

# Chapter 2 Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

## 2.1 Kaiser Wilhelm and the difficulties of ruling Germany, 1890–1914

REVISED

### Kaiser Wilhelm II controlled the government and had extensive powers

- The Kaiser appointed the **Chancellor** (head of the government) and other officials. No decision could be made without his agreement.
- However, Wilhelm II did not govern consistently because he was moody and unstable and had violent rages.
- **Parliamentary government** developed. There were several major political parties. None had a majority so governments were coalitions.
- **Right-wing** parties were strong and keen to expand the German Empire.
- **Left-wing** parties were gaining support from the increasing number of industrial workers.
- One of the 25 states, Prussia, was more powerful than the others. It had two-thirds of the population and half the territory. Some other states felt powerless to influence German policy.

#### Key point

Under Kaiser Wilhelm II the new country of Germany was becoming a leading industrial power. The Kaiser wanted to expand its power and influence even more.

### Germany was becoming more industrialised and richer

- By 1914, Germany led the world in chemical and steel industries. For example, it produced twice as much steel as Britain. It produced one-third of the world's electrical goods.
- The population was growing rapidly (from 40 million in 1871 to 68 million in 1914). This provided manpower for the growing industries.
- Farmers could not supply all the food needed by the growing population so food imports were increasing.

#### TIP

The key terms in **purple** are defined in the glossary at the end of each chapter.

Make sure that you can spell the key terms, know what they mean and aim to use them in your written work.

### Tensions in society led to demands for social reforms

- German society was traditional, both in the rural areas and in the cities.
- Many people were very conservative in their political views. For example, they expected the upper classes to rule.
- At the same time, the **socialist** movement was growing, supported by industrial workers who wanted reform.
- Governments tried to meet workers' demands by introducing pensions and sickness insurance schemes.
- Support for the left-wing Social Democrat Party increased. It had about 30 per cent of seats in the **Reichstag** in 1912.

### The army and navy had high status. There was much support for German expansion

- The army in Prussia swore obedience to the Kaiser.
- Wilhelm II wanted to expand the German navy to match that of Britain's.
- The Navy Laws allowed the building of many more battleships.
- The Kaiser wanted Germany to have an overseas empire as France and Britain both had. This led to international crises in the years leading up to 1914 and was one cause of the First World War.



#### Test yourself

- 1 What were the Naval Laws?
- 2 List two strengths and two weaknesses in German society in the years before 1914.



## Compare interpretations

Questions 1–3 of your exam will ask you to compare the content of interpretations. You need to read carefully, understand what is said, compare with your own knowledge and make inferences. This task practises question 1.

Study Interpretations A and B. How do they differ in their views on Kaiser Wilhelm II? (4 marks)

**INTERPRETATION A** *First impressions of Wilhelm II as Kaiser. From G. Craig, Germany 1866–1945 (1981).*

Most people were impressed by the new ruler's vitality, his openness to new ideas, the diversity of his interests, and his personal charm. A Court official later wrote that William was 'a dazzling personality who fascinated everyone who appeared before him. He was well aware of his ability to do this and developed this talent with much effort and refinement to an extra-ordinary perfection'.

**INTERPRETATION B** *Concerns about Wilhelm II. From Michael Balfour, The Kaiser and His Times (1964).*

The main cause of alarm was William's [Wilhelm's] lack of tact. ... The chief danger is that he is absolutely unconscious of the effect which his speeches and actions have upon princes, public men and the masses. For example, he astonished the British Ambassador by the way he talked about the diminutive [small] King of Italy whom he referred to as 'the Dwarf' while calling the Queen 'a peasant girl' and 'the daughter of a cattle thief'.

Summarise in a sentence the overall difference in their view of the Kaiser and choose two extracts from each interpretation to support this.



## You're the examiner!

Question 5 of your exam focuses on how a key development affected a situation or a group of people. For example:

In what ways did the style of German government under Wilhelm II affect how the country developed? (8 marks)

For a top-level answer, an examiner is looking for an explanation that:

- includes accurate and detailed knowledge
- uses the knowledge to answer the question.

Question 5 is not an essay. There is no need for an introduction and a conclusion.

Connect the comments to the highlighted elements to show the good features of the answer below.

Wilhelm II was powerful and made sure that the Reichstag leaders were kept under control. This meant that he could decide policies – such as the expansion of the navy, which the Reichstag agreed to by passing the Navy Laws. The Reichstag had representatives from many political parties, with an increasing number of socialist members – about 30 per cent by 1914. This meant that, with coalition governments, the left wing had influence to get policies implemented that they favoured. For example, Germans gained old-age pensions and sickness and unemployment insurance before the end of the nineteenth century. Lastly, the ruling conservative elite kept much power, which meant that traditional attitudes remained strong.

Key words showing how the answer is organised.

Relevant, detailed knowledge to support the main point.

Key phrase to ensure you explain not just describe.

## 2.2 The impact of the First World War on Germany

REVISED

### By 1918 the German people were suffering war-weariness

- Living standards were low, especially in many cities. There were food and fuel shortages and a major flu epidemic swept the country.
- There were 600,000 widows and 2 million children without fathers.
- The country was virtually bankrupt and industrial production was only two-thirds of what it had been in 1913. Much of that was geared towards fighting the war.
- Divisions in society had deepened during the war, with huge differences in living standards between rich and poor.
- War shortages, suffering and inequality boosted support for left-wing parties who wanted to overthrow the Kaiser's government.

#### Key point

After the First World War, Germany was weaker than it had been before – politically and economically. The war led to a complete change of government which got off to a very shaky start, with political and economic chaos. The very unpopular Treaty of Versailles made things worse.

### When Germany surrendered in November 1918, the Kaiser fled

- When the Allies counter-attacked in August 1918, it was clear that Germany was losing the war.
- There were riots by German sailors at Kiel and among German workers.
- The Socialists (left-wingers who hated the Kaiser's rule) led uprisings in ports and cities. A socialist republic was declared in Bavaria.
- On 9 November, the Kaiser fled to the Netherlands and **abdicated** (gave up his throne).
- On 11 November, representatives of the Social Democrat Party led by Friedrich Ebert signed the **Armistice** (agreement to stop fighting).

### A new constitution made Germany very democratic

- Ebert became leader of the new German **Republic** because he was leader of the largest political party in the Reichstag.
- A new **constitution** was drawn up quickly which made Germany much more democratic than under the Kaiser.

President (the head of state)	Chancellor (the prime minister)	Reichstag (the parliament)	The people (the electorate)
Elected by the people every seven years	Chosen from the Reichstag by the President but must have (and keep) Reichstag support	Elected by the people by <b>proportional representation</b> (each party gets the same proportion of seats as they get votes)	All Germans over the age of twenty could <b>vote</b> for the President and the members of the Reichstag

- One exception to these democratic principles was **Article 48**. This said that, in a crisis, the **President** could rule the country directly using emergency powers. This proved to be a very important power in later years.

