

Germany - 1870-1918 Revision and work booklet

Part 1 - The Kaiser

The Unification of Germany

Prior to 1871, Germany was divided into 39 states. Each with their own leader, rules and customs.

- The strongest of these states was Prussia.
- Prussia was ruled by the Kaiser and the Chancellor - the Chancellor at the time was Otto Von Bismarck; a man who believed heavily in militarism and unifying all of the German states together to create one country.
- Many of the German states agreed that unification was a good thing, as it would get rid of the threat of invasion by the surrounding large countries; Russia and France.
- Austria disagreed with unification as they worried that it would impact on their empire and result in them losing power in the area.
- Prussia were involved in a number of wars for territory, the most famous being the Franco-Prussian War which they fought against France in 1870-1871.
- Prussia were successful in defeating France in this war and took land from them (Alsace-Lorraine). France were left embarrassed and were furious at Germany (holding a grudge way past WW1).
- After this war, Prussia was successful in their mission to unify Germany and the country of Germany was born.
- Germany was now a united country with the Prussian Kaiser at its helm, with Otto Von Bismarck acting as Chancellor.

Complete a factfile to show what Germany was like before WW1.

Include any key dates and key individuals

Kaiser Wilhelm II

- In 1888, the 29-year-old **Wilhelm** became Kaiser. He was the grandson of Britain's Queen Victoria and the cousin of Britain's future king, George V.
- When he became Kaiser, Britain was the world's most powerful country; it had the largest empire, and dominated world trade. Britain also had a navy that was twice the size of its two closest rivals added together.
- Wilhelm dreamed of making Germany as great as Britain, and began by building up Germany's industry. This process is called **industrialisation**.
- Supported by rich, powerful German businessmen, Wilhelm's desires came true and, by 1913, Germany was producing more iron and steel and as much coal as Britain. In industries such as electrical goods and chemicals, German companies dominated Europe.
- Wilhelm was very energetic with a strong, outgoing personality. He could be charming and kind, but also impatient and rude.
- The Kaiser would often sack ministers if they did not do what he wanted them to. This resulted in him sacking the much loved Chancellor, Otto Von Bismarck, in 1890.
- The Kaiser had spent most of his youth in the army and as a result championed militarism as being the key to a successful country. He was keen to maintain a strong army and build up a strong Navy which rivalled Britain's.
- Re replaced his father aged 29, after he died suddenly and unexpectedly of cancer.

Profile of Kaiser Wilhelm II



Kaiser Wilhelm II Foreign Policy

- The Kaiser followed a Foreign Policy of Weltpolitik (World policy) and believed that Germany should have their 'Place in the sun' competing and being recognised with the other world powers.
- The Kaiser believed that the key to achieving his aim, was to establish and maintain a strong army and Navy. As a result of this he became involved with other European powers in the Arms and Naval Race.
- One of his main aims was to compete with the British Navy, and therefore he introduced Naval Laws in 1898, 1900, 1906, 1908, and 1912 to build up the size of his Navy.
- This resulted in Britain becoming worried by Germany's naval advancements and continuing to strengthen their own Navy, releasing the new battleship the Dreadnought in 1906. Germany then released their own version of the Dreadnought and continued to build up their Navy in preparation for war.
- The Kaiser also wanted to increase the size of Germany's army and introduced compulsory conscription in 1913,
- The Kaiser hoped to use his strong army and navy to build up Germany's empire and establish them as a world power.

