



Key topic 1: The Weimar Republic 1918–29

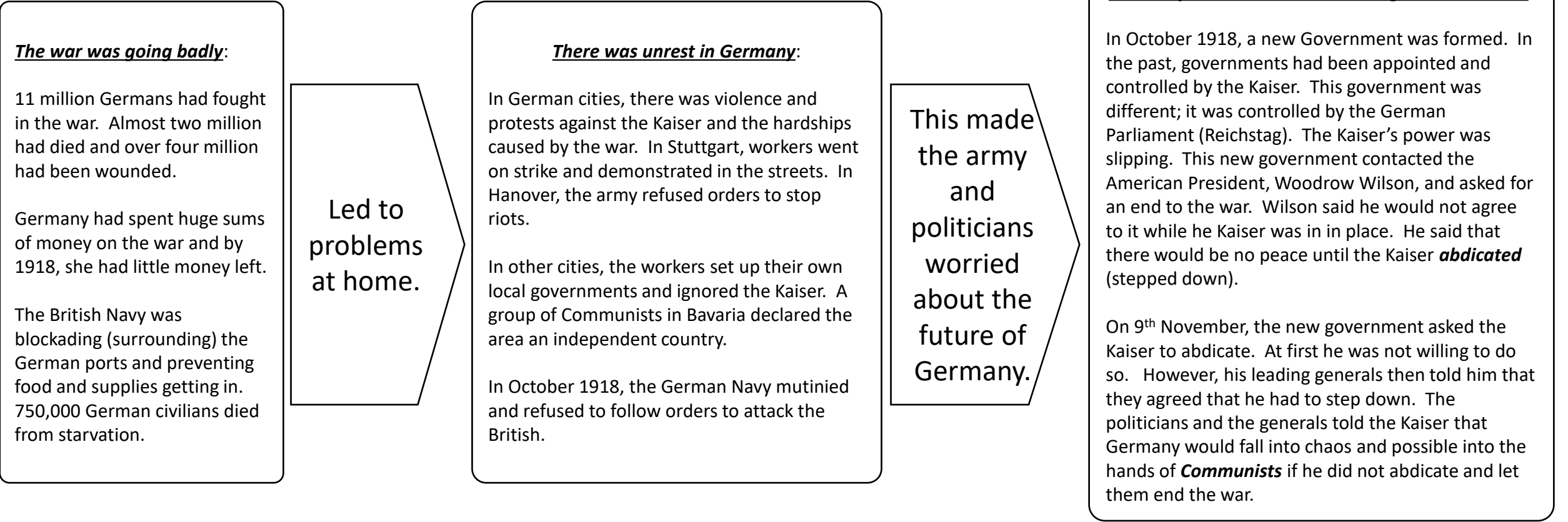
1 The origins of the Weimar Republic, 1918–19



The signing
of the
Armistice,
November
1919

Why did the Kaiser Abdicate?

By the Summer of 1918, Germany had been at war for four years. By 1918, the Germans were facing the combined might of Britain and its Empire, France, The USA and Italy. She had also been at war with Russia up until 1917. The German **Kaiser**, Wilhelm II, had taken his country into war with the support of his leading generals. They had hoped to become the major power in Europe. However, by November 1918, the once powerful Kaiser was on the edge of losing his throne. Why did this happen?



On 9th November 1918, the Kaiser abdicated and fled to Holland. Germany was now a **republic**.

What happened after the Kaiser Abdicated?

What changed immediately?

9th November: The leader of the Social Democratic Party, Friedrich Ebert, became the new **Chancellor** of Germany. The Social Democrats (SPD) were the largest party in the Reichstag.

10th November: Ebert made an agreement with the army to make sure they supported his government and stopped the communist taking power by force.

Ebert then set up a new government of six people to run the country until a new **constitution** could be written.

11th November: Ebert sent a representative to sign the armistice with the allies. The war was stopped.

What did Ebert do between November 1918 and July 1919?

- Ebert made sure there was some form of government and that the **civil servants** supported it.
- Ebert made sure the army would support the new Republic.
- Ebert made sure businessmen knew he would not threaten their wealth and property. He won them over to support the Republic.
- Ebert did a deal with the **trade unions** so they would not threaten the new Republic by organising strikes and demonstrations.
- Ebert arranged elections for a body to write a new constitution for Germany. This body, known as the National Assembly, was dominated by Ebert's SPD. They had to leave Berlin because there was still too much violence and met in the town of Weimar in February 1919. By July they had written a new constitution for Germany.

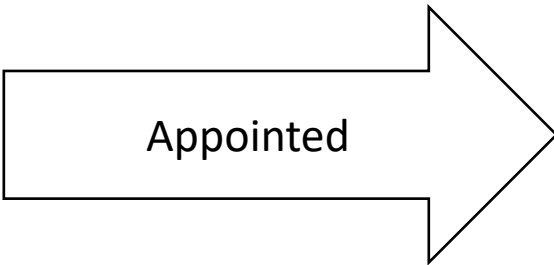
Ebert made sure he had enough support in the short term to build a new Republic. There was still violence and unrest. Things would not be easy over the coming years, but he had managed to build a new nation.

The Weimar Republic:

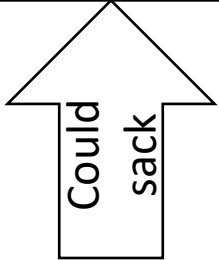
Germany between 1919 and 1933 is known as the **Weimar Republic** or **Weimar Germany**. The government of Germany between 1919 and 1933 is known as the **Weimar Government**. The constitution of Germany between 1919 and 1933 is known as the **Weimar Constitution**.

What was the Weimar Constitution?

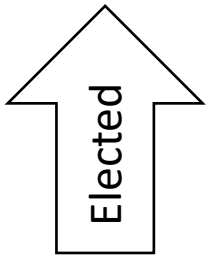
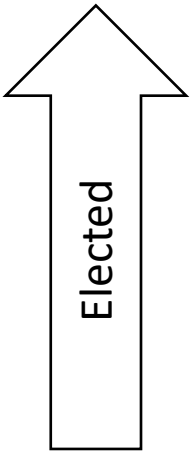
President
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of the Weimar Republic.• Elected every seven years.• Not part of day-to-day politics.• Could choose the Chancellor and appoint army officers.• In an emergency could make laws using Article 48 of the Constitution.



The Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chancellor was head of the government. He chose all other members of the government. The Chancellor needed the support of the majority of the Reichstag.• The Cabinet was the main decision making body of the Government. It was made up of government ministers. Each minister would run one area of government (e.g. the economy).



The Reichstag
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Reichstag was a the German Parliament.• It was elected every four years.• It controlled taxation.• It made all laws.• It could sack the Chancellor.



Electorate: Voters – made up of all men and women 21 years old and above.

What were the Strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution?

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p><u>It was Democratic:</u> All men and women over 21 had the vote. This was more democratic than Britain.</p> <p>The method of electing the Reichstag was very democratic. It was called <i>proportional representation</i> and made sure all of the political parties got a fair share of seats in the Reichstag.</p> <p><u>Checks and Balances:</u> The Constitution made sure that no one group or person could have too much power. It controlled (or <i>checked</i>) everyone and <i>balanced</i> the power throughout the different groups and people involved.</p> <p>The Chancellor could be sacked by the President or the Reichstag.</p> <p>The Chancellor needed permission from the Reichstag to make changes to the law and spend money.</p> <p>There was a body called the <i>Reichsrat</i> that could block laws made by the Reichstag.</p> <p>The President and Reichstag could be sacked by the people at elections.</p> <p>Some powers remained with local parliaments, known as <i>Lander</i>.</p>	<p><u>Coalition Government:</u> Proportional representation made sure that small parties had seats in the Reichstag. This led to there being around 29 political parties in the Reichstag. No one party had enough seats to make laws alone, so they had to group together in what is known as a <i>coalition government</i>. The different parties would join together and negotiate deals on what laws to make. This meant no one party got its own way.</p> <p>However, it did lead to lots of arguments and coalitions would break up leaving Germany without a government. There were nine governments between 1919 and 1923. Some Germans felt this made the government look weak and they lost respect for democracy.</p> <p><u>Weakness in a crisis:</u> <i>Article 48</i> of the constitution said that in an emergency, the President could pass laws without asking the Reichstag. When this part of the constitution was written, no one thought there would be so many crises in Weimar Germany. However, they were wrong and the President got to use his power a great deal.</p> <p>By the late 1930s, the President was passing laws in this way on a regular basis. He bypassed the Reichstag and this made the democracy look weak.</p>

Key topic 1: The Weimar Republic 1918–29

2 The early challenges to the Weimar Republic, 1919–23



Members of the Freikorps in 1919.

What were the problems facing the Weimar Republic 1919-23?: The “Stab in the Back”.

From the very start, the Weimar Republic was hated by some Germans.

The Weimar Republic did not start until July 1919, but it was still blamed for some of Germany's problems at the end of the war.

The Stab in the Back: When the fighting came to an end in November 1918, Germany was still doing quite well. German troops had been gaining ground during the summer and they still occupied large areas of France and Belgium.

Many Germans did not understand why Germany had surrendered. They began to blame the new democratic politicians, like Ebert, who had agreed to the surrender. They created a new version of events, which was not true, but was believed by many. Some Germans said the army had been let down, or “***stabbed in the back***” by the politicians.

This is often called the “Stab in the Back” theory, or Dolchstoß.

The German people believed that the politicians, sometimes encouraged by Jews and Communists, had forced the Kaiser out and then let down the army by forcing it to surrender. The consequence of this was that the politicians were very unpopular with some Germans.

Cartoon from Weimar Germany showing a Jew doing the Stab in the Back



Cartoon from Weimar Germany showing a Communist doing the Stab in the Back



Cartoon from Weimar Germany showing a Social Democrat doing the Stab in the Back



What were the problems facing the Weimar Republic 1919-23?: The Treaty Of Versailles.

After the signing of the Armistice, the Allied leaders met in Paris to decide how to deal with Germany. There was a debate between Britain, France and the USA over how harshly Germany should be punished. The French wanted a huge punishment, the USA a soft one, and the British somewhere in between the two. In July 1919, the Allies published the results of their discussions – The Treaty of Versailles. It was signed by the Germans at the former palace of Versailles, just outside Paris. The Germans were unhappy with the outcome and they partly blamed the Weimar Government.

What the Treaty said:	Why the Germans were unhappy?
<u>War Guilt</u> : Article 231 of the Treaty said that Germany had to take all blame for the war. The Germans had to pay compensation to the Allies and have their power reduced so they could not start another war.	The Germans felt this was unfair. Other countries, including Serbia, Austria Hungary, France and Russia had also been involved. They felt it was a humiliation to be given the blame.
<u>Reparations</u> : Reparations was the compensation the Germans had to pay to the Allies for war damage. It was eventually fixed at £6.6 billion.	This ruined the German economy. It was already weak after the war, but the reparations destroyed it. Germany did not have the money and it resulted in economic collapse, hardship, starvation, unemployment and inflation.
<i>Germany lost its Empire</i> : The German Empire in Asia and Africa was taken over by the Allies.	The Empire was a status symbol that made Germany important and powerful. Losing the Empire made it appear weaker. The Empire was also a source of wealth, raw materials and trade – all were lost.

Key Words: ***Inflation***: Rising prices

What were the problems facing the Weimar Republic 1919-23?: The Treaty Of Versailles.

What the Treaty said:	Why the Germans were unhappy?
<u>Military Restrictions</u> : Germany's military was limited to 100,000 men, six battleships, no tanks, no airforce. The area of Germany next to France, The Rhineland, was demilitarised which meant no soldiers could be placed there.	Germany was a major military power, but that was taken away. The loss of the military was a major embarrassment. Equally, Germany was no really vulnerable to attack. The threat of attack from France and Russia was real and the Germans could not defend themselves.
<u>Loss of Land</u> : This included: Alsace and Lorraine to France. Eupen and Malmedy to Belgium. Posen and West Prussia and Posen to Poland. This represented 10% of its population, 13% of its surface area, 50% of its iron and 15% of its coal.	The loss of land meant the loss of money in the form of raw materials, farmland, factories and workers. It was also humiliating to lose land to its enemies and see its people forced to live in other countries.