### The new government faced political chaos and was further damaged by the Treaty of Versailles

- With a new system of government, dissatisfied soldiers returning home and new political parties emerging, it is not surprising that there was political unrest. Each group wanted to seize the opportunity to gain control.
- Ebert's government crushed a right-wing revolt on 6 December 1918 and a left-wing Communist revolt on 5 January 1919 (see page 34).

- Amid this chaos there were free elections on 19 January 1919 and Ebert became President on 11 February.
- The new government met in Weimar because Berlin was too unstable. The government became known as the Weimar Republic.
- A further crisis came when Ebert's government had to sign the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919. It weakened his government because its opponents always blamed it for the problems caused by the treaty.
- The war defeat had damaged German pride. The Treaty of Versailles made it even worse because it blamed Germany for the war. The German people resented that.

### Germany faced major economic problems from 1919 to 1923 including hyperinflation

- Because of the war, many of Germany's traditional industries were weak.
- Germany's pre-war international trade had also disappeared. It was difficult to re-establish trading links at a time when industry was weak and Germany was being blamed for the war.
- To make matters worse, under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was forced to agree to pay **reparations** (compensation for war damage) of £6600 million (£6.6 billion) to the victorious countries.
- The first instalment was paid in 1921, but nothing was paid in 1922 and so in January 1923 French and Belgian troops entered the **Ruhr** (an industrial area of Germany), to seize raw materials and goods as an alternative to the unpaid reparations.
- German workers went on strike in protest. Factory production collapsed.
- The government was running out of money so it printed more. **Hyperinflation** followed. Prices rose so quickly that bank notes and savings became worthless. Those on fixed incomes suffered badly.
- Hyperinflation damaged the reputation of the Weimar Republic – particularly among the middle classes whose wealth was wiped out.

### Test yourself

- 1 List two reasons why support for left-wing parties increased in 1918.
- 2 What is hyperinflation?

#### TIP

One common error is to confuse hyperinflation (which happened in 1923) and the Depression which happened after 1929. They were very different events with very different causes. Don't make that mistake.

### Key events

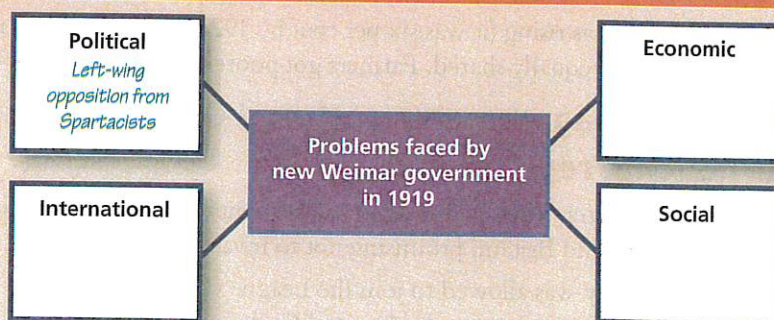
Copy and complete the flowchart to outline how German government changed from late 1918 to early 1919.

Autumn 1918	9 Nov 1918	11 Nov 1918	6 Dec 1918	5 Jan 1919	19 Jan 1919	February 1919
German armies in retreat. German people not informed of desperate situation						The newly elected democratic government met at Weimar

**Challenge:** create a second flowchart to show how post-war economic problems led to hyperinflation.

### Topic summary

Complete a diagram like the one opposite to classify the different problems faced by Germany in 1919. This will make it easier to write analytical answers. Try to be as specific as possible as the mark schemes ask you to use specific and detailed knowledge. The first one has been started for you.



## 2.3 The new Weimar government: initial problems and recovery under Stresemann

REVISED

### In the early 1920s the Weimar government faced political unrest and rebellions

- The three most important rebellions were:

Date	Rebellion	Aims and outcome
January 1919	The Spartacist rebellion	The Spartacists were Communists who wanted to copy what Communists had achieved in Russia in 1917. They tried to seize control, helped by some soldiers, sailors and factory workers. Their leaders, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, were killed
March 1920	Kapp Putsch	Dr Wolfgang Kapp led a march in Berlin of 5000 <i>Freikorps</i> (ex-soldiers). They wanted to make Germany powerful again with something like the old dictatorial style of government. The <b>putsch</b> (an attempt to seize power) was defeated by the workers who declared a general strike
November 1923	Munich Putsch	Hitler, leader of the small Nazi Party, had some support in Bavaria. At a meeting in a beer hall, Hitler announced that he and his supporters were going to seize power and marched towards the government building. The putsch was quickly defeated. Hitler was arrested, put on trial and sentenced to five years in prison. While in prison he decided that in the future the Nazis should seek power by election and not by putsch

- The government survived these rebellions. **However**, the rebellions showed how dissatisfied some people were with Weimar democracy.

### Under Stresemann Germany appeared to recover and Weimar culture flourished

- In 1923, Germany was in a chaotic situation: it faced political weakness, hyperinflation and the French occupation of the industrial area of the Ruhr.
- Gustav Stresemann rescued Germany. He was the most powerful politician in Germany from late 1923 to 1929, as Chancellor, then as Foreign Minister.

Date	Measure	Significance
1923	New currency introduced	The Rentenmark replaced the old worthless marks. This stabilised prices and the economy
1924	The Dawes Plan	Germany was loaned 800 million marks by the USA, and reparations payments were spread over a longer period of time
1929	The Young Plan	Reparations payments were reduced to £2.2 billion and Germany was given longer to pay

- By early 1929, Germany appeared to be regaining its prosperity. For example, Germany was second (behind the USA) in industrial output.

### However,

- unemployment was rising (it was six per cent by 1928) and the economic benefits were not equally shared. Farmers got poorer in the 1920s.

### International agreements restored Germany's international reputation and pride

- As Foreign Minister, Stresemann signed agreements with Germany's former enemies, France and Britain, promising not to invade each other.
- In 1926, Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations, which restored its 'great power' status and boosted German pride.

#### Key point

The new Weimar Republic faced huge problems in the early 1920s. In the later 1920s, under Stresemann, successes seemed to outweigh failures. Germany appeared to be on the road to recovery.

#### TIP

The examiners want you to use relevant and detailed knowledge in your answers. In your revision you should try to remember a specific piece of information associated with each general idea.

**However,**

- Stresemann had to accept the Treaty of Versailles, and some Germans, particularly right wingers, thought Stresemann was weak and had given in to Germany's enemies.

