

A-level HISTORY

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

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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Extract A

West Germany's new international status was underpinned by economic recovery masterminded by Ludwig Erhard. A passionate believer in the free market and private enterprise, Erhard, whilst Economics Director for Bizonia, dismantled the control system inherited from the Nazis. Rationing and price controls were abolished and taxation reduced. The so-called 'German miracle', which completely transformed West Germany from a devastated and demoralised country into a thriving industrial state, was made possible by Erhard's policies backed by other government legislation. The creation of an elaborate welfare system in accordance with West Germany's commitment to a 'socially responsible' market economy was important. Of particular significance was the Equalisation of Burdens Law which, in the course of twenty years, transferred 90 billion Deutschmarks from those who suffered least in the war to those who lost everything. Without such measures, social peace could hardly have been maintained when economic growth was uneven and wage rates low by international standards.

5

10

Adapted from W Carr, *A History of Germany 1815–1985*, 1987

Extract B

There were many reasons why the West German economy thrived to such a spectacular extent that it was hardly an exaggeration to talk of a 'miracle'. The country was in ruins, but it still had virtually unlimited reserves of human resources in the form of a skilled labour force, supplemented by a stream of refugees from eastern Europe and East Germany, and later the 'guest workers'. It had industrial expertise and know-how that rivalled those of the United States. It thus had its own resources on which to build, so that it was able to exploit to the full the opportunities offered in the postwar world. The Marshall Plan, the European Coal and Steel Community, the Korean War and the creation of the EEC were all international developments which provided excellent opportunities for export industries. West Germany seized the chance and the results were impressive. Between 1950 and 1973, Gross National Product grew at an average yearly rate of 6.5% and the economy expanded three-fold in these years.

5

10

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

Extract C

Ludwig Erhard once described himself as 'an American invention', in other words an enthusiastic free-trader. However, the West German state owned or controlled 40% of all coal and iron production, two-thirds of electricity-generating plants, three-quarters of aluminium manufacturing and, crucially, a majority of German banks. By maintaining an active economic presence, the West German government was in a position to encourage policies conducive to social peace as well as private profit. In addition, older German economic practices returned, notably cooperation between large corporations in price-setting and market-sharing. There had been very little stripping out of Nazi-era bureaucrats, businessmen or bankers and much of the West German economy was run in a manner that would have been familiar to the giant trusts and cartels of earlier decades. This economic system was not what its American overseers or Erhard had had in mind for the new German Republic. Had Erhard got his way, the West German economy and with it West German social relations might have looked quite different.

Adapted from T Judd, *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*, 2005

0	1
---	---

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the postwar economy of West Germany.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'Opposition in the Reichstag had little impact on Bismarck's policies in the years 1871 to 1890.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

'In the years 1890 to 1914, a culture of militarism dominated Germany.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4

To what extent was the weakness of democracy in Germany, in the years 1914 to 1934, due to economic problems?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2022 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

