

A



A-level

HISTORY

Component 1L

**The quest for political stability: Germany,
1871–1991**

7042/1L

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

MATERIALS

For this paper you must have:

- **an AQA 16-page answer book.**

[Turn over]

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.**

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION A

Answer Question 01.

EXTRACT A

After 1966, party distinctions in West Germany became blurred. The Grand Coalition of 1966–69 set Germany back on track in the most difficult of circumstances, effectively resolving the economic problems of the mid-1960s. This government greatly contributed to the political consensus of the following two decades. In 1974, nobody seemed better equipped to deal with a new economic crisis than Helmut Schmidt. Most Germans, including many traditional CDU/CSU voters, saw Schmidt as the experienced captain navigating the ship of state through treacherous waters. From

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**1982, Helmut Kohl, the new
chancellor, strove to occupy the
largest possible section of the
political middle ground. His political
priorities were little different from
Schmidt's in the previous decade:
maintaining relations with East
Germany, economic growth, and an
emphasis on law and order at home.
Overall, Schmidt and Kohl
contributed substantially to the
blurring of party images. Schmidt
was immensely popular among
conservative Germans and Kohl
successfully pursued exactly the
same policies as his predecessor.**

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**Adapted from L Kettenacker,
Germany Since 1945, 1997**

[Turn over]

EXTRACT B

Balancing the desires of left and right, in the years 1966 and 1989, was difficult. During Kiesinger's Grand Coalition, Brandt gained prestige for developing his new 'Ostpolitik', and in 1969, the SPD won over 40% of the vote. Seeing an opportunity, Brandt broke from the Grand Coalition and allied with the liberal FDP. The socialist-liberal government introduced a series of social reforms. However, conservatives opposed both 'Ostpolitik' and the social reform programme, making difficulties for the coalition. As the recession of the early 1970s gradually turned to a new period of slow growth under Schmidt, tensions emerged over economic policy between the SPD and the Liberals. The conservative, business-oriented wing of the FDP

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supported reductions in social welfare spending and policies to stimulate production. A vote of no-confidence forced Schmidt from office in 1982. The beneficiary of the break-up of the socialist-liberal coalition was Helmut Kohl. The new chancellor announced a ‘change of course’ to move away from the left-wing policies of the previous decade.

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Adapted from FB Tipton, A History of Modern Germany Since 1815, 2003

[Turn over]

EXTRACT C

1966–89 was a period of political polarisation, which saw increasing antagonism between the established parties and the idealists of an emerging ‘New Left’. This was partly a polarisation between the older generation, who had lived through the Third Reich, and younger people who challenged the conduct and values of their parents’ generation. In the 1970s, left-wing protests diversified; the most notorious group was the terrorist Red Army Faction. While the acts of terror could in no way be justified, new controversies flared as some on the left criticised the state’s responses to the terrorist threat. In addition, the attempt to replace oil by nuclear power had political implications, and Schmidt’s centrist form of social democracy again came under attack from the left. In 1982,

**after thirteen years of
social-democratic government, West
Germany entered a new phase of conservative dominance. However,
widespread and vocal concern for
issues such as the environment, as
well as nuclear power and weapons,
continued to dominate the political
agenda in the 1980s.**

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**Adapted from M Fulbrook, A History
of Germany 1918–2008, 2009**

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**Using your understanding of the
historical context, assess how
convincing the arguments in these three
extracts are in relation to political
developments in Germany in the years
1966 to 1989. [30 marks]**

[Turn over]

SECTION B

Answer TWO questions.

0 2

‘In the years 1871 to 1890, Germany became more socially and economically divided.’

**Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]**

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**To what extent did opposition in the Reichstag influence Kaiser Wilhelm II’s government, in the years 1890 to 1914?
[25 marks]**

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‘The growth of extremist right-wing movements, in the years 1919 to 1939, was due to the impact of the First World War on Germany.’

**Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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