**There was a cultural revival**

- Under the Kaiser there had been strict censorship.
- When censorship was removed under the Weimar government, painters, writers, musicians and architects revelled in the new freedom – particularly in cities such as Berlin.
- Clubs and cinemas thrived. German art and architecture became internationally famous.

**However,**

- A lot of Germans were not happy about this. Many (particularly in the countryside) thought Weimar culture showed moral decline.



**Test yourself**

- 1 Who were the Spartacists and what happened to them?
- 2 What was the Dawes Plan and why was it significant?



**Develop the detail**

Each of the following statements is vague and lacks detail. Using the past four pages and your own knowledge, on a separate piece of paper, add details to show that you understand the general point made. One example has been done for you.

Generalised statement	With developed detail
The President could act like a dictator	Article 48 of the Constitution allowed the President, if there was an emergency, to pass laws without the approval of the Reichstag
It was difficult for any party to get a majority	
The Spartacists were Communists	
Stresemann ended hyperinflation	
Germany was becoming more prosperous	
Germany's progress depended on the USA	



**Support or challenge?**

In your exams you will often have to reach a judgement and support it with evidence. This task helps you to practise. Read this statement:

**In the 1920s the Weimar Republic seemed like a new strong government for Germany.**

Below is a list of events and situations. For each one, decide whether it supports or challenges the overall statement above.

- A The *Freikorps* wanted the return to strong government as under the Kaiser.
- B All Germans over the age of 20 could vote.
- C Attempts to overthrow the Weimar Republic were defeated.
- D Hyperinflation was ended and a new currency introduced by Stresemann.
- E Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations in 1926.
- F German prosperity depended largely on US loans.
- G Unemployment was rising by the end of the 1920s.

## 2.4 The impact of the Depression on Germany

REVISED

### The Great Depression had a huge impact on Germany

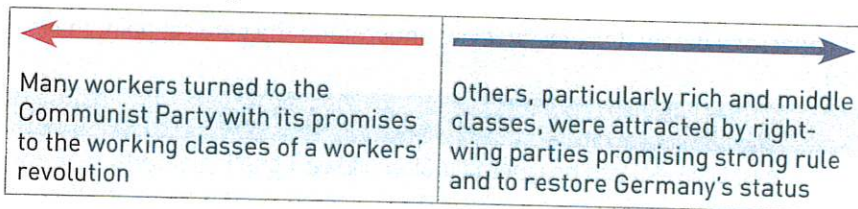
- The Wall Street Crash in the USA in 1929 led to a global Depression.
- The Depression had a huge impact on Germans because Germany depended on loans from the USA and because it still owed reparations to the Allies.
- American loans were recalled. German businesses could not pay, so many businesses went bankrupt.
- Millions of German workers lost their jobs. There were 6 million unemployed by late 1932.
- The mood of optimism in Germany disappeared.

#### Key point

The Great Depression severely damaged the German economy and undermined Weimar democracy. This gave the Nazis an opportunity to win support for their extreme policies, which they exploited very effectively.

### As Weimar government struggled, extremist parties including the Nazis gained support

- The Weimar government failed to end the crisis. The shortcomings of the Weimar system became more obvious. No party was strong enough to take decisive action.
- Extremist parties exploited this situation.



- The Nazis were also fiercely anti-Communist which made them even more popular with the bosses who feared a Communist revolution.

### Nazi slogans appealed to many Germans

Promises	Culprits (to blame for German problems)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make Germany great again</li> <li>• To abolish the Treaty of Versailles and rearm Germany</li> <li>• To end the economic crisis by providing jobs for workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'November Criminals' who surrendered when the war could have been won</li> <li>• France and Britain, who created the Treaty of Versailles in order to cripple Germany</li> <li>• Communists who wanted to make revolution in Germany</li> <li>• Jews who had too much influence in Germany (although the Jews were not much emphasised in the early years)</li> </ul>

- Nazi policies lacked detail. They were more like slogans. It was therefore hard to criticise them.
- The slogans were backed up with effective **propaganda** (rallies, marches, posters and pamphlets) organised by Josef Goebbels.
- Hitler was a brilliant speaker. He travelled around Germany (by plane) to speak to as many people as possible. This was an innovation.

### At election time there were violent clashes between right- and left-wing groups

- The SA members with their smart uniforms gave an impression of law and order. The SA often fought Communist gangs in the streets.
- The SA often had the support of the police and army when it disrupted meetings of its political opponents.



#### Test yourself

- 1 What was the SA?
- 2 List three reasons for increased support for the Nazis.
- 3 Which do you think was the most important and why?

## Compare interpretations

An essential exam skill is comparing two interpretations. You need to read carefully, understand what is said, compare with your own knowledge and make inferences. Use these questions to guide you.

- 1 List reasons why the speaker in Interpretation C supported the Nazis.
- 2 How can you infer that she was not wholeheartedly in support?
- 3 Why might that be?
- 4 Did the speaker in Interpretation D support the Nazis for the same reasons?
- 5 Why did he think of the Jews as a 'problem'?

**INTERPRETATION C** *From an interview in the 1960s with a housewife who had lived in a town in northern Germany in the 1930s.*

The ranks of the Nazi Party were filled with young people. Those serious people who joined did so because they were for social justice, or against unemployment. There was a feeling of restless energy about the Nazis. You saw the swastika painted on the sidewalks or found them littered with pamphlets put out by the Nazis. I was drawn by the feeling of strength about the party, even though there was much in it that was highly questionable.

**INTERPRETATION D** *From an interview in the 1960s with a man who had been the head of a secondary school in the same town in Germany in the 1930s.*

I saw the Communist danger; their gangs breaking up middle-class meetings, the Nazis being the only party that broke terror by anti-terror. I saw the complete failure of the other parties to deal with the economic crisis. Only National Socialism offered any hope.

Nazis mostly did not hate Jews individually, but they were concerned about the Jewish problem. Most Jews persisted in being loyal to their Jewish fellows, so that more and more Jews got positions in trade, banking, the newspapers, etc. Many people saw the danger of that problem. Nobody knew of any way to deal with it, but they hoped that the Nazis would know.

## Develop the explanation

The first column in the table below lists reasons why Hitler became popular by 1933. For each reason, add details to explain how this made him popular.

Reasons	Explanation
Hitler's skills as a speaker	Hitler was a powerful speaker who gave the impression he knew what was wrong with Germany and how to solve the problems. This made him the Nazis' main attraction. Hitler travelled around Germany by plane at election time so as many people as possible could hear him speak
The Nazis' private army – the SA	
Nazi propaganda	
The Depression	

## Practice question

Describe two ways in which Germany suffered economically after the Wall Street Crash.