The Diktat: Many Germans were angry at the way the Treaty was negotiated. They had believed that when they surrendered they would have had a say in what the Treaty said. They were wrong. The Treaty was forced on them and they had no say. This was known in Germany as the ***Diktat*** which means a harsh and forced punishment.

What were the problems facing the Weimar Republic 1919-23?:

Challenges from Left and Right.

Clearly, not everyone was happy with the new Weimar Republic. Some groups chose to express that anger by using violence to overthrow or threaten the Republic. They also stood for election to the Reichstag where they would not join the government, but would criticise it and try and stop it from doing its job by being disruptive.

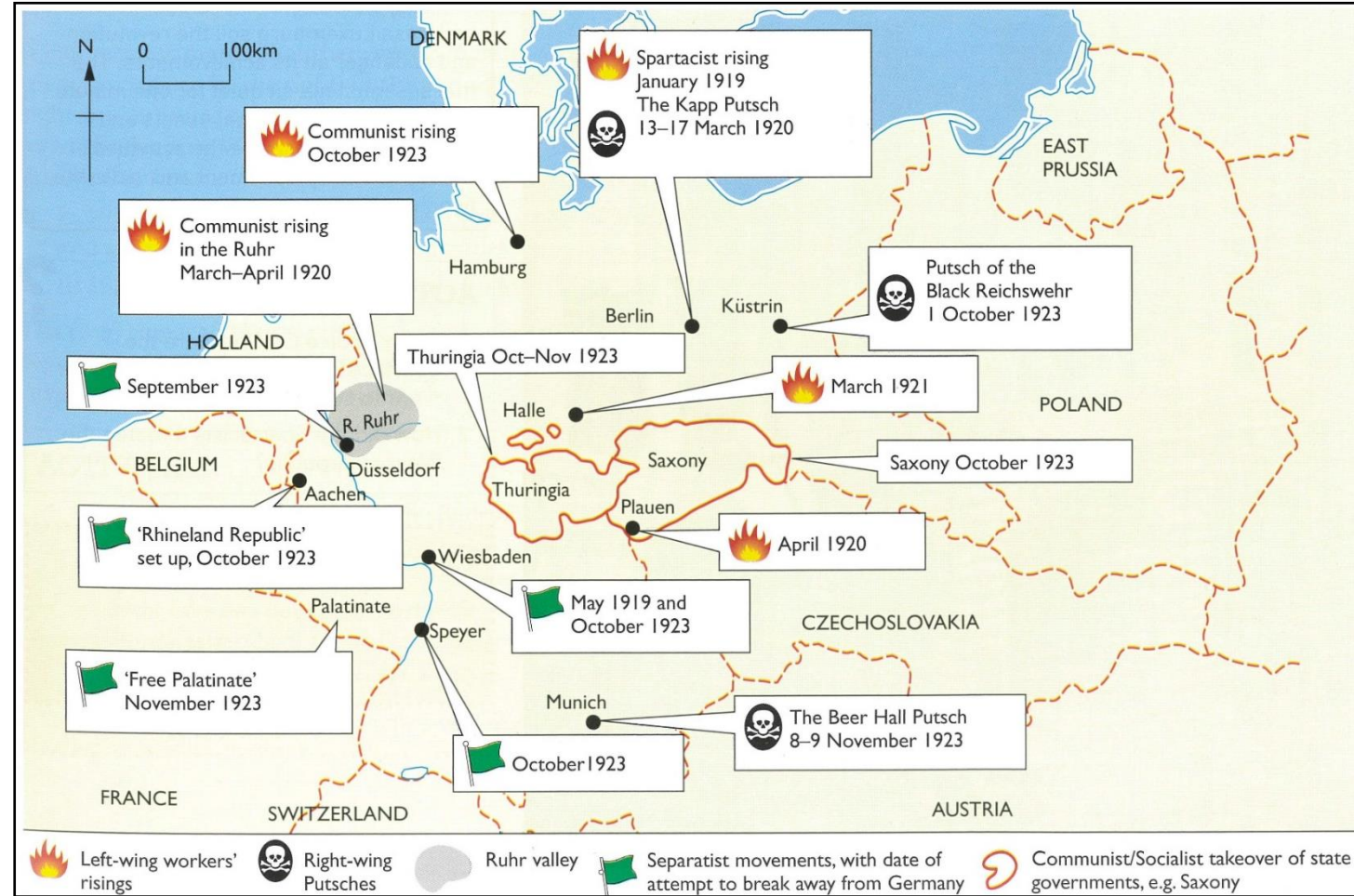
Extreme Right-Wing Groups:

- Disliked democracy and felt it was slow and weak.
- Wanted a stronger government with a strong leader like the Kaiser. They wanted one person running the country free from the controls of democracy.
- Wanted a strong economy with people owning private property.
- Liked the idea of law and order and traditions.
- Pushed forward nationalism – the idea that Germany should be a strong country and that Germany were superior to other nations.

Extreme Left-Wing Groups:

- Wanted the people to have more say in how the country was run.
- Opposed private property and wanted more equality and fair shares.
- Wanted property, land and business to be owned and run by the whole population, not by a few rich people.
- Wanted Germany to cooperate with other countries with left-wing governments; especially Russia.

Between 1919 and 1923, these groups caused problems for the Weimar Government. The map below shows some of the many examples of political violence from this period.



What were the problems facing the Weimar Republic 1919-23?:

Challenges from Left: The Spartacist Uprising, January 1919

After the Kaiser abdicated Germany was in turmoil and in desperate need of leadership. The country was on its knees - its people were starving and violence was breaking out between ex-soldiers (known as the **Freikorps**) and Communist groups. The new government was run by the Social Democrats, but the Communists groups were threatening the government. One of the main groups to threaten the new Government was the Spartacus League.

