

A-level HISTORY

Component 1L The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991

Tuesday 21 May 2019 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/1L.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

The German Empire was a constitutional state with a parliament elected by universal franchise and vigorous political parties. Bismarck held the view that the Reichstag should react to events rather than initiate them. In practice, however, the power of the Reichstag turned out to be greater than Bismarck had anticipated. With the emergence of mass parties such as the Catholic Centre Party, he became increasingly afraid that the Reichstag would develop into the dominant part of the constitution. While the Kulturkampf strengthened liberal support for the government, Bismarck failed to destroy the Centre Party and in 1874 they won 91 seats. The growth of the party was evidence that Bismarck had suffered the first significant defeat of his political career. The political realignments of 1878–80 further strengthened the position of the Centre Party in the Reichstag, but Bismarck was not able to turn the Centre into an ally. Despite the temporary majority for tariffs, he had lost control of the Reichstag for the rest of the 1880s.

Adapted from D Williamson, *Germany Since 1789*, 2016**Extract B**

Bismarck always recognised the Socialist movement as a fundamental threat to the social and political order he was establishing in Germany. By 1878, the chancellor was determined to eliminate what now seemed to him to be the most serious ideological threat to the unity of the new Reich, and for a time it appeared that he would be able to do so without serious difficulty. Many Socialists, though, were convinced that they must fight back. As that determination grew, the party found strategies that would re-energise its membership and give them direction. In 1884, despite the handicaps under which they had to operate, the Socialists doubled their representation in the Reichstag. They were now big enough to have the right of representation on all major Reichstag committees, which meant that their potential for disruption was greatly enhanced. The result of the 1890 election, in which the Social Democrats won 35 seats, marked the end of any possibility of Bismarck controlling the Reichstag and contributed to his downfall a month later.

Adapted from G A Craig, *Germany 1866–1945*, 1981

Extract C

By stoking up the Kulturkampf, Bismarck consolidated the support of the National Liberals, but he did not surrender to liberalism. The chancellor made it clear that he was not prepared to play the role of the head of a government responsible to the Reichstag. In 1874, a new press law was an issue on which the government and the liberals clashed. The draft law contained clauses which would allow the authorities to impose penalties on publications criticising aspects of the existing social and political order. It was an issue which provoked all liberals who strongly supported the principle of a free press. The eventual law was a compromise between the government and the liberals. In the late 1870s, when trying to move towards a solution to the economic downturn, Bismarck had been frequently frustrated by the National Liberals. With the introduction of protective tariffs, Bismarck finally won a decisive victory as the National Liberals split and became a docile governmental party until 1890.

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Adapted from E Feuchtwanger, Bismarck, 2002

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Bismarck's ability to control the Reichstag in the years 1871 to 1890.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'German society was fundamentally changed as a result of the First World War.'

Assess the validity of this view in the context of the years 1900 to 1929.

[25 marks]

0 3 'The recovery of the economy under the Nazis in the 1930s was more impressive than the recovery of the West German economy after the Second World War.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4 How effectively was democracy established in West Germany in the years 1949 to 1969?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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