(4 marks)



## 2.5 The failure of Weimar democracy: Hitler becomes Chancellor, January 1933

REVISED

### The democratic system of Weimar government did not cope well with the crisis

- Proportional representation was a good idea in theory. It was supposed to ensure that all groups in Germany were well represented in the Reichstag.
- However, in practice it meant that there too many small political parties in the Reichstag who disagreed with each other, which made it difficult to take action.
- Chancellor Brüning (Chancellor from 1930 to 1932) dealt with this problem by getting President Hindenburg to use Article 48. This allowed the President to pass emergency laws without the approval of the Reichstag.
- Using this power in 1930, Brüning cut government spending and welfare benefits. This actually made the economic problems worse for many Germans.

### A series of elections allowed the Nazis to exploit people's disillusion with Weimar government

- Hindenburg and Brüning decided to call an election in 1930.
- Hitler and the Nazis ran a powerful campaign criticising the Weimar government.
- The Nazis won 107 seats. They were not yet the largest party but it was a massive increase on the twelve seats they had won in 1928.
- The largest party was still the **Social Democratic Party** (the left-wing party supported by most workers).
- The Weimar government was still unstable so there were two further elections in 1932. The Nazis gained 230 in July and then 196 seats in November. They became the largest party, but still not with a majority.
- Also in 1932, Hitler stood against the respected President Hindenburg in the presidential election.
- Hitler lost, but he gained 13 million votes (Hindenburg gained 19 million). This boosted his profile and made him seem an important national figure in German politics.

### Hindenburg reluctantly made Hitler Chancellor because only he had enough Reichstag support to govern

- Through 1932 Hindenburg avoided making Hitler Chancellor, even though he led the largest party in the Reichstag. Instead, von Papen was made Chancellor in 1932.
- Von Papen did not have a majority to support him in the Reichstag, so he resigned in December 1932 and von Schleicher took over. He ran into the same problems.
- In January 1933, Hindenburg and von Papen met with other leading right-wing politicians and army leaders to discuss the political crisis.
- Von Papen persuaded Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor with himself (von Papen) as Vice-Chancellor and with a majority of non-Nazis in the government. They thought that in this way Hitler would be controlled.

#### Key point

After the elections in 1932, the Nazis were the largest party. President Hindenburg did not want Hitler as Chancellor but in the end he had little choice because Hitler was the only person who had enough support in the Reichstag to lead a government.

#### TIP

In your answers use words like 'because', 'therefore', 'which meant that' or 'so' to remind you to explain rather than describe.

## When Hitler became Chancellor in January 1933 many thought he would not last long in the job

- Hitler became Chancellor on 30 January 1933.
- Many Germans believed that Hitler's new government would not last long when he faced the problems of actually ruling the country.



### Test yourself

- 1 What was Article 48?
- 2 How did Chancellor Brüning try to solve the problems caused by the Depression?
- 3 Why did Hindenburg make Hitler Chancellor in January 1933?

#### TIP

Candidates find it hard to give time to planning in an actual exam, which is why it is so important to practise it **before** the exam so that it becomes instinctive.



### Essay plan

The highest mark question in your Period Study exam will be an essay question structured like this. Which of the following was the more important reason why Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany in 1933?

- The effects of the Wall Street Crash.
- The role of Nazi propaganda.

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

(12 marks)

The secret of writing a good essay is good planning. Here is a plan.

Plan	Purpose/points to include
Introduction	You show that you know why Hitler becoming Chancellor was such an important event
Paragraph 1	You explain how the Wall Street Crash helped to lead to this outcome. For example: <i>American loans were withdrawn so businesses went bankrupt</i>
Paragraph 2	You explain how Nazi propaganda led to this outcome
A conclusion	You link the two reasons (if you can) Reach a judgement on which is more important and support that judgement

- Step 1: note down evidence or points you will include in paragraphs 1 and 2.
- Step 2: make a decision on which reason to argue for. There is no right or wrong answer but you need have good historical reasons to justify your choice. Practise writing your conclusion.

## 2.6 The establishment of Hitler's dictatorship in the years 1933–34

REVISED

### The Reichstag Fire gave Hitler an excuse to crush the Communists

- Once he was Chancellor, Hitler immediately called an election for early March 1933.
- A week before the election, on 27 February, the Reichstag building was set on fire.
- The Nazis may have started the fire but they blamed the Communists.
- The Nazis used the fire as an excuse to pass an emergency decree to give the police extra powers to arrest people without trial and to ban meetings.
- Police arrested 4000 Communists and anti-Communist propaganda was increased.
- In the election on 5 March, the Nazis got their best ever result – 288 seats.
- With the support of the Nationalist Party, the Nazis had a majority.

#### Key point

Hitler acted quickly to establish a dictatorship. He crushed opposition before it got organised. He was able to do this because of the Enabling Act.

### The Enabling Act allowed Hitler to create a dictatorship

<b>What?</b>	The <b>Enabling Act</b> in March 1933 gave Hitler power to pass laws for four years without consulting the Reichstag
<b>How?</b>	The Reichstag approved the Act by a huge majority after Hitler intimidated its members, using the SA and the SS
<b>Results</b>	<p>Only the Nazi Party was allowed. The Nazis rounded up political opponents and imprisoned them in <b>concentration camps</b></p> <p>The Nazis took control of the media such as newspapers and radio stations</p> <p>Trade unions were banned. Workers had to join the new Nazi-controlled <b>German Labour Front</b></p>

### The threat of the SA was removed on the Night of the Long Knives

- The SA had been the basis of Nazi success since the 1920s, particularly by intimidating opponents. It had grown massively to 2.5 million members.
- It was now seen as an unruly mob and a threat to Hitler's control. It was also a rival to the army, which had only 100,000 soldiers.
- In the **Night of the Long Knives** (June 1934), SA leaders including Ernst Röhm were killed.
- The SA continued to exist but was much less important. Many members moved to the army or the SS.
- The SS came under the direct control of Hitler as his private army.

### Hitler became Führer in August 1934

- President Hindenburg died in August 1934, aged 84. Hitler declared himself President in addition to being Chancellor.
- The army swore an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler.
- Hitler was now Supreme Leader (**Führer**).



#### Test yourself

- 1 How many seats did the Nazis win in the March 1933 elections?
- 2 What was the Enabling Act?
- 3 How many people were in the SA in 1933–34?
- 4 Who was Ernst Röhm?



## Explain significance

- 1 Link up the heads and tails in the table below to show why each feature was significant in establishing the Nazi dictatorship.
- 2 Put the features in chronological order by numbering them 1–5.

Feature	Significance
The Enabling Act	... removed the SA as a potential threat to his authority
Proportional representation	... led to a severe depression in Germany with high unemployment
The Reichstag Fire	... gave Hitler power to pass laws without the Reichstag for four years
The Night of the Long Knives	... meant that no party ever gained a majority in the Reichstag, which made it hard to agree solutions to the economic crisis
The Wall Street Crash	... gave the Nazis an excuse to clamp down on the Communists



## Evaluate the interpretations

Read the two interpretations below about the Reichstag Fire. Then answer the exam-style questions.

