

Was the Weimar Republic Doomed from the Start? Exam Mark Scheme

1. (a) Describe the Kapp Putsch.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question. [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'It was a rebellion.' [1]

Level 2 Describes events (One mark for each relevant point; additional mark for supporting detail.) Note: No mark for date. No mark for – He was hunted down and died while awaiting trial. e.g. 'In March 1920, Dr.Kapp led an attempt to take power.' 'His followers were a group of Freikorps (ex-soldiers/extremists).' 'They were right-wing extremists.' They attempted to take power in Berlin.' [2–5]

(b) Why were there many uprisings and disturbances in Germany in the years 1919–22?

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question. [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'There were threats from the left and the right.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each point) e.g. 'There was chaos after the War in all areas of life.' 'The terms of the Treaty were too harsh for the German people.' 'The Weimar Republic was a democracy and Germans found it alien.' [2–3]

Level 3 Explains reasons (One mark for an explanation, additional mark for full explanation.) e.g. 'A Communist group, known as the Spartacists, wanted Germany governed like Russia after the October 1917 Revolution. The leaders, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, argued strongly against Ebert's plans for a democratic Germany. They wanted Germany ruled by workers' councils or soviets.' [4–7]

(c) 'Developments in art and culture were the main achievements of the Weimar period.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question. [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'There was a cultural revival.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes main achievements (One mark for each point) e.g. 'There was an end to censorship.' 'Writers, poets and artists flourished.' 'It was a golden age of German cinema.' 'The economy was stabilised.' [2]

Level 3 Explanation of achievements in art and culture OR other achievements e.g. 'The Weimar constitution allowed free expression of ideas and this encouraged writers, poets and artists, especially in Berlin. There were new styles of painting and architecture, while Marlene Dietrich became a great international star in the golden age of German cinema.' OR e.g. 'At first Germany was not allowed to join the League because of its actions in the War. Stresemann signed the Locarno Treaties in 1925 guaranteeing the borders with Belgium and France. As a result, Germany was accepted into the League of Nations. [3–5]

Level 4 Explanation of culture AND other achievements Both sides of Level 3. [5–7]

Level 5 Explains with evaluation of 'how far' [8]

2. (a) Describe the situation in Germany between September 1918 and the signing of the Armistice in November 1918.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'Germany was in a terrible state.' [1]

Level 2 Describes situation (One mark for each relevant point; additional mark for supporting detail.) e.g. 'By September, the British blockade of German ports had produced serious food shortages.' 'People were surviving on turnips and bread.' 'A flu epidemic swept across the country killing thousands.' 'In October, sailors at the naval base at Wilhelmshaven mutinied.' [2–5]

(b) Why did Germany find it difficult to recover economically in the years up to 1923?

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'Difficulties arose because of government action.' 'The country was in turmoil.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each point) e.g. 'The First World War had been very expensive.' 'The economic terms of the Treaty of Versailles were harsh on Germany.' 'The government printed worthless money.' 'The reparations imposed on Germany affected the economy. 'There was nothing with which to trade.' [2–3]

Level 3 Explains reasons (One mark for an explanation, additional mark for full explanation.) e.g. 'In 1919, Germany was close to bankruptcy because of the enormous expense of the war, which had lasted much longer than most expected. Germany had hoped to pay for the war, not by taxing the German people, but by imposing huge penalties on the opposing countries as it had done with Russia. Unfortunately for Germany, it lost the war and was, therefore, in economic difficulties.' [4–7]

(c) How far did the Weimar Republic recover under Stresemann? Explain your answer.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'The Republic recovered well as 1923–9 was the 'golden age'. 'It succeeded partly because life did improve for most Germans.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each point) e.g. 'Hyperinflation ended.' 'International relations improved.' 'The economy recovered.' 'Political instability remained.' 'Some did not approve the changes in the arts.' [2]

Level 3 Explanation of recovery OR lack of recovery e.g. 'Stresemann ended hyperinflation and brought confidence back by introducing a new currency, the Rentenmark, and reducing government spending. He negotiated the Dawes Plan which gave a loan of 800 million marks, which was invested in German industry.' OR e.g. 'Some argued that the new ideas of culture and art were unpatriotic and they wanted more traditional values. They argued that Germany was going into moral decline.' [3–5]

Level 4 Explanation of recovery AND lack of recovery. Both sides of Level 3. [5–7]

Level 5 Explains with evaluation of 'how far' Note: Give credit for foreign policy [8]

3. (a) Describe how Stresemann ended hyperinflation.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'He helped to bring change.' [1]

Level 2 Describes Stresemann's actions (One mark for each relevant point; additional mark for supporting detail.) e.g. 'He introduced a new currency.' 'He called in the worthless Marks and burned them.' 'Stresemann replaced them with a new currency called the Rentenmark.' 'Government spending was reduced which involved 700,000 government employees losing their jobs.' 'The new currency remained stable because the Americans were willing to give loans to support it.' [2–5]

(b) Why did Germany suffer from hyperinflation?

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'It was the government's fault.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each point) e.g. 'The government printed worthless money.' 'There was nothing with which to trade.' 'Reparations affected the German economy.' 'The occupation of the Ruhr caused it.' 'Passive resistance halted industrial production.' [2–3]

Level 3 Explains reasons (One mark for an explanation, additional mark for full explanation.) e.g. 'The occupation of the Ruhr had disastrous effects. The German government had to print money to pay the wages of the striking workers. This made the existing inflation even worse.' [4–7]

(c) 'The Weimar Republic was a disaster for the people of Germany.' How far do you agree with this statement?

