



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U80-1



HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 8

Germany: Democracy to Dictatorship c. 1918-1945

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

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2019 – AFTERNOON

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

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



[A Nazi propaganda poster, criticising the Dawes Plan. The caption reads: 'First Bread and then Reparations demands every National Socialist' (December 1924)]

Source B

We are at a turning point. A Warsaw newspaper and the German press affirm that all is changed. One could not refuse to sign this Treaty, but not one German in a million will be inspired by the spirit of it. It would be folly not to vote for the Treaty but it would be greater folly to believe in it. Germany was unanimous in wanting a union with Austria and the recovery of Danzig. France negotiated at Locarno under the pressure of English policy which is dominated by ignorance and lack of foresight. We are asked to follow blind. It's a dramatic and terrible situation. France is as threatened today as in 1914. The Geneva Protocol was correct, the world's nervous system is not on the Rhine but in Poland, where a conflict is certain. No attempt has been made to remedy the danger in the east and when the conflict erupts it will be necessary for England to intervene. However, once again it will be too late. There's only one thing which will count, and that is France's effort.

[From the minutes of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Parlement, commenting on the signing of the Locarno Pact (February 1926)]

Source C

Stresemann's achievement is in line with the ideas of the international socialist movement. He takes the view that you can only serve your people by understanding other peoples. To serve collapsed Germany he is set on a path of understanding. He refuses to try to get back land which has gone forever. He offers our former enemies friendship. Being a practical man, he can see that any other path will leave Germany without any hope of recovery. He is no longer a nationalist politician of conquest but a champion of world peace, and he fights with great personal courage for all the ideals that he believes in. It is no wonder that right wingers watch with horror. They cannot accept him because in doing so they will have to accept that the Republic created by the workers in 1919 has brought Germany from devastation to recovery.

[From an article on Gustav Stresemann, which appeared in the German socialist newspaper *Vorwärts* (September 1929)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying developments in the Weimar Republic in the period from 1924 to 1929. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

The Depression dealt its most devastating blow to democracy in Weimar Germany. The coalition fell apart on 27th March 1930 over the question of cutting dole payments. Since the power of the Chancellor depended on the support of the Reichstag and the economic crisis had made collaboration between the political parties more difficult, the initiative now fell to President Hindenburg who had an authoritarian approach to politics. During the stable years he had no option but to play an inactive role in the manoeuvring for power between the various parties. As a result of the Depression however, from 1930 onwards, he was able to fill the vacuum left by the sudden death of consensus politics, as parliamentary democracy virtually disappeared, and Chancellors resorted increasingly to the use of Presidential decrees.

[Stephen J. Lee, an academic historian, in his book, *The European Dictatorships 1918-1945* (1989)]

Interpretation 2

The Wall Street Crash of October 1929 led to unprecedented unemployment for the Weimar Republic. The decline in economic activity and rising unemployment made it increasingly difficult to balance the national budget. As the unemployed ran out of entitlement under the employment insurance scheme, they were given what was called 'crisis subvention'. When that ran out they were given local authority handouts and often they were left with nothing. Hundreds of thousands of people could not maintain the rent for their dwellings and drifted into shanty towns on the edge of the large cities. Others wandered through the countryside, with a few belongings on their back, pushing children in prams, vaguely and vainly looking for work.

[Edgar Feuchtwanger, an academic historian and specialist in German history, in his book, *Germany 1916-1941* (1997)]

Historians have made different interpretations about the impact of the Depression on Germany. 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 the main impact of the Depression on Germany was the collapse of democracy within the Weimar Republic in the early 1930s? [30]

END OF PAPER