected Reichstag** (parliament).

The **Reichstag made the laws** and appointed the government, which had to do what the Reichstag wanted.

Interpretation 1: BBC Bitesize.

Hidden in the detail were **two flaws** that eventually destroyed the Republic: **Proportional representation** - instead of voting for an MP, like we do in Britain, Weimar Germans voted for a **party**. Each party was then allocated seats in the Reichstag exactly reflecting (proportional to) the number of people who had voted for it. This **sounds** fair, but in practice it was a disaster it resulted in dozens of tiny parties, with no party strong enough to get a majority, and, therefore, no government to get its laws passed in the Reichstag. This was a **major** weakness of the Republic.

Article 48 - this said that, in an emergency, the president did not need the agreement of the Reichstag, but could issue [decrees](#). The problem with this was that it did not say what an emergency was, and in the end, it turned out to be a back door that Hitler used to take power **legally**.

Interpretation 2

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Challenges to the Weimar

Challenge 1 – Treaty of Versailles – July 1919

Land	Army 1919-1923	Money and Blame
Germany lost all 11 of their African colonies to their enemies. This would have weakened them as they lost out on money and extra support in times of war. Germany lost 13% of their land, including West Prussia and Posen which was the Polish Corridor. This loss meant 1 million people were lost to Poland who the Germans saw as 'lice'. Germany also lost Alsace Lorraine to France. This would have made them angry as Germany gained Alsace Lorraine in 1871 fairly, therefore losing it so easily dented their pride. Germany also lost Upper Silesia, Northern Schleswig (to Denmark). The German port of Danzig was made an international city, not in control of Germany All the Saarland's resources were given to France for 15 years. This would anger the Germans as it helped them economically.	Germany's army was reduced to 100,000 soldiers, no tanks or no air force. This would make Germany vulnerable if they were to be attacked. It also made keeping peace extremely difficult. No army meant that Germany found it hard to protect themselves internationally and nationally. The Rhineland (border of France and Germany) was also demilitarised. No German soldier was allowed there, being replaced by allied soldiers. This caused great humiliation to Germany. Germany's navy was reduced to 6 battleships and 24 smaller ships. The rest of German navy was destroyed. Germany were a proud and militaristic country, the fact they had their military removed lowered the morale in Germany.	Germany had to accept total blame for the war, WAR GUILT CLAUSE, known as Article 231. Germany were angry with this as they believed the war was an act of self-defence and they were not the only ones to blame for the war. Germany were the 4th country to join the war. The War Guilt Clause made it very hard for Germany to build a democracy as the people were angry with the government who signed. Germany also had to pay £6.6 billion to the allies. This would have put them in a position of near bankruptcy. Germany felt as if the reparations were unfair as the amount was not agreed until 1921, while Germany were told they had to sign in 1919. Some historians say around 2.2 billion would have been enough, therefore the amount was quite excessive.

Exam Practice: Explain why there was opposition to the Treaty of Versailles (12)

- Military reduced
- Reparations

Remember: 3 x PEEL Paragraphs – DIRECTLY LINK TO THE QUESTION

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Challenge 2 – Threats from the Left and Right

Left wing – Belief in workers having control – Equality – Communist

Right-wing – Belief in dictatorship, landowners and businesses hold the wealth – Nazi Party

Extremist	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Extremist	Extremist
Communist (Extreme left-wing)	Social Democrat (Moderate left-wing)	Democrats (Moderate left-wing)	Centre Party (Moderate)	People's Party (Moderate)	National Party (Right-wing)	Nazis (Extreme right-wing)
Supported by workers and some middle-classes	Supported by workers and middle-classes	Backed by intellectual middle-classes	Supported by members of the Catholic Church	Supported by upper middle-class	Supported by landowners and the wealthy	Eventually supported by vast number of Germans. Became more powerful in 1933.

Spartacist Uprising January 1919

- Left-wing attempted uprising
- Led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht
- They had support from the Soviet Union (Russia) – Had 33 newspapers and 400,000 members
- Based in Berlin
- Spartacists took over governments newspaper and telegraphy bureau and tried to organise a general strike
- Government used the Freikorps to put this down (Freikorps were soldiers released from the army who kept their weapons, they HATED communists)
- Luxemburg and Liebknecht both murdered. **FAILED!**

Kapp Putsch 1930

- Right-wing uprising led by Wolfgang Kapp
- Freikorps troops marched on Berlin as they feared being made unemployed because of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Army refused to shoot on Freikorps “Troops don’t fire on troops”
- Freikorps took over Berlin
- Ebert and the government fled to Dresden and told the population to go on strike. People of Berlin were sick of uprisings, so they listened to the government.
- Kapp fled and was NOT put on trial.