**INTERPRETATION E** *From an account written in 1950 by Rudolf Diels, a Nazi and head of police in Berlin in 1933.*

I think van der Lubbe started the Reichstag Fire on his own. When I arrived at the burning building, some police officers were already questioning him. His voluntary confession made me think that he was such an expert arsonist that he did not need any helpers. Why could not one person set fire to the old furnishings, the heavy curtains and the bone-dry wood panelling? He had lit several dozen fires using firelighters and his burning shirt, which he was holding in his right hand like a torch when he was overpowered by Reichstag officials.

**INTERPRETATION F** *From Hitler – A Study in Tyranny by the British historian Alan Bullock (1952).*

Goering had been looking for an excuse to smash the Communist Party. He at once declared that van der Lubbe was only part of a larger Communist plot to start a campaign of terror. The burning of the Reichstag was to be the signal for Communist revolt.

In fact, I believe that the burning of the Reichstag was planned and carried out by the Nazis themselves. Van der Lubbe was picked up by the SA and allowed to climb into the Reichstag and start a fire on his own in one part of the building while Nazis started the main fires.

Question 1 asks you to compare the interpretations. Identify the overall message and support that with detail from the interpretation.

1 How does Interpretation E differ from Interpretation F about the Reichstag Fire? (4 marks)

Question 2 asks you to compare the provenance (purpose and authorship) to explain why they might differ.

2 Why might the authors of Interpretations E and F have a different interpretation about the Reichstag Fire? (4 marks)

Question 3 is worth more marks. Use your knowledge to explain which you think is more accurate (convincing).

3 Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the Reichstag Fire? (8 marks)

### TIP

When examining an interpretation always read the caption. It will include important information about who wrote it and when.

## 2.7 Economic changes: employment and rearmament

REVISED

### Under Nazi rule unemployment was reduced and industry prospered, 1933–39

- In 1933, unemployment was over 5 million. By 1939 it was virtually zero. Hitler fulfilled one of his key promises. This was done by:

Public works	Rearmament	Conscription
The National Labour Service employed workers to build a network of <i>autobahns</i> (motorways), more railways and new houses. These were paid for by the government	Started in secret in 1933 (in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles). Jobs were created manufacturing weapons and army uniforms	Conscription was introduced in 1935. Selected Germans were forced to join the armed forces

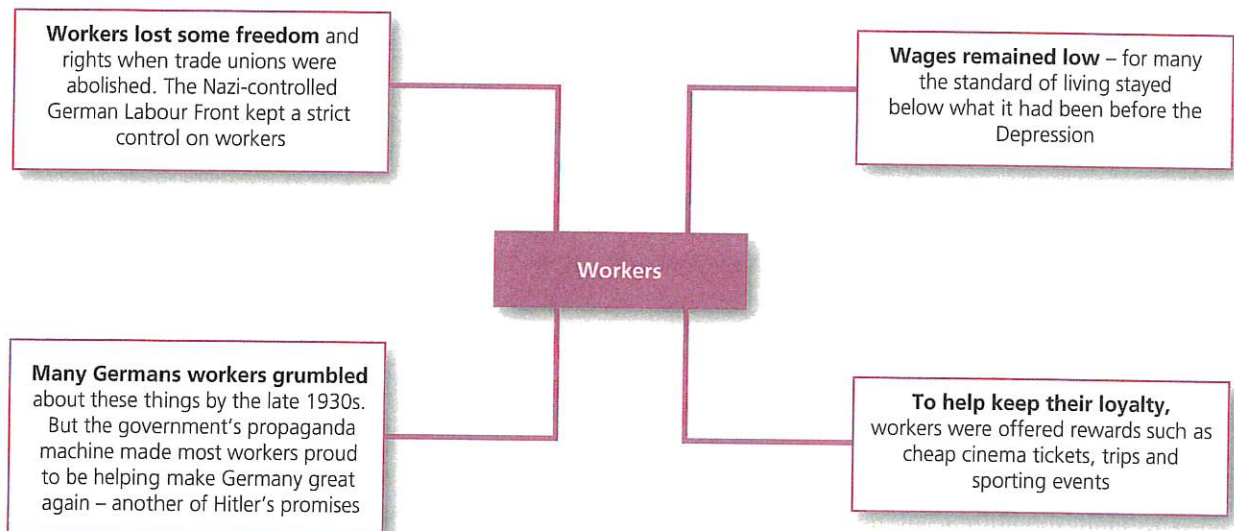
- These were part of 'The New Plan' devised by Dr Schacht, which ran from 1933–36.
- In 1936 this was replaced by the Four-Year Plan under Hermann Goering. This was intended to make Germany self-sufficient by 1940 so that it did not have to import essential raw materials.

#### Key point

Many German civilians benefited from the improved economy during the 1930s but they all suffered greatly in the final three years of the war.

### Some Germans benefited more than others from the economic changes

- Industrial workers** mostly gained from Nazi rule in the 1930s. They were glad to have a job and an income. However,



- Farming communities** were helped with guaranteed food prices and rights to keep their land.
- Big businesses** were pleased about the Nazis getting rid of the Communist threat and many benefited from government spending.
- Small businesses** did not benefit from any protection (for example, local shops).
- Nazi opponents** were excluded from the prosperity. They could not work and could not claim unemployment pay. Jews and other 'undesirables' were victimised and persecuted. Jewish businesses were boycotted or closed down.



#### Test yourself

- List five things that most Germans were happy about in the period 1933–39.
- List three things that most Germans were not so happy about in the period 1933–39.

## From 1942 onwards the war went badly for Germany, which had a huge impact on its people

Shortages	Bombing raids
<p>Rationing started in 1939 on food and clothes, but in the first two years of the war there were no real shortages as imports from defeated countries arrived</p> <p>However, from 1942 onwards when Germany started to suffer defeats, the economy was totally directed towards war production</p> <p>German civilians began to suffer greatly with increasing shortages of food and other essentials, including fuel</p>	<p>From 1942, German cities were bombed first by the British and then also by the Americans</p> <p>Major bombing of cities such as Berlin and Dresden was intended to break German morale</p> <p>About half a million German citizens died in these raids; 7.5 million became homeless</p> <p>By 1945, many became refugees – with millions fleeing the advancing Soviet armies</p>



### Practice question

Describe two problems faced by German civilians in a city such as Berlin in the final months of the Second World War. (4 marks)



### Develop the detail

Each of the following statements lacks detail. Add details to show that you understand the statement.

