

AS HISTORY

The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991
Component 1L Empire to democracy, 1871–1929

Wednesday 16 May 2018 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

The period 1924–29 was marked by a large number of crises that were indicators of deep tensions in German society. The problems created by the peace treaty and the establishment of the Republic in 1918–19 had not been properly solved; nor had those which had built up during the years of inflation. All of these tensions and frustrations were carried over into the period of ‘stabilisation’ after 1924. Politicians began increasingly to talk about the possible abandonment of the parliamentary system, and there was mounting support for some form of presidential regime that would recast the state along authoritarian lines. The election of Hindenburg was undoubtedly a severe setback for the cause of democracy in the Republic. 5

Adapted from Detlev J K Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, 1991**Extract B**

Critics of the Weimar constitution have pointed out that it gave too much power to the president. Article 48, in particular, is often cast as a fatal flaw in the constitution. Ebert, in fact, often used this article in order to overcome the many political storms that threatened to destroy the Republic in its first years. The years from 1924 to 1929 were characterised by international reconciliation and economic recovery. Undoubtedly, the Republic had stabilised. Furthermore, Hindenburg’s election made the Republic more acceptable to a large segment of moderate right-wing opinion, which had been unwilling to accept it before. Right-wing opposition seemed to decline slowly as the economy picked up. There were no danger warnings in Germany at this time. 5

Adapted from Raffael Scheck, *Germany 1871–1945*, 2008

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the strength of democracy in Germany in the years 1918 to 1929?

[25 marks]

Section B

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

Either

0 2

'There was consistent economic growth in industry and agriculture in the years 1871 to 1890.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3

'Kaiser Wilhelm II successfully maintained his political authority in the years 1890 to 1914.'

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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