Task: What are the similarities and differences between Spartacist and Kapp Putsch?

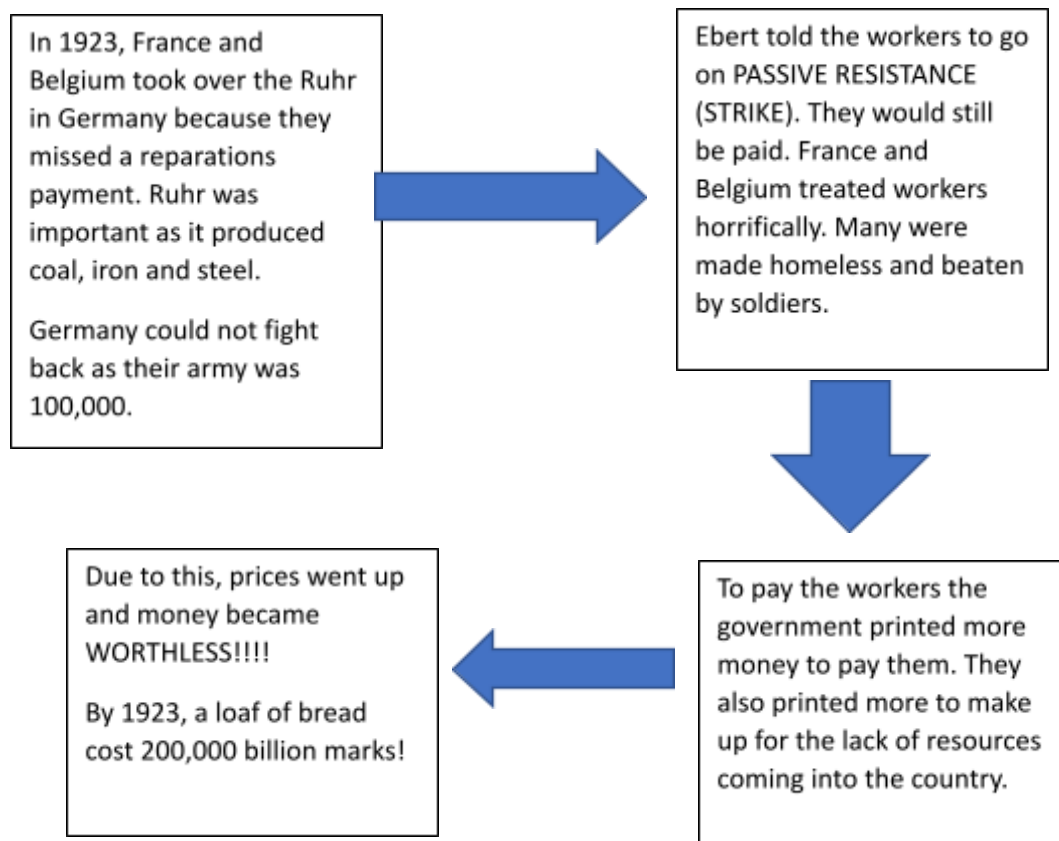
Similarities	Differences

Which Putsch had a bigger impact on the government? Why?

Political assassinations

- Between 1919-23 politicians were worried about being assassinated
- In the early years of the Weimar, 376 politicians were assassinated.
- Some right-wing extremists murdered them to try and weaken the new government – THEY DID NOT GET HARSH PUNISHMENTS AS EXTREME JUDGES GAVE LIGHT PUNISHMENTS
- A lot of political parties hired armed men to protect them in their meetings. THIS CAUSED MORE VIOLENCE IN THE LONG RUN.

Challenge 3 – Occupation of the Ruhr/Hyperinflation



Questions	Answers
1. Why did France and Belgium occupy the Ruhr?	

2. Why was the Ruhr so important for Germany?	
3. What did Ebert tell the workers to do in response? What did he promise them?	
4. How did the government cause hyperinflation?	
5. How much did a loaf of bread cost in 1923?	

Group	Were they effected positively or negatively?	Explanation
Elderly	Negatively	- Pension was fixed so they suffered - Could not afford based essentials such as bread. - At risk of death
Middle-class	Negatively	- All their savings lost due to the crisis - Homes lost due to failure in keeping up with payments.
Business owners	Positively and Negatively	- They brought struggling businesses, made secure investment. - Some businesses went bankrupt, leading to unemployment - Loans in which businesses had found that the amount their owed went down as money became less worthwhile.
Employed workers	Positively	- People who were employed were ok as they were still getting paid. Their wages just got higher and higher. Most workers would get paid twice a day. - Even if you lost your job, unemployment benefits went up weekly.
Weimar Republic	NEGATIVELY	- PEOPLE DISTRUSTED THEM DUE TO THEIR INABILITY TO ACT AND HELP PEOPLE WHO WERE SUFFERING.