Statement	Detail
Unemployment went down in the period 1933–39	
The Nazis created jobs 1933–39	
Farmers were helped by Nazi policies 1933–39	
Bomb damage was huge during the Second World War	
Food shortages got worse as the war went on	



### Essay plan

Look at the essay question below.

Which of the following was the more important reason for most Germans supporting Hitler in the 1930s?

- The Nazis providing jobs.
- Nazi policies encouraging loyalty.

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

(12 marks)

- 1 List two factors for each of the bullet points to show they are important.
- 2 Then decide which is more important and explain a reason.

### TIP

In your exam you only have about a minute's writing time per mark! So don't waste time on the low-tariff questions. Save time for the 12-marker.

## 2.8 The impact of Nazi social policies

REVISED

### Women, children and young people had a key role to play in Nazi society

- Hitler wanted all Germans to think of themselves as part of the German state.
- Hitler wanted a woman's role to be a wife or a mother.
- Married couples were encouraged to have more children – and were given rewards for doing so.
- Married women were restricted in what work they could do – until there was a shortage of workers in the late 1930s.
- Children were taught to be good Nazis:
  - at school where subjects such as History were angled to teach Nazi ideas
  - outside school through the **Hitler Youth** (for boys) or the **League of German Maidens** (for girls).
- Physical fitness was seen as very important for both girls (for child-bearing) and boys (future German soldiers). Youth camps took children off to explore the countryside.

### Nazi attempts to control the German Churches had mixed results

- Hitler signed a **Concordat** (an agreement) with the Catholic Church in 1933, promising not to interfere so long as the Church did not interfere in politics.
- Hitler set up the **Reich Church** (an official state Protestant Church), which many Germans supported to start with – before they became aware of the evil of some Nazi policies.
- Some Protestant Church leaders such as Martin Niemöller stood up to Hitler by setting up their own independent churches.

### Nazi racist ideas led to increasing persecution of Jewish people through the 1930s

- The Nazis believed in the superiority of the **Aryan** race (the white-skinned race of northern Europe). Other racial groups were persecuted, including gypsies and Jews.
- Laws were passed restricting what Jews could do. For example, in 1935 the Nuremberg Laws stated that Jews were not German citizens and could not marry Germans.
- In November 1938, discrimination turned into persecution in a Nazi-organised purge known as **Kristallnacht** (Night of Broken Glass):
  - Jewish properties including synagogues were attacked
  - many Jews were killed or injured
  - 20,000 Jews were taken to concentration camps
  - other Jews left the country
  - hundreds of synagogues were destroyed.

### Hitler's actions against the Jews got worse, ending in the genocide of the Holocaust

- Once the war began and the Germans invaded other countries, Hitler's campaigns against the Jews spread from Germany to newly conquered territories such as Poland.

#### Key point

Hitler intended to transform German society to reflect Nazi ideals and beliefs. There was no room for alternative views. This affected all sections of society – and especially the Jews.



#### Test yourself

- 1 What was the role of women in Nazi Germany?
- 2 What was the Concordat?
- 3 What was *Kristallnacht*?

#### TIP

The highest marks in the mark scheme are reserved for candidates who show 'complex thinking'. What this means varies according to the type of question. Complex thinking for the 'Support or challenge' question on page 45 would be showing that you really understand how **variable** people's experiences were under the Nazis depending on who you were or when you lived.

- They escalated in stages into a programme of extermination.

Ghettos	Einsatzgruppen	The Final Solution
In 1939, the Jewish population was rounded up and forced to live in overcrowded <b>ghettos</b> (areas of a city with little sanitation or food). Many people died of disease or starvation	From 1941, after the invasion of Russia, half a million Jews in German-occupied areas were rounded up and shot by SS squads called <b>Einsatzgruppen</b>	In 1942, the Nazis started what they called the Final Solution. This was the deliberate policy to wipe out the Jewish population by taking Jews to <b>death camps</b> such as Auschwitz or Treblinka in Poland. They were worked to death or murdered with poison gas

- Other groups who the Nazis wanted to get rid of, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and Soviet prisoners of war, were also murdered in these death camps.
- There is no agreement among historians about how much Hitler was personally responsible, but there is no doubt that he knew what was happening.
- Other countries gradually found out about what the Nazis were doing but they found it hard to believe the full extent of it and little specific action was taken.

### Develop the detail

Add details to the blank boxes in the right-hand column to summarise the stages by which Hitler's hatred of the Jews became the actions of the Holocaust.

<b>Before 1933</b>	Hitler developed racial theories that justified Aryan superiority
<b>1933-35</b> List Nazi actions against the Jews	Once in power ...
<b>1936</b>	There was reduced persecution of the Jews - Olympic Games held in Berlin
<b>1938</b> List further actions against the Jews	
<b>1939 onwards</b> Explain how the war changed things	There were many Jews living in countries occupied by the Nazis ...
<b>1942-45: The Holocaust</b> Summarise key developments and their impact	

### Support or challenge?

For each piece of evidence below, decide whether it supports or challenges this overall statement.

'German people benefited from Nazi rule in the years 1933-39.'

- A German children were taught that they were members of a master-race.
- B Married couples were given financial rewards if they had four or more children.
- C Children were taught by teachers who supported the Nazis.
- D Women were restricted in what careers they could have.
- E The Jews were no longer German citizens after the Nuremberg Laws were passed in 1935.
- F Most German boys were keen to join the Hitler Youth movement.

**Challenge:** now list as many other points as you can on each side of the argument, using the information on these two pages and your own knowledge.



## 2.9 The Nazi dictatorship

REVISED

### Ideas were controlled by propaganda and censorship

- Propaganda stressed the importance of the Nazi state and the superiority of the German people.
- Every year the Nazis put on a spectacular and colourful **Nuremberg Rally** with vast meetings and marches. These rallies showed how Nazis brought discipline and order out of chaos.
- Goebbels controlled what was broadcast on the radio and in newspapers. Books that did not reflect Nazi values were burned.
- Goebbels restricted what artists, writers and musicians were allowed to show or perform. All films had to have a pro-Nazi message.
- However, German people were not simply brainwashed. Many Germans in the 1930s genuinely valued the Nazis' economic achievements, Hitler's foreign policy and the restoration of stable government.

#### Key point

Nazi Germany was a police state. German people could not think or speak openly. They were controlled through a combination of terror, propaganda and censorship. The result was that the Nazi leadership faced only limited opposition.

### Nazi Germany was a police state

- The SS and **Gestapo** intimidated people into accepting Nazi rule.

Organisation	Leader	Role
SS	Himmler	Responsible for destroying opposition to the Nazis and carrying out Nazi racial policies
Gestapo (state secret police)	Heydrich	Could arrest on suspicion and send people to concentration camps without trial

- So-called concentration camps were set up from the first months of Hitler's regime to detain and terrorise political prisoners and Nazi critics.