Define 'Weltpolitik' -

When were the Naval laws?
Add the dates in by using the information above

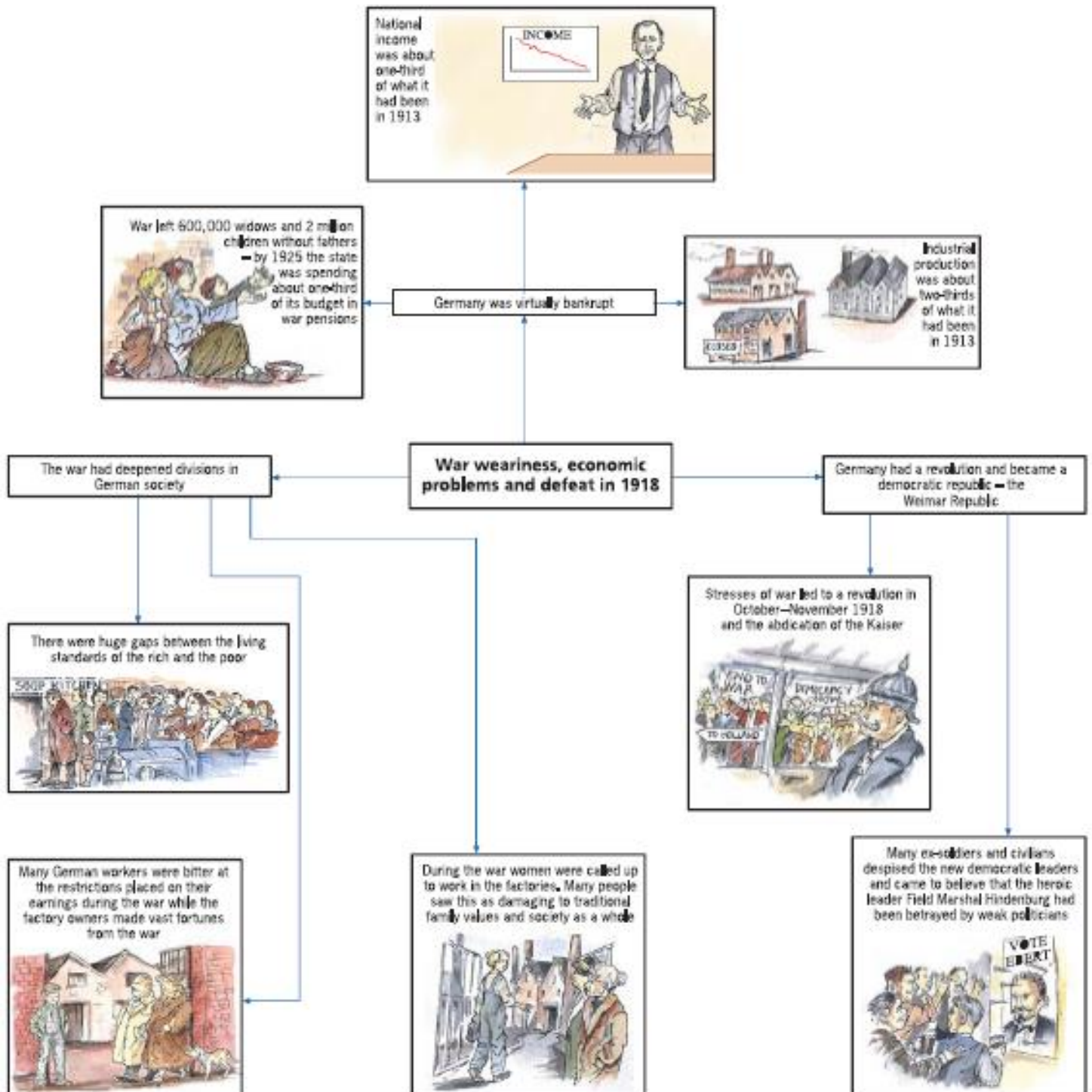
	First Naval Law: Seven battleships to be built.
	Second Naval Law: Doubled the navy from 19 battleships to 38 battleships.
	Third Naval Law/Amendment: Six extra cruisers to be built.
	Fourth Naval Law/Amendment: New vessels to replace old cruisers would be battleships.
	Fifth Naval Law/Amendment: Three additional battleships.

Why did Germany introduce the Naval laws?

What was the result of the Naval laws?

The impact of WW1

In 1914 the Germans were a proud people. Their Kaiser, virtually a dictator, was celebrated for his achievements. Their army was probably the finest in the world. A journey through the streets of Berlin in 1914 would have revealed prospering businesses and a well-educated and well-fed workforce. There was great optimism about the power and strength of Germany. Four years later a similar journey would have revealed a very different picture. Although little fighting had taken place in Germany itself, the war had still destroyed much of the old Germany. The proud German army was defeated. The German people were surviving on turnips and bread. A flu epidemic was sweeping the country, killing thousands of people already weakened by rations.