<p>The Spartacus League (Spartacists)</p> <p>Leaders: Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht</p> <p>Membership: approx. 5,000</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Germany to be a Republic.2 Germany to be governed by workers' and soldiers councils in each town. No national parliament.3 Police and army officers to be disarmed. Army to be disbanded. Local workers' militias set up to take its place.4 Immediate nationalisation and workers' control of all mines, factories, large companies and large estates of land.5 People to have right of free speech and all other personal freedoms.6 Full range of welfare benefits for workers. <p>Methods: Revolutionary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Street demonstrations and rallies.2 Strikes.3 Sabotage and assassination.4 No co-operation with Ebert. No support for the proposed parliament.

<p><u>The Spartacist Uprising of January 1919:</u></p> <p>All through late 1918 there were armed clashes between groups of ex-Soldiers (known as the Freikorps) and the Spartacists.</p> <p>The Spartacists thought that the hardship and hunger in Germany would make the ordinary German people support a communist revolution. Therefore in January 1919, the Spartacists tried to stage a revolution to overthrow President Ebert's Social Democratic Government. On the night of the 5th January the Spartacists captured the government newspaper and telegraph office.</p> <p>The Spartacist uprising was badly organised. They did not have the support of any other left-wing groups and the leadership had made few plans about what they intended to do.</p> <p>The Weimar Government encouraged the Freikorps to crush the uprising. The Freikorps had no legal power to stop the Spartacists, but they were the only group strong enough to do so. The Government had no real military strength and so depended on these ex-soldiers for protection.</p> <p>Thousands of Spartacists were killed by the Freikorps and the Government survived. The new government had managed to survive its first challenge</p> <p>However, President Ebert was made to look bad - he had used illegally armed men to kill working-class men and women.</p>

<p><u>Key Words:</u> Militia: An informal army made up of local people. Freikorps: Groups of right-wing ex-soldiers who formed militias in some German cities.</p>

What were the problems facing the Weimar Republic 1919-23?:

Challenges from the Right: The Kapp Putsch (1920) and political murders

Background to the Kapp Putsch

After the new Weimar government signed the Treaty of Versailles many Germans were very unhappy. They felt that Germany had been betrayed by the government. They objected to the terms of the Treaty and the Diktat.

In particular the army was very angry. The army had been severely reduced. Many soldiers were forced to leave the armed forces. Many joined the Freikorps. The allies put pressure on the Weimar government to disband the Freikorps.

When the government tried to do this in March, 5000 armed Freikorps marched on Berlin and claimed they had set up a new government. President Ebert ordered the Army to attack the Freikorps, but the Army refused, saying the Freikorps were soldiers just like them.

This was called the Kapp Putsch because it was led by Wolfgang Kapp. Kapp was made the head of the Government and he called for the Kaiser to return.

Government Reaction to the Kapp Putsch

The Government feared they would be killed and ran away to Dresden. They knew the army would not help them, so they asked the workers to help them. They called on the workers to go on strike. All essential services stopped because of the strike and it was clear that the Kapp Putsch had little support amongst the people.

The Kapp Putsch failed within four days.

Political Murders

Political murders, or **assassinations**, were common in Weimar Germany. Between 1919 and 1922, 376 politicians were killed, mainly by Right-Wing groups. Ebert's close allies, including his foreign minister and his representative who signed the Armistice, were killed.

Not a single right-wing assassin was convicted as the police and judges supported their actions and let them off.

What were the Challenges of 1923?: The French Occupation of the Ruhr

Background

- By 1923 the Germans were unable to keep up their reparation payments.
- The French were determined not to let the Germans get away with this and were keen to take action.
- In January 1923 French and Belgian troops marched into the Ruhr area of Germany.
- They seized the factories and mines in the area. This was quite legal under the Treaty of Versailles.

Government Reaction

The Government was afraid of losing the Ruhr. They had already lost large areas of land under the Versailles Treaty and the loss of the Ruhr would have upset the German people even more and would have further damaged the German economy.

The Government under Ebert set up a policy of **Passive Resistance**. This meant the German people living in the Ruhr would not cooperate with the French - this included not doing any work. This caused hardship for the Germans as the factories were not producing anything so they could not earn any money.

The government paid the strikers' wages which cost the government huge amounts of money they did not have. The French responded by expelling 150,000 Germans from the Ruhr. They also killed 32 people, including a seven year old boy.

Eventually, in August 1923 the new Chancellor, Gustav Stresemann was forced to call off the passive resistance.

Positives and negatives for the Government

- ☑The government had stood up to French and not simply given in.
- ☑The German economy was damaged by the loss of production and high government spending on wages for the strikers.
- ☑The value of the German currency, the mark, was severely reduced by the crisis, this made Germany even poorer and less able to pay off her debts.
- ☑The Government had to back down in the end - this upset some right-wing extremists. However, the French did not get their own way so the government did appear stronger.

What were the Challenges of 1923?: Hyperinflation

Background

When the German government ran out of money because of the reparations and Ruhr Crisis, they simply printed more money. This created an enormous problem. When governments print too much money prices go up and the money becomes worthless. By 1923 money had become worthless. Germans who had once been well off, found that their money was worthless. Wages rose dramatically, but that meant factory owners and shopkeepers had to put up their prices to pay the wages. This meant prices were even higher and the value of money declined even more - this is known as **Hyper inflation**. Germany was bankrupt and had no way of paying her debts.