### Resistance was punished harshly as an example to others

- There was not much resistance to the Nazis. People were afraid to speak out. Many felt that the benefits of Nazi rule outweighed their bad points.
- Even in the early years of the Second World War, actual opposition groups and resistance were slow to develop.
- Young people opposed the regime in different ways and some were punished harshly for it.

#### TIP

Don't confuse concentration camps with 'death camps', where the mass murder of Jews started in 1942.

White Rose Group	Swing Youth	Edelweiss Pirates
A group of students at Munich University who used leaflets, posters and graffiti to criticise the Nazis. The leaders were arrested, tortured and killed	Middle-class teenagers who rebelled against Nazi values, for example by playing American jazz music that the Nazis had banned. The Nazis disapproved but did not take this seriously enough to impose severe punishments	Disaffected, mainly working-class, teenagers who made fun of the Nazis and their policies. Again mostly ignored until in wartime when some were hanged after committing acts of espionage

- Various plots were hatched to kill Hitler. Only one came close to success – the **Stauffenberg bomb plot** in July 1944, organised by army officers. Their bomb went off but Hitler was only slightly injured.
- The Nazi response to the **July Bomb Plot** was typically violent. The plotters were all executed. The SS rounded up another 5000 opponents and killed them by shooting, hanging or torture.



## Eliminate irrelevance

In what ways did the lives of children change in the 1930s under Nazi rule? (8 marks)

Cross out the elements in the sample answer below that are not relevant to the question.

Children's lives changed a lot in the 1930s because at school they were taught how to be good Nazis. They were taught why the Nazis were the ruling race at this time in history.

The Nazis believed that they were destined to rule the earth, and therefore they wanted to conquer as many other territories as possible. Women were also involved with working for Hitler by being good mothers at home. Children were strongly encouraged to join the Hitler Youth movement and learn military drill as well as keeping fit by strenuous exercise.



## Essay plan

Which was the more important reason for the Nazis achieving a high degree of control over the German people, 1933–39?

- Nazi propaganda and censorship.
- The work of the SS and Gestapo.

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons. (12 marks)

- 1 Write a list of points you would use for each bullet point.
- 2 Decide which bullet point you think was more important.
- 3 Write your essay conclusion.



## Test yourself

- 1 What were the Nuremberg rallies?
- 2 List three reasons why there was little opposition to Hitler in the 1930s.
- 3 List three groups who resisted Hitler during the Second World War and say what happened to them.



## Practice question

**INTERPRETATION G** *From the memoirs of Henry Metelmann, who grew up in Germany. His father was a Communist sympathiser. Published in 1990.*

Even though my father hated everything connected with the Nazis, I loved being in the Hitler Youth. I liked the comradeship, the marching, the sport and the war games. We were brought up to love our Führer who to me was like a second god. There was no law to join the Hitler Youth. Even so, only one of my classmates managed to stay out of it.

**INTERPRETATION H** *From an interview with Karma Rauhut about her experiences growing up in Nazi Germany. Published in 1993.*

My friend and I went to every American film going, no matter how bad it was. And there were shops where you could go and buy jazz records in the back room. What you did NOT do was live up to the Nazi ideal of beauty and culture. A woman's life under Hitler was completely dreadful.

- 1 How does Interpretation H differ from Interpretation G about the attitudes of young people towards Nazi rule in Germany in the 1930s? Explain your answer using Interpretations G and H. (4 marks)
- 2 Why might the authors of Interpretations G and H have different views about life for young people in Nazi Germany in the 1930s? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. (4 marks)
- 3 Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the attitudes of young people towards Nazi rule in the 1930s? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. (8 marks)

# Exam focus: Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

## Model answers

Here are model answers for each of the question types on the Germany Period Study. The annotations highlight what makes it a good answer.

These questions are based on Interpretations E and F on page 41.

### Question 1: How do interpretations differ?

How does Interpretation E differ from Interpretation F about the Reichstag Fire?

(4 marks)

The two interpretations have different beliefs about how the fire started. Interpretation A says that the fire was started by van der Lubbe on his own without any help. He was caught red-handed at the scene. Interpretation B says that the fire was planned and started by the Nazis who wanted an opportunity to act against the rival Communist Party.

Opening sentence clearly addresses the question

Shows clear understanding of the interpretations and how they are different

Includes relevant detail from the interpretation. Note that this is only 4 marks so you have about 5 minutes to answer this question, including reading the interpretations. You won't have time to write much!

### Question 2: Why do interpretations differ?

Why might the authors of Interpretations E and F have a different interpretation about the Reichstag Fire?

(4 marks)

The authors have different motives. Rudolf Diels is trying to protect his reputation from when he was in charge of the Berlin police force at the time. He is writing after the Nazis have been defeated and he is keen to justify his actions at the time. The British historian has no sympathy whatsoever with Hitler's actions – as seen in the title of the book. It was written soon after the war when anti-German feelings were running high in Britain and elsewhere. Bullock is aware of how strange a character van der Lubbe was, and argues that he was incapable of carrying out the fire on his own.

Clear summary of the purpose of the interpretation using information about the provenance

Develops the explanation of how this purpose might affect the author's interpretation

Clearly addresses the question in the first sentence. You could focus on other reasons (for example, nature or origin of the interpretation) but you only have a short time so it is best to focus on one reason only and explain it fully

### Question 3: How convincing are these interpretations?

Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the Reichstag Fire?

(8 marks)

Interpretation E is less convincing. I know that van der Lubbe was a strange character, and was easily influenced. He was not even a strong Communist Party member, and could be made to confess with little difficulty. The fire started simultaneously in quite a few places, and so one person, however expert, would have had difficulty in achieving such a raging fire so quickly. Although the author of F is obviously biased, he has knowledge to support his argument. Goering and Hitler were very quick to condemn the fire as a Communist outrage - too quick to have had time for any investigations. The Nazi headquarters was next door to the Reichstag and there was a passage which led from one to the other. It would have been easy for Nazis to have started the fire and then escaped from the scene. Most historians now assume that van der Lubbe was the unfortunate victim in Hitler's desire to outwit the Communists.

Starts by directly addressing the question and giving an overall judgement

Specific own knowledge is used to evaluate the information in both interpretations

### Question 4: Describe two ways

Describe two ways in which Germany suffered economically after the Wall Street Crash.

(4 marks)

Germany suffered economically from the USA withdrawing its loans. These had been needed for helping the growth of German industry and trade. Many industries could not survive; many Germans became unemployed; and this affected living standards. Six million were unemployed by early 1933.