Explain your answer.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'No it was successful for a time.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each point) e.g. 'The economy recovered until 1929.' 'Hyperinflation was ended.' 'Germany was accepted back into the international community.' 'There was a cultural revival.' 'German farmers suffered.' 'Recovery in the '20s was based on American loans.' 'There was high unemployment in 1929.' 'There was political instability in the early years.' 'There was hyperinflation.' [2]

Level 3 Explanation of successes OR failure e.g. 'Germany's international position was improved during the '20s. By the Locarno Pact, Germany's borders were confirmed and Germany was admitted to the League in 1926 making it acceptable within the international community.' OR e.g. 'Germany's economic recovery after 1923 was an illusion. The economic recovery depended on loans from the USA. When they were recalled after 1929, an economic crisis hit Germany with over 6 million unemployed.' [3–5]

Level 4 Explanation of successes AND failure Both sides of Level 3. [5–7]

Level 5 Explains with evaluation of 'how far' [8]

4. (a) Describe the political situation in Germany at the end of the First World War.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1] e.g. 'There was a lot of unrest.' 'There were uprisings.'

Level 2 Describes the political situation (One mark for each relevant point; additional mark for supporting detail.) e.g. 'Kaiser Wilhelm fled the country/abdicated.' 'Ebert, one of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party, announced that Germany was now a republic.' 'The new republic was to be democratic.' [2–5]

(b) Why did the French invade the Ruhr in 1923?

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'To take what they wanted.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each point) e.g. 'France lost patience with Germany.' 'Germany failed to pay reparations.' 'France wanted its payments on time.' 'France thought Germany wouldn't pay.' [2–3]

Level 3 Explains reasons (One mark for an explanation, additional mark for full explanation.) e.g. 'Reparations had been fixed at £6600 million in 1921, but in late 1922 Germany failed to make the required payment. The French felt that it was right to invade to take the value of the missing payments in goods. They invaded the Ruhr, with the assistance of the Belgians, because this was an area rich in coal and iron.' [4–7]

(c) 'The Weimar Republic successfully dealt with Germany's problems between 1922 and 1929.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1] e.g. 'It was partially successful.'

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each point) e.g. 'It didn't pay reparations.' 'It caused hyperinflation by printing money.' 'German farmers suffered.' 'The late 1920s was considered by some to be a period of moral decline.' [2]

Level 3 Explanation of agreement OR disagreement e.g. 'Stresemann ended hyperinflation and confidence returned with the introduction of a new currency, the Rentenmark/Reichmark, and a reduction in government spending. The new currency remained stable because the USA was willing to give loans, such as through the Dawes Plan, to support it.' OR e.g. 'There was an illusion that Germany's economic problems had been solved. Economic prosperity depended largely on American loans and, if these were withdrawn, there would be acute difficulties, especially as agriculture was already in serious trouble and growth in industry had begun to slow in 1927.' [3–5]

Level 4 Explanation of agreement AND disagreement [5–7] Both sides of level 3.

Level 5 Explains with evaluation of 'how far' [8]

5. (a) What were the disadvantages of proportional representation for Weimar Germany?

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 One mark for each relevant point; additional mark for supporting detail e.g. 'The Germans were not used to it.' 'The Germans were used to the Kaiser's autocratic system of government.' 'Through PR some extremist parties were represented in the Reichstag.' [1-4]

(b) Why were the Spartacists a threat to the German Republic?

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge e.g. 'There was agitation in many parts of Germany.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons (One mark for each identification/description) e.g. 'They wanted to overthrow Ebert's government.' 'They wanted to establish a communist-style government.' 'They opposed the democratic elections.' 'They planned a general strike.' 'They had armed militia.' 'They encouraged agitation in the factories and on the streets.' 'It was difficult restoring law and order.' 'The Communists declared a Soviet republic in Bavaria.' 'There was a Communist rising by workers in the Ruhr industrial area.' 'Ebert's government was new and vulnerable to any threat.' [2-3]

Level 3 Explains ONE reason (One mark for an explanation, additional mark for full explanation.) e.g. 'The Spartacists were Communists much like Lenin's Bolsheviks, who had just taken power in Russia. They argued strongly against Ebert's plans for a democratic Germany. They wanted a Germany ruled by workers' councils or soviets. They were a serious threat to the government in Berlin because they were armed and had much support in the factories.' [4-5]

Level 4 Explains TWO reasons [6]

(c) To what extent were Weimar governments successful between 1923 and 1929? Explain your answer.

Level 0 No evidence submitted or response does not address the question [0]

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge 'There was an economic recovery.' [1]

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes (One mark for each point) e.g. 'Stresemann stabilised the currency.' 'Stresemann arranged loans and reduced reparation payments.' 'The American loans could be recalled.' 'Germany was admitted to the League of Nations.' 'The 1920s was a decade of cultural revival.' 'There were night clubs and dance halls with cabaret artists and singers. Many saw this as a sign of decadence, corruption and moral decay.' 'They told the workers to go on strike which worsened the Ruhr crisis.' [2-3]

Level 3 One sided explanation OR One explanation of both sides 5-6 marks More detailed explanation of one issue to be given two marks. e.g. 'Stresemann arranged for the Dawes Plan to pour money into German industry. By 1928, Germany achieved the same levels of production as before the war and regained its place as the world's second greatest industrial power. Reparations were paid and exports on the increase.' OR e.g. 'The economic recovery was based on American loans which could be recalled at short notice. Unemployment remained stubbornly high, while small businessmen and farmers still struggled to make a good living.' [4-6]

Level 4 Explanation of both sides A L4 answer will have a minimum of three explanations (2 on one side; 1 on the other). Fuller explanation of one issue to be given two marks. An answer which only has one explanation on one side of the argument cannot be awarded more than 8. [7-9]

Level 5 Explains with evaluation of 'how far' As Level 4 plus evaluation. [10]