The effects of hyperinflation

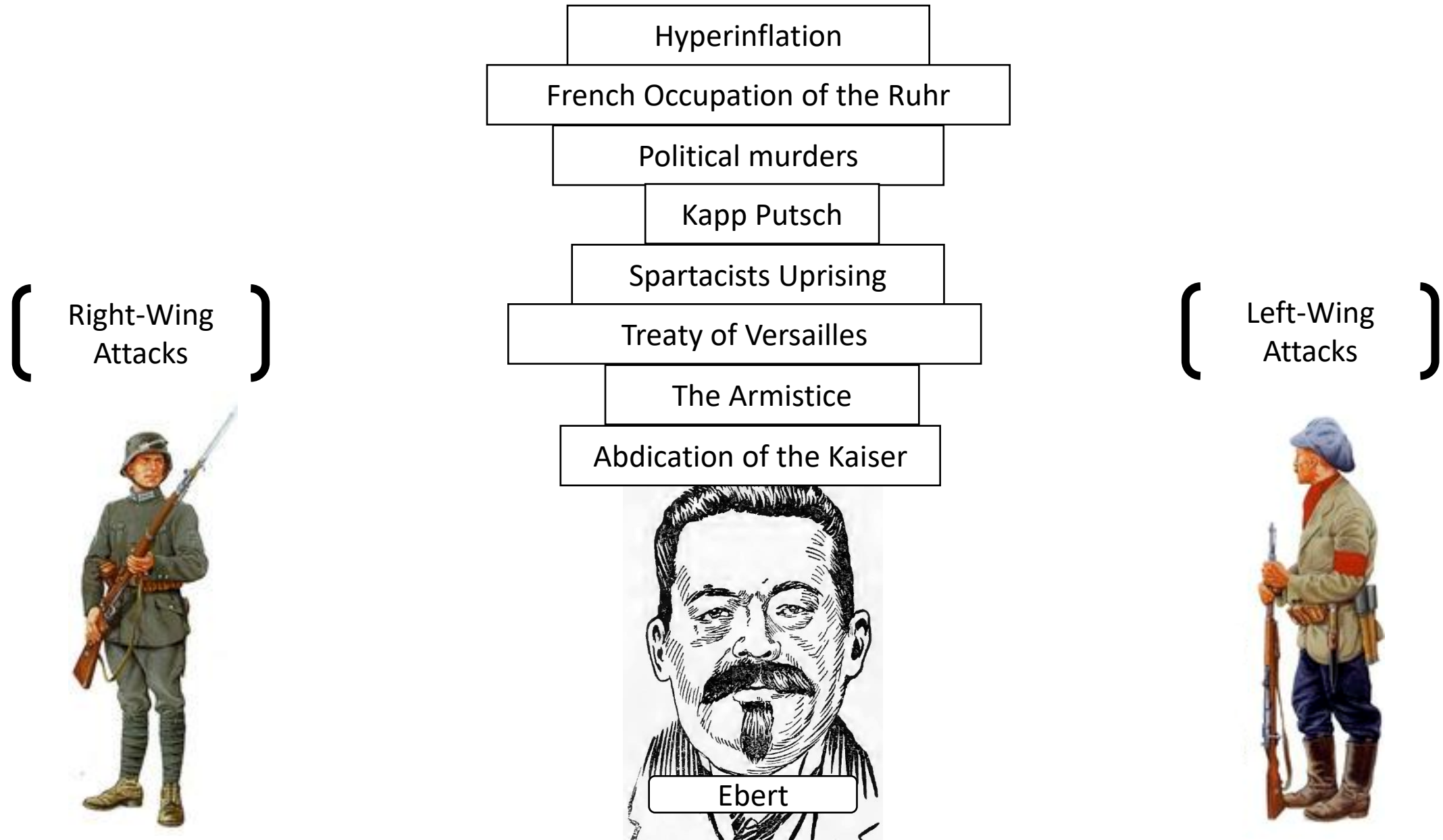
Government Reaction

To start with the government just went on printing more money, which made the situation even worse. Then in October 1923 they introduced a new currency known as the **Rentenmark**. This stabilised the economy until a new permanent currency, the Reich mark was introduced. The value of money was stabilised, but the effects of the crisis were significant

- ☒ Old people on pensions found that their income had disappeared. Their pensions only went up once a year - but prices went up several times per day. They were angry with the government.
- ☒ The middle class Germans (doctors, lawyers etc) were badly affected. They were paid monthly so they suffered from rising prices. They also had savings - but these became worthless as the value of money was wiped out. People with large amounts in their bank accounts soon realised their money was worth nothing. They were very angry with the government.
- ☒ People were generally angry at the whole crisis – they were ashamed that such a thing had happened to Germany. The chaos of the whole thing made life difficult. There were shortages of even the most basic things.

- ☒ Richer people with land and property did well- their property went up in value and kept pace with the inflation. They were also able to buy up the property of the old people and middle class who had to sell their possessions to live. However, this made other Germans angry - they objected to people doing well when they were suffering.
- ☒ The ordinary workers and the unemployed were also OK - their income went up weekly or even daily to keep pace with the prices.
- ☒ People with debts did very well because the value of the money they had to repay was cut by rising prices.

Summary – Problems facing Weimar Germany 1918-23



3 The recovery of the Republic, 1924–29

Who was Gustav Stresemann?



A member of the Reichstag from 1906 and became leader of the Peoples' Party in 1917.

In 1923 he was made Chancellor and ***Foreign Minister***.

He served as Chancellor for a few months.

He remained in office as Foreign Minister until his death in 1929.

He had a number of aims:

- 1) Stabilise the German economy.
- 2) Make Germany a respected country again
- 3) Make politics more stable.
- 4) Regain the trust of the German people and get them to support the Weimar Republic and moderate politician.

Key Words: ***Foreign Minister:*** Member of the government who is responsible for representing the country abroad and negotiating with foreign governments.

Why did the economy recover after 1923?

The Rentenmark

In November 1923, Stresemann set up a government owned bank, the Rentenbank. This bank issued a new currency – the Rentenmark. People had to swap their worthless notes for a limited number of Rentenmarks.

These new notes were in limited circulation and were tied to the value of gold held in Germany. The currency had real value and people started to trust it again. This helped drive out inflation.

In 1923, a new state national bank, the Reichsbank, was given control of the currency, which was renamed the Reichsmark.

This did not solve all the problems of inflation though – people who had lost money did not get it back and this made them bitter.

The Dawes Plan, 1924

The American banker, Charles Dawes, was asked by the allies to resolve the problem of Germany's non-payment of their reparation debts. In April 1924, Stresemann agreed to a new deal:

- Reparations would be reduced to a more manageable £50 million per year.
- The USA would loan Germany £25 billion across the years 1924 and 1930.