Directly addresses the question and gives one relevant detail

Adds a little explanation or extra detail to show the relevance of the point given

### Question 5: In what ways ... ?

In what ways did the style of German government under Wilhelm II affect how the country developed?

(8 marks)

Wilhelm II was powerful and made sure that the Reichstag leaders were kept under control. This meant that he could decide policies - such as the expansion of the navy, which the Reichstag agreed to by passing the Navy Laws.

Each paragraph opens with one clear point which addresses the question

The Reichstag had representatives from many political parties, but increasingly there were more socialist members - about 30 per cent by 1914. This meant that, with coalition governments, the left wing had influence to get policies implemented that they favoured. For example, Germany gained old-age pensions and sickness and unemployment insurance before the end of the nineteenth century.

Specific own knowledge is used to develop this point and clearly linked to it

Lastly, the ruling conservative elite retained much power, and this meant that traditional attitudes towards society remained strong.

## Question 6: Which reason?

Which of the following was the more important reason why Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany in 1933?

- The effects of the Wall Street Crash.
- The role of Nazi propaganda.

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

(12 marks)

One important reason why Hitler was able to gain the position of Chancellor in January 1933 was the effects of the Wall Street Crash. Germany had been very dependent on loans from the USA, and Germany still owed reparations to the Allies. Even though the amounts had been reduced in the Dawes and Young Plans of 1924 and 1929, the payments still represented a huge burden to the German economy that had only been buoyant because of American money.

Each section clearly addresses one of the reasons given in the question. It opens with a sentence showing which reason is being considered

Many businesses went bankrupt, leading to high unemployment, which reached 6 million in early 1933. The optimism of the 1920s quickly disappeared as many families suffered a drastic decline in their living standards and many relied on soup kitchens to provide basic food. Many Germans had come to accept their new system of government in the Weimar Republic but the Crash reopened criticisms about its structure and its underlying weaknesses again became paramount. Thus, the Wall Street Crash provided opportunities for Hitler and the Nazis to gain support at the expense of traditional political parties.

The answer uses specific own knowledge to show the role of this reason

The answer then links back to the question and explains the importance of this reason

On the other hand, the role of Nazi propaganda was important. The Nazis seized on the weaknesses of the Weimar government and promised a return to strong rule – as before the First World War under the Kaiser. The Nazis promised to restore Germany's position in the world and overturn the hated Treaty of Versailles. Lost territory would be regained and the restrictions on Germany's armed forces would be ended. Germans would be able to hold their heads high again among European nations. Nazi propaganda also promised jobs and employment.

Nazi propaganda was effective and therefore important because of its methods. It was often visual and colourful – with posters and banners. Parades along city streets by smartly dressed Nazi Stormtroopers conveyed to onlookers the spirit of determination to address Germany's problems that the leaders of the Weimar government appeared to lack. Nazi propaganda seized the opportunities that a weak government allowed.

However, I believe that the Wall Street Crash was more important as it created the circumstances that allowed the Nazis to build up support with their propaganda and promises. Before the Crash, in 1928, the Nazis only had twelve members in the Reichstag. The Nazis were the eighth largest party. This emphasises the importance of the sudden change in economic circumstances prompted by the Wall Street Crash.

The answer gives a judgement about which reason was more important. This judgement is supported. You can show how one reason had more of an impact than the other, or look at how the reasons might be linked

## Glossary: Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

- Abdicate** Give up a throne
- Allies** The countries that fought Germany and the other Central Powers during the First World War
- Armistice** A ceasefire – an agreement to end fighting
- Article 48** The part of the Weimar constitution that allowed the President to take emergency powers without consulting the Reichstag
- Aryan** In the Nazi sense, a master race of white northern Europeans
- Autobahn** German word for motorway
- Chancellor** Leader of the German government
- Concentration camp** A camp used by Nazis to hold political opponents in Germany
- Concordat** An agreement between the papacy and a state
- Conscription** A means of raising an army; eligible people are forced to join the armed forces of a country
- Constitution** Rules that regulate how a country is governed
- Death camp** A place for the mass murder of Jews and others by the Nazis
- Depression** Long period of financial problems, leading to lower living standards. The Great Depression of the 1930s affected many countries around the world
- Einsatzgruppen** A death squad consisting of SS, police and local people
- Enabling Act** Allowed Hitler power to pass laws for four years without consulting the Reichstag
- Freikorps** Ex-soldiers in Germany after the First World War who supported right-wing political parties
- Führer** The German word for leader; in this sense the absolute dictator of Germany
- German Labour Front** The Nazi-controlled trade union
- Gestapo** Secret police in Nazi Germany who had a network of informers
- Ghetto** Part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by a minority or persecuted group, usually in crowded and insanitary conditions
- Hitler Youth** An organisation for boys where they were taught militaristic skills
- Hyperinflation** Where prices increase very rapidly and out of control
- July Bomb Plot** A failed attempt by German army officers to assassinate Hitler
- Kaiser** Title of ruler of Germany from 1871 to 1918. Equivalent of Emperor
- Kristallnacht** The Night of Broken Glass; the shattered glass fragments looked like crystals
- League of German Maidens** An organisation for girls where they were taught home-making skills
- Left wing** Socialist or progressive attitudes favouring state control of industry
- National Labour Service** Unemployed workers were forced to work for the Nazi state
- Night of the Long Knives** The night (actually a weekend) in June 1934 when Hitler used the SS to kill leaders of the SA and others who had recently angered him
- November Criminals** An abusive term for those German politicians who had signed the armistice to end the First World War
- Nuremberg Rally** The annual mass meeting of the Nazi Party, which was held in Nuremberg
- Parliamentary government** Elected representatives having responsibility for policies and law-making
- President** Elected head of state. In Germany, the President was elected for seven years
- Propaganda** Intensive use of mass media to spread political ideas
- Proportional representation (PR)** An electoral system where political parties get seats in proportion to how many votes they get
- Putsch** A revolt designed to overthrow an existing government and seize power
- Reich Church** A Nazi-controlled Protestant Church
- Reichstag** German Parliament
- Reparations** Compensation to be paid by Germany to France, Belgium, Britain and other states as a result of the First World War
- Republic** A country with no hereditary ruler; the head of state is elected
- Right wing** Conservative or traditional attitudes favouring authoritarian government
- Ruhr** An industrial region in western Germany
- SA** Brownshirts or stormtroopers; the private army of the Nazi Party
- Social Democratic Party** A left-wing political party; the popular party in Germany in the 1920s
- Socialist** Left-wing political party or views, defending the rights and welfare of ordinary people, particularly working-class people, and wanting controls on business
- Spartacists** Communists in Germany in 1919 who wanted a revolution in Germany similar to the 1917 revolution in Russia
- SS** Organisation within the Nazi Party which began as Hitler's bodyguard but expanded to become a state within a state