Who did hyperinflation affect the most? Why? What impact would this have had?

Exam practice: How useful is Source A for an enquiry into the effects of Hyperinflation on German citizens



A photograph of children using stacks of bank notes as building blocks in Germany in 1923.

Content – What does the source teach you about Hyperinflation?

Own Knowledge – 3 pieces of knowledge that link to the source SPECIFIC

Provenance – Is this useful or less useful (Who made this? What is it? When was it made?)

Exam practice 2 – Explain why there were economic problems in the Weimar Republic from 1919 to 1923

- (12 marks)

16

[illegible]

Recovery of the Republic 1924-1929



Don't Strese out, I will sort your problems, I am your mann

Historians see Stresemann in 2 ways

1. He was the saviour of Germany between the years 1924-1929
2. He papered over the cracks and his ideas were not well thought out as they would cause serious issues. Germany were dancing on a volcano

Stresemann Policy	Good things	Bad things
Rentenmark (1923) – Stresemann helped create a new currency. The supply of the notes was limited, and it was backed by agricultural land.	The money had real value and people trusted it. It stopped hyperinflation and prices began to go down. People from abroad could trust it therefore they would invest in Germany. It improved German business and employment rate went up. Meant that French left the Ruhr	The people who were affected by hyperinflation were never compensated. The Middle Classes in particular were angry as they lost the most. The exchange rate was poor – 1,000,000,000 of the old money could be exchanged for 1 of the new Rentenmark.
Dawes Plan (1924) – This was a way to make sure reparations could be paid. Reparations were reduced to £50 million per year and US banks agreed to give Germany a \$800 million loan, paid in instalments between 1924-1930.	This allowed Germany to pay the reparations, making sure there was no repeat of the Occupation of the Ruhr. Working and Middle Class benefitted as the Industrial output doubled between 1923-28.	Extreme political parties were furious that Germany had again agreed to pay reparations. The economy DEPENDED FULLY ON LOANS, IF SOMETHING WENT WRONG... THEN GERMANY WERE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

	Employment, trade and income from taxation increased.	
Young Plan – (1929) – Reduced reparations from £6.6 to £2.2 billion. Germany were also given an extra 59 years to pay.	Lower reparations payments meant the government could lower taxes. People were happier. Lower taxes meant that government could spend more on the industry and economic growth. French agreed to leave the Rhineland in 1930. 85% of Germans agreed with the plan	Annual Payments were still £50 million per year. They were now being paid until 1988.
Locarno Pact (1925) – Treaty between Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Belgium. Germany accepted its new border with France and France promised peace. Also discussions that Germany could join League of Nations	Made war less likely again. Stresemann given Nobel Peace Prize in 1926. Germany were being treated more equally.	Some parties disagreed and hated that the Versailles agreements were put in place. Extreme parties hated that the Weimar was working with the enemy.
Germany join League of Nations (1926) – Germany joined the international body in which powerful countries talked about solving the worlds problems without going to war.	Boosted confidence of Germans in the Weimar. Germany got the equal power to ‘veto (disagree)’ with other countries about certain topics.	Extreme parties believed that working with the enemy meant that things like the Treaty of Versailles were ok.
Kellogg Briand Pact (1928) – Agreement between 61 countries that war would not be used to achieve aims.	Meant Germany could rebuild without the fear of war. Germany were now included by the superpowers. Weimar Republic was now respectable. Shows that moderate parties could be trusted to run Germany.	This still kept the Treaty of Versailles in place so Germany were still weak.

Task: Complete the table with evidence of whether Stresemann was a saviour or papered over the cracks

Saviour	Papered over the cracks

What was the biggest improvement in the standard of living? Explain your choice.

Women and standard of living

Task: Use the below information and give 3 positives and 3 negative changes of women in Weimar Germany

		
• Some of the gains in equality brought about by the war were lost. • Most women gave up work after they married. There was a drop in women working from 75% in 1918 to 36% in 1925. • Few women secured high status jobs. • There was an increase in part-time work. • Some professions, like teaching and medicine, offered new opportunities to women. • Women were encouraged to go to university.	• Greater earning power led to more independence for younger, single women. • Women were less interested in marriage and family and more interested in having a 'good time'. • The behaviour of 'new women' was not liked by some men and women who felt traditional values were being eroded.	• Women earned the vote in 1918 and could stand for elections. • 90% turned out at elections. • Article 109 of the constitution stated that women had equal rights with men and could enter professions on an equal basis. • Marriage was an equal partnership.