Using the spider diagram, pick the top 5 problems and complete the table below

Problem	Why was it a problem?	What might the solution be?

The end of the monarchy, November 1918

In autumn 1918 the Allies had clearly won the war. Germany was in a state of chaos. The Allies offered Germany peace, but under strict conditions. One condition was that Germany should become more democratic. When the Kaiser refused, sailors in northern Germany mutinied and took over the town of Kiel. This triggered other revolts. The Kaiser's old enemies, the Socialists, led uprisings of workers and soldiers in other German ports. Soon, other German cities followed. In Bavaria an independent Socialist REPUBLIC was declared. On 9 November 1918 the Kaiser, realising he had little choice, abdicated his throne and left Germany for the Netherlands.

What does Abdication mean?
What was the Kiel mutiny?

Post-war problems in Germany

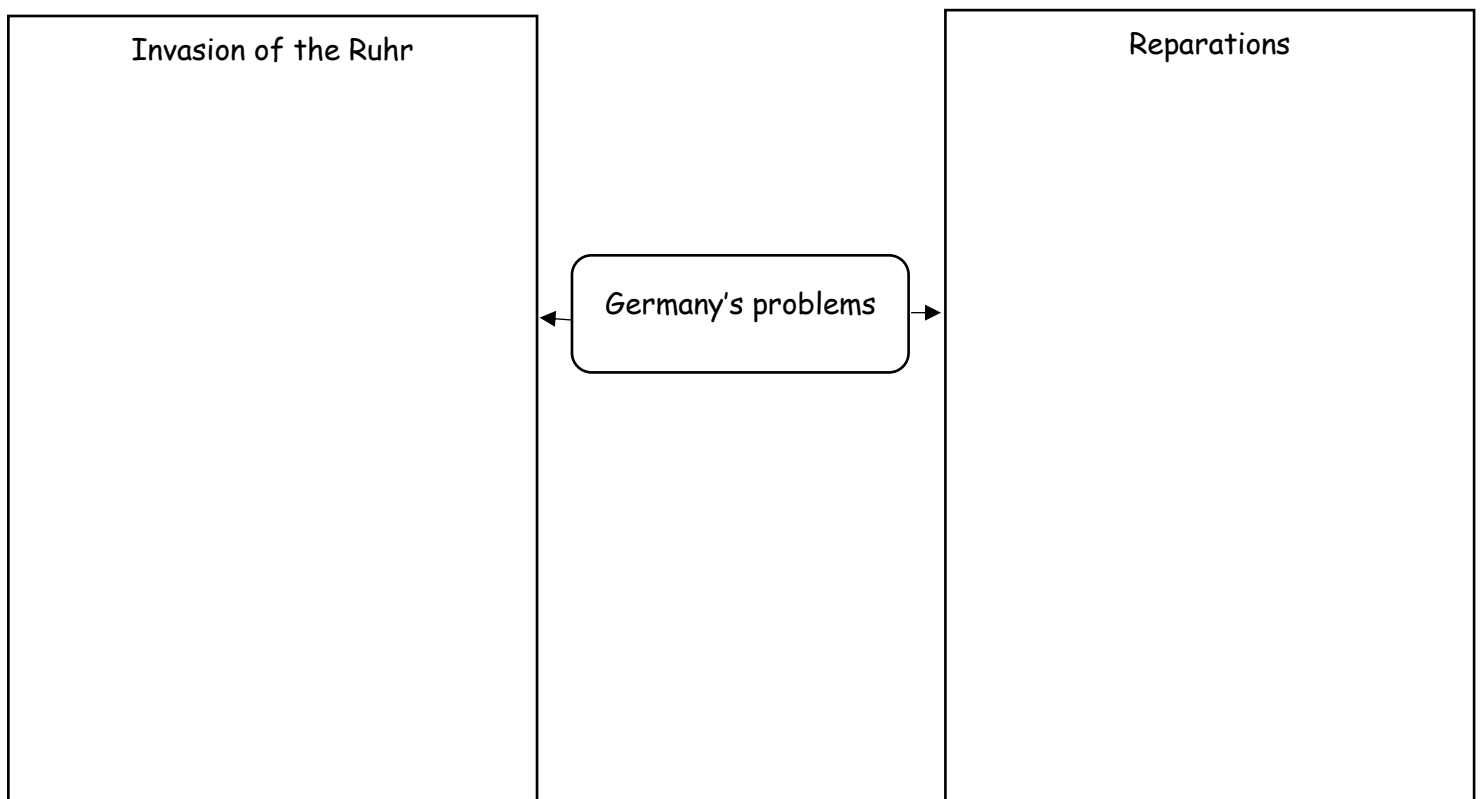
Germans felt betrayed. The end of the war had come suddenly and unexpectedly; their Kaiser had run away; the new government had to face all the problems that existed - political uncertainties, economic problems, and a crisis in German society. In addition, a devastating outbreak of flu had swept across Western Europe and killed many Germans who were suffering from malnourishment and had little resistance to germs.