The allies were happy with the deal and it looked as if Germany would be able to start rebuilding her economy. The loans allowed the Germans to rebuild her industries.

However:

- The extreme political parties on the left and right were angry that Germany was still paying reparations and that they were dependent on US loans. This was a humiliation.
- The recovery was not that secure. If the USA stopped the loans, the Germany economy would collapse.

The Young Plan, 1929

American banker, Owen Young, came up with another plan in 1929. It reduced the reparations figure to £2 billion and extended the period of repayment.

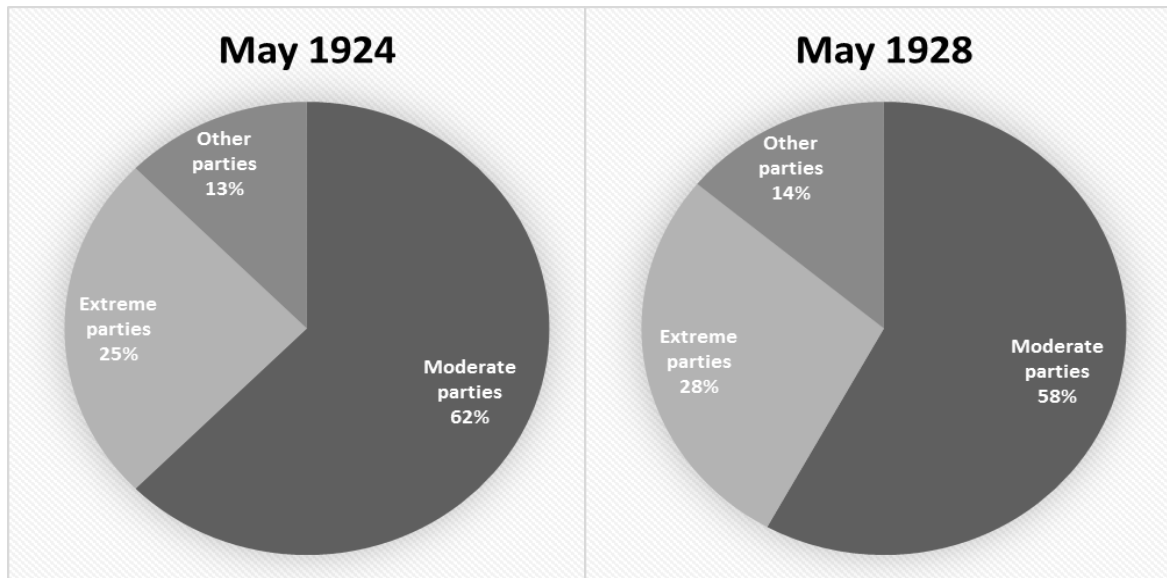
Most people were pleased with the deal and supported Stresemann for negotiating it. Right-wing politicians though, like Hitler, were angry that the reparations were still being paid.

What were the effects of the economic improvements?

Political Stability

The economic improvements did win people over to supporting the Weimar Republic.

Between 1924 and 1929 Democratic political parties, like the Social Democrats did well and extremist parties like the Nazis and Communists did badly.



No one party won a majority of the seats in the Reichstag, but the Social Democrats were the largest party and provided the basis for stable governments. Coalitions worked together and democratic politics started to look as if it was working well.

In 1925, Paul von Hindenburg, a General and war hero, became President of Weimar Germany. He won over the old conservatives who had been reluctant to support the new Republic.

Positive economic effects:

- The government had the money to construct roads, bridges and public buildings. This made Germany stronger and created jobs.
- Wages increased.
- There were fewer strikes.
- Industrial output increased.
- Businesses made more profit and invested more.
- Inflation was virtually eradicated and people had more confidence in the economy and the currency.

Continuing problems:

- Unemployment was still a feature of the economy and it continued to grow across the 1920s. By 1928, 9% of the population were unemployed, compared to 2% 1922.
- Farmers continued to suffer. There was a world-wide over supply and the price of agricultural products fell. Farmers were producing 25% less than they had done in 1913.
- The middle class had lost their savings in the hyperinflation and they did not get it back. Their pay was low and they felt they had lost out.

How did Stresemann improve Germany's position in the world after 1923?

Winning over the French

Stresemann realised that if he was to make Germany a respected power again, he needed to reassure France.

The Locarno Treaty:

In 1925, he negotiated and signed the **Locarno Treaty**: This promised that Germany would respect France and Belgium's borders and not ask for any changes to the land given to them under the Treaty of Versailles. Germany was allowed back onto the international scene as a respected nation. The better relations with the world is sometimes known as the **Locarno Honeymoon**.

League of Nations

In 1920, the **League of Nations** has been set up as part of the Treaty of Versailles. It was an assembly of all nations of the world, but Germany was banned from being a member. In 1926, Germany was allowed to join and become a permanent member of the League's Council – something reserved for only the most powerful nations in the world.

Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928

In 1928, Germany signed the Kellogg-Briand pact. It was an agreement, signed by the most powerful nations, to not use war to solve problems.

Winning over the German people

Most Germans were happy that their country was back in the international community and that it seemed to be regaining its old status. Stresemann won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926. This all made many Germans think democracy could work and so they voted for moderate parties.

Key topic 1: The Weimar Republic 1918–29

4 Changes in society, 1924–29



An Otto Dix painting.

How did the standard of living change after 1923?

Unemployment and Unemployment Insurance:

Unemployment was a problem for the Weimar Republic from 1919 onwards. In 1921, unemployment was below 1 million, but by 1924 it was 1 million. It fell back again in 1925, but by 1926, it was up to 2 million. It remained above 1 million for the rest of the 1920s.

However from 1927, the government introduced an unemployment insurance scheme where workers were provided with benefits if they lost their job. This was not a free scheme though; the workers had to pay 3% of their wages into a fund to cover some of the cost.

Many of the unemployed were middle-class professionals, like teachers and lawyers. They did not qualify for help from this scheme.

