



AS HISTORY

The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991

Component 1L Empire to democracy, 1871–1929

Wednesday 17 May 2023 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

Kaiser Wilhelm II's power and influence were considerable in the years 1890 to 1914. He was obsessed with the army and navy, and pushed through his favourite projects of military expansion. Most important of all, he paid considerable attention to key appointments. Bülow and Tirpitz were the Kaiser's men, essential components of his personal rule. Careers depended on royal favour, which encouraged an atmosphere of exaggerated flattery at court and a grovelling quest for the favour of the Kaiser. His reign was, therefore, a period of personal rule, which set the tone of the age. It is not for nothing that this period is called the 'Wilhelmine era'.

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Adapted from M Kitchen, A History of Modern Germany, 2012

Extract B

After Bismarck's dismissal, there was no longer anyone capable of holding the German political system together. At first, Wilhelm II tried to be both emperor and chancellor in one, but this did not succeed for any length of time. There was no consistent authority at the top of the structure of power and there existed in Germany a permanent crisis of state, as different individuals and groups sought to influence government policy. It was this absence of clear leadership that caused the inconsistent course followed by German politics up until 1914. Although Wilhelm stressed, in emotional language, his exaggerated view of the emperor's role, he had all along merely played the part of a 'shadow emperor'.

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Adapted from HU Wehler, The German Empire 1871–1918, 1997

0 1

With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the rule of Kaiser Wilhelm II in the years 1890 to 1914?

[25 marks]

Section B

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

Either

0 2

'Bismarck's policies were the main reason for the growing industrialisation of Germany in the years 1871 to 1890.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'The influence of right-wing political views, in the years 1919 to 1929, was damaging to the stability of Weimar democracy.'

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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