



AS HISTORY

UNIT 2

DEPTH STUDY 8

**GERMANY: DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP
c.1918 -1945**

PART 1: WEIMAR AND ITS CHALLENGES c.1918-1933

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **both** the questions on the paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend around 50 minutes on each question.

The sources and quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

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Answer **both** the questions on the paper.

QUESTION 1

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A



[A satirical cartoon, from a German nationalist newspaper entitled *Clemenceau the Vampire*, published in July 1919. The figure lying on the bed represents Germany. Clemenceau was Prime Minister of France. He is shown as a vampire sucking the blood out of Germany.]

Source B

Passive resistance consisted of not collaborating in any way with the French and the Belgians. It meant refusing all their demands, and not complying with any of their orders. The post, the telegraph and telephone workers refused to make any communication with the French and Belgians, to send their letters, to sell them stamps, and so on. Railway workers refused to run the trains needed for the troops. German officials of all ranks pretended to be unaware of the presence of the French and Belgians. The order to go on general strike may have appeared to be patriotic but it has had disastrous consequences for the German economy and the people.

[From an official French army report of the invasion of the Ruhr, entitled: *A Year of Occupation: Franco-Belgian Operations in the Ruhr in 1923*, published in 1924]

Source C

At eleven in the morning a siren sounded. Everybody gathered in the factory yard where a five ton lorry was drawn up, loaded with paper money. The chief cashier and his assistants climbed up on top. They read out the names of workers and just threw out bundles of notes. As soon as you caught one you made a dash for the nearest shop and bought anything that was going. You very often bought things that you did not need. But with those things you could start to barter. You went around and exchanged a pair of shoes for a shirt, or a pair of socks for a sack of potatoes; some cutlery or crockery for instance for tea or coffee or butter.

[Willy Derkow, a student in Germany in 1923, recording his experiences of hyperinflation in his diary in November 1923]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the economic problems of the Weimar Republic. [30]

QUESTION 2

Study the extracts below and answer the question that follows.

Interpretation 1

In the longer term Stresemann achieved very little. By 1929, he himself was disappointed about how much of the Treaty of Versailles remained in place. All he achieved was the rescheduling of reparations payments and the early evacuation of Allied troops from the Rhineland. The evacuation came at a price. In 1928, a German delegation to the League of Nations called for a complete evacuation without ties. But this was rejected by the French. They insisted upon making evacuation conditional on Germany accepting the Young Plan. Agreeing to this was a humiliation for Stresemann and he was fiercely criticised by the right. Nor did Stresemann secure revision of any of the other terms of the Treaty. Eastern frontier adjustments had not even been discussed. The Rhineland was still demilitarised. The army was restricted and the ban on the air force remained. It is an indication of Stresemann's failure that his moderate diplomacy collapsed after 1929.

[S.J.Lee, an academic historian, writing in a specialist book on German history,
The Weimar Republic (1998)]

Interpretation 2

Stresemann presented himself as the champion of greater co-operation in Europe. However, at the same time he had always been a German nationalist, with strong nationalist views. French and British politicians knew that Stresemann was a tough negotiator, well able to defend the interests of his country. He made it clear that it was German weakness, not a belief in a peaceful approach, which forced him to make concessions over matters such as reparations or the recognition of Germany's western frontier. So far as Locarno was concerned, Stresemann believed that it would prevent the British and the French from negotiating an alliance, hasten the removal of Allied troops from the Rhineland and create a better atmosphere in which Germany could rebuild economic strength. By keeping a free hand in the East and maintaining the Soviet connection, he could still hope for territorial adjustments.

[A.J.Nicholls, an academic historian, writing in a specialist book on German history,
Weimar and the Rise of Hitler (1979)]

Historians have made different interpretations of Gustav Stresemann. 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 Stresemann was an effective foreign minister in the period 1924-1929?

[30]