Work and wages:

Across the 1920s there were some improvements for workers:

- On average they worked 4 few hours per week.
- The value of their wages rose by 25% between 1925 and 1928.

However, the wages of the middle-class did not always rise as quickly as the working class.

Housing:

The housing situation also saw some improvement. In 1923 there was a shortage of 1 million homes. In 1925 the government introduced a new tax on landlords to pay for more house building.

Private builders provided 37,000 new homes between 1925 and 1929. This was supplemented with 64,000 homes built by the government schemes. Homelessness was reduced by 60%. There was also a significant programme of renovation which improved the quality of some of the existing homes.

These new houses did ease the problem, but there was still a shortage at the end of the 1920s.

Other improvements:

- Better pensions for 400,000 war widows and 750,000 war veterans.
- Education was improved and more young people were able to go to university.

How did life change for women in Weimar Germany?

Women in politics:

- Women were given the right to vote.
- Women were given the right to stand in all elections.
- By 1932, 10% of all members of the Reichstag were women – this was much better than in most other countries in Europe.
- Article 109 of the Weimar Constitution gave equal rights to men in all aspects of marriage, law and politics.

Women in work:

- The 1920s did not see many more women go to work. The percentage of working women were as the same in 1925 as it was in 1913.
- Women were paid 33% less than men.
- Most women had to give up work when they got married.
- Few women managed to get jobs in the **professions** such as law.
- Trade unions did not welcome women in the workplace. They were seen as cheap labour who kept down wages and took men's jobs.

However, women did manage to get jobs in the booming retail (shop) sector and they did enter professions such as teaching and medicine. The number of doctors doubled to 5000 between 1925 and 1932.

Women and leisure:

- Single women who went out to work had more money and so could spend more on leisure. These “New Women” bought more clothes, cut their hair short, wore make-up, smoked and drank.
- However, for most women, especially those who were married and lived outside the big cities, leisure remained the same. The Church and looking after families took up much of their “free” time.

How did culture change in Weimar Germany?

Why did things change?

- The old restrictions on what could be painted, performed and written under the Kaiser were abolished.
- The Weimar Constitution guaranteed freedom of speech and expression.
- The economic recovery of the 1920s created the money needed to fund art, theatres and new buildings.

Art

Expressionism became a popular art movement. It was based around the idea that art should show how people felt and thought. It was often very critical of German society. Men like Otto Dix painted pictures that showed the dark side of Germany. Paul Klee and George Grosz were also famous artists at this time and they also painted images that showed the darker side of society

Architecture

The Bauhaus Movement influenced the design of buildings and furniture. The designs were futuristic and modern. Men like Walter Gropius and Erich Mendelsohn became the key designers of the period.

Cinema

German films became famous the world over. The world's first horror movie, *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, was made in Germany. Fritz Lang became a famous film maker who was known for making technologically advanced films. Marlene Dietrich became a world famous film actress.

Literature and Theatre

Some right-wing writers, like Oswald Spengler wrote books that were critical of Weimar and democracy.

Left-wing writers wrote anti-war novels. Erich Remarque's *All Quiet On The Western Front* became a world-famous account of the horrors of the Great War.

Theatre became a way of commenting on politics and events of the time.

Criticism

Although German culture became famous worldwide, it had some opponents in Germany.

The Communists objected to the government spending money funding the arts when people were homeless and in poverty. The right-wing groups and many Germans outside the big cities were angry that traditional art and culture were being replaced by what they saw as disrespectful works.

Answering Paper 3 Questions



Paper 3: How to answer the exam questions?

1) Give two things you can infer from source A about...(4 marks)

An inference is something not directly stated in the source, but which you can support using details from the source.

Source A: From the diary of a young woman living in Berlin in December 1918.

There is no law and order and the streets are in chaos. Armed gangs are roaming around shooting at each other and anyone who tried to stop them.

If anyone dares to go outside onto the street, they cannot find the basics of life. Food cannot be found and on many streets the shops are barricaded shut to stop looting.

Staying at home is no more comfortable. The electricity and water keep being cut off and the lack of wood and coal means we struggle to keep warm.

Study source A

Give two things you can infer from Source A about the condition of Germany in the immediate aftermath of the Armistice.

i) What I can infer:

Germany was a dangerous place to be in 1918.

Details of the source that tell me this:

The source says that “armed gangs are roaming around shooting at each other.”

ii) What I can infer:

Life was difficult for Germans in 1918.

Details of the source that tell me this:

The source says “food cannot be found” and “we struggle to keep warm.”

Paper 3: How to answer the exam questions?

2) Explain why... (12 marks)

Explain why the German people were unhappy with the Treaty of Versailles.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Reparations
- The Diktat

You **must** include information of your own.

The German people were unhappy with the Treaty of Versailles after it was signed in 1919 for several reasons.

One reason why the Germans hated the Treaty was the size of the Reparations. Reparations was the compensation the Germans had to pay to the Allies for war damage. It was eventually fixed at £6.6 billion. This ruined the German economy. It was already weak after the war, but the reparations destroyed it. This made the Germans unhappy because Germany did not have the money and it resulted in economic collapse, hardship, starvation, unemployment and inflation. The day-to-day hardship and the damage done to the economy made the German people angry.

Another reason the Germans hated the Treaty was the fact that placed military restrictions on their armed forces. Germany's military was limited to 100,000 men, six battleships, no tanks, no airforce. The area of Germany next to France, The Rhineland, was demilitarised which meant no soldiers could be placed there. Germany was a major military power, but that was taken away. This was humiliating for the Germans and made them hate the Treaty. Equally, Germany was no really vulnerable to attack. The threat of attack from France and Russia was real and the Germans could not defend themselves. This made the Germans feel vulnerable and so they were unhappy.

...[explains how loss of military upset the Germans]...

...[explains how the Diktat upset the Germans]...

Overall, the German people hated the Treaty for many reasons. The loss of the Empire and the reduction in the military made them angry. This was made worse by the way it was forced upon them and the way the Reparations destroyed their fragile economy.

Paper 3: How to answer the exam questions?