Positive change for women	Negative change for women

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Cultural Changes 1924-29

CULTURE FLOURISHED DURING THE PERIOD 1924-29 DUE TO GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

New Objectivism	The idea that the Arts should not show a romantic view of the world, but should show life as it really is, including poverty and squalor.
Modernism	The idea that the Arts should not always hark back to the past, but should, instead, embrace the future and see beauty in cities, industry, technology.
Expressionism	The idea that the Arts should reflect the thoughts and feelings of the artist rather than being limited to showing things exactly as they really look.
Bauhaus movement	A design college in Berlin headed by Walter Gropius, It developed a style of design which influenced all areas of the Arts. This style stressed the beauty in technology, simple lines and careful craftsmanship.

Art

- Artists painted everyday life
- Art showed problems in German society or to make people think.
- Showed the seedier sides of life and disaster of WW1
- Otto Dix VERY FAMOUS ARTIST DURING THIS TIME.

Cinema

- Films become popular worldwide
- Trying new techniques including dark shadows, lighting and sci-fi effects.
- Challenged traditional cinema. FAMOUS EXAMPLE – METROPOLIS

Architecture

- Bauhaus school set up by Walter Gropius – He wanted to bring together artistic discipline

Notes:

[illegible]

Interpretation 1 From Weimar and Nazi Germany, F.Reynolds, published in 1996

Interpretation 2 From Weimar and Nazi Germany, E.Wimlott, published in 1997

Identify the main view that Interpretation 1 has about German recovery

Use evidence from Interpretation 1 to support this view

Identify the main view that Interpretation 2 has about German recovery

3d. How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the extent of German recovery in the years 1924-29? Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context. (16+4 SPAG marks)

State the view
given in
Interpretation 2
using evidence
from the
interpretation

Agree with the
view in Interp. 2
using your own
knowledge

Disagree with
the view given in
Interp. 2 using
evidence from
Interp. 1

Disagree with
the view given in
Interp. 2 using
your own
knowledge



Make a final
judgement.
Overall I
agree/disagree
with Interp. 2
because...



Content Questions

1. Give 2 social effects of WW1
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. Give 2 political effects of WW1
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. Give 2 economic effects of WW1
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. What does armistice mean? When did this happen?

5. Who abdicated following defeat in WW1?

6. What was the name of the new government created following the war?

7. Who was the president of the new government?

8. How often was the president voted for in Germany?

9. Who voted for the Reichstag? Who could vote?

10. What does proportional representation mean?

11. Who was allowed to use Article 48 and what did it mean?

12. Give 2 positives of the constitution

a. _____

- b. _____
13. Give 2 negatives of the constitution
- a. _____
- b. _____
14. What % was needed to pass laws in the Reichstag?
- _____
15. The Weimar struggled to get a majority government, so multiple parties had to join together, what is this known as?
- _____
16. What was the name of the punishment Germany had to sign in 1919?
- _____
17. Who were the 3 superpowers who decided on the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
18. Why was the treaty described as a 'diktat'?
- _____
- _____
19. Give 3 pieces of land Germany lost because of the Treaty
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
20. Give 3 military restrictions put in place because of the Treaty
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
21. Why was taking the entire blame for the war a problem for Germans?
- _____
- _____
- _____
22. How much money did Germany have to pay because of the Treaty?
- _____
23. What were these payments known as?
- _____
24. Give 2 beliefs of left-wing extremist parties (Communists)
- a. _____
- b. _____
25. Give 2 beliefs of right-wing extremists (Nazis)
- a. _____
- b. _____
26. Describe the Spartacist Uprising (LEFT WING) in 3 sentences
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

27. Describe the Kapp Putsch (RIGHT WING) in 3 sentences

28. Why did the French and Belgians occupy the Ruhr in 1923?

29. What problems did the occupation lead to?

30. Who was affected badly from hyperinflation? Why?

31. Stresemann was the man who oversaw the 'Golden Years 1924-29', what were the following policies:

- Dawes Plan 1924 -

- Young Plan 1929 -

- Rentenmark -

- Kellogg Briand Pact -

- Locarno Pact -

- Joining League of Nations -

- Calling off Passive Resistance -

32. Was Stresemann a saviour of Germany or did he 'paper over the cracks'? Explain in 4 sentences using specific evidence.

33. Give 3 ways in which standard of living improved between 1924-29

- a.

- b.

- c.

34. What was life like for women in the Weimar Republic? Consider the following areas:

- Politics

- Work

- Leisure

35. Give 5 ways in which culture changed during the Golden Years

- a.

- b.

- c.

- d.

- e.