3a) How useful are sources B and C... (8 marks)

Study sources B and C. How useful are Sources B and C for an enquiry into the impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Weimar Germany in the period before 1923.? Explain your answer, using sources B and C and your own knowledge? (8)

Source B: Written by a German schoolboy from Berlin in his diary in 1921.

We are still in shock over what has happened to our nation. We were once a proud nation with an army that gave us something to be proud of. I remember feeling a swelling in my chest and a surge of excitement when I saw the cavalry passing by on its way to war. It was something that made you realise Germany was great. I always wanted to be a soldier, now I have nothing to hope for as the army has been destroyed by the Treaty.

Source C: A letter to a British newspaper from a businessman who had just returned from Germany, April 1922.

Germany is full of wealth. She is humming like a beehive. The comfort and prosperity of her people amazed me when I was there. Yet this is the country that is determined she will not pay her debts.

Source C is useful for finding out about the impact of the Treaty of Versailles because it shows that some people were unhappy with the shame of losing their once great army. It says that “the army has been destroyed by the Treaty” and that the boy feels he now has “nothing to hope for” because he “wanted to be a soldier”. Many people did feel this way as Germany had a proud military tradition. The army had been one of the largest in Europe and the Treaty cut it to 100,000 men.

...

Source C was written by a schoolboy who lived in Berlin. This may limit how useful it is because he would have a very limited experience of life before the Treaty. As a schoolboy he may have been impressed by the sight of the soldiers but not really fully understand what they meant in terms of defence and being a world power. However, it is also useful because as a schoolboy he is the future of Germany and therefore it allows us to know how the voters of the future would feel.

Source D is not very useful as it was written by a foreign visitor who may not have a full experience of life after the Treaty. As a visitor he would not understand the shame the Treaty brought on the German people because of the loss of Empire, War Guilt and the Diktat. He would also have stayed in hotels and visited tourist areas which would not have been him by the shortages. The author also says that in 1922 Germany was “full of wealth”. This makes the source not very useful because Germany was poor even before the final Reparations figure of £6.6 billion was set...

Paper 3: How to answer the exam questions?
3b) What is the main reason between these views... (4 marks)

Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about standards of living for people in 1920s Weimar Germany. What is the main difference between the two views? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations. (4)

Interpretation 1: From J. Noble Germany 1918-49, published in 1992.

The Weimar Republic in the 1920s saw life get much better for ordinary Germans. Housing became more plentiful, jobs more readily available and those in need were given support in the form of pensions and unemployment insurance. It was not only those out of work who were better off, wages rose and working hours were reduced.

Interpretation 2: From Germany's Middle Class: A history (1914-1992) published in 2012.

Life for many professionals was not so great. They lost savings in the hyperinflation and then had to struggle with unemployment and salaries that did not keep pace with the cost of living.

The main difference between these two Interpretations is that Interpretation 1 sees it as being a time of improving living standards, whereas Interpretation 2 says it was a time of struggle. Interpretation 1 notes that pensions were being paid, housing was improving and paid work was better. On the other hand, Interpretation 2 says that people were suffering from poor pay and unemployment.

Paper 3: How to answer the exam questions?

3c) Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about... (4 marks)

Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about standards of living for people in 1920s Weimar Germany. You may use sources B and C to help explain your answer. (4)

Interpretation 1: From J. Noble Germany 1918-49, published in 1992.

The Weimar Republic in the 1920s saw life get much better for ordinary Germans. Housing became more plentiful, jobs more readily available and those in need were given support in the form of pensions and unemployment insurance. It was not only those out of work who were better off, wages rose and working hours were reduced.

Interpretation 2: From Germany's Middle Class: A history (1914-1992) published in 2012.

Life for many professionals was not so great. They lost savings in the hyperinflation and then had to struggle with unemployment and salaries that did not keep pace with the cost of living.

Source B: From a Social Democrat election leaflet in 1928.

We have managed to make the German people better off. War pensions, help for the old, unemployment benefit and thousands of new houses are the legacy of the Social Democrat policies. Vote Social Democrat to ensure things continue to improve.

Source C: From the diary of a member of the Reichstag. It was written in 1928.

A young man came to see me today. He had been to university and qualified as a lawyer, but could not find work. He was living with his parents, his father is a doctor, but they are finding him a burden as they lost their savings in the crisis of 1923. I could offer him no advice and even less help.

These Interpretations may differ because they used different sources to come to their conclusions. Interpretations 1, which is very positive about the standard of living in the 1920s, may have used sources like Source B which is a Social Democrat election leaflet listing the things that got better, such as pensions and housing.

On the other hand, Interpretation 2 may have used accounts like Source C which outlined the problems facing some middle class Germans, such as unemployment and the loss of savings.

or

These Interpretations may differ because they are writing about different topics. Interpretation 1 seems to be writing about the working class Germans who benefitted from the pensions, more work and better housing. The working class also missed most of the long-term problems of inflation. However, Interpretation 2 is looking at the problems of the middle class who lost the most in the inflation, suffered unemployment and low pay and got little government help.

Paper 3: How to answer the exam questions?
3d) How far do you agree with Interpretation 1 about ... (20 marks)

How far do you agree with Interpretation 1 about the standard of living for people living in Weimar Germany after 1923? Explain your answer using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context. (20)

Interpretation 1: From J. Noble Germany 1918-49, published in 1992.

The Weimar Republic in the 1920s saw life get much better for ordinary Germans. Housing became more plentiful, jobs more readily available and those in need were given support in the form of pensions and unemployment insurance. It was not only those out of work who were better off, wages rose and working hours were reduced.

Interpretation 2: From Germany's Middle Class: A history (1914-1992) published in 2012.

Life for many professionals was not so great. They lost savings in the hyperinflation and then had to struggle with unemployment and salaries that did not keep pace with the cost of living.

In this answer you need to:

- Explain what Interpretation 1 says.
- Explain which parts are accurate.
- Explain if any parts are inaccurate.
- Explain that it only gives one side of the story – what is missing?
- Explain that Interpretation 2 is needed to make the picture more complete.

There are 4 marks available for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. You should aim to:

- spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy.
- use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.
- use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.