German reparations.

At the end of any conflict, the victorious countries sought compensation from those NATIONS responsible for starting the war. At the conclusion to the First World War, Germany's REPARATIONS were spelt out in the Treaty of Versailles, decided upon by the British, American and French leaders. Financial reparations were also enforced by the treaty. The bill, announced in April 1921, was set at £6,600 million, to be paid in annual instalments. This was 2 per cent of Germany's annual output. The Germans protested that this was an intolerable strain on the economy, which they were struggling to rebuild after the war, but their protests were ignored.

The invasion of the Ruhr

The first instalment of £50 million was paid in 1921, but in 1922 nothing was paid. Ebert, Socialist leader and German Chancellor, did his best to play for time and to negotiate concessions from the Allies, but the French in particular ran out of patience. They too had war debts to pay to the USA. So in January 1923 French and Belgian troops entered the Ruhr, an industrial area of Germany near the French border. This was quite legal under the Treaty of Versailles. They began to take what was owed to them in the form of raw materials and goods. The results of the occupation of the Ruhr were disastrous for Germany. The government ordered the workers to carry out passive resistance, which meant to go on strike. That way, there would be nothing for the French to take away. The French reacted harshly, killing over 100 workers and expelling over 100,000 protesters from the region. More importantly, the halt in industrial production in Germany's most important region caused the collapse of the German currency.



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Read Interpretations A and B and then answer Questions 1–3.

Interpretation A The imposition of reparations on the Weimar Republic. This was written in 1976 by Egon Larsen, who had been a German journalist in the 1920s.

As the terms of peace became known, we came to realise what it meant to lose a war against two dozen countries. The cost of reparations, to be paid by a Germany which had lost its economic power, was shattering.

Interpretation B Another view of reparations. It is taken from a recent British history textbook.

Reparations to be paid by Germany were agreed in 1921 by the League of Nations. The sum of £6,600 million was only half of what France had demanded. It was less than the sum that Germany would have demanded if they had won the war, and Germany had until 1984 to pay off the debt in instalments.

- 1 How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about the impact of reparations on Germans in the early 1920s? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B.
- 2 Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about the impact of reparations on Germans? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.
- 3 Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the impact of reparations on Germany in the early 1920s? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.

1. (4 marks)

Interpretation A is saying...

Interpretation B is saying...

One difference is...

Another difference is...

2. (4 marks)

The author of A is...

This might affect their opinion because...

A is written in...

This might affect the interpretation as...

The author of B is...

This might affect their opinion because...

3. (8 marks)

A is saying...

This is convincing because...

It is also saying...

This is convincing because...

B is saying...

This is convincing because...

It is also saying...

This is convincing because...

Overall...

How was Germany affected by WW1?

Invasion of the Ruhr



Germany failed to make its January 1923 reparation payment. Poincare the French President, still angry with Germany due to the war, claimed that Germany was in fact able to pay but was deliberately trying to avoid it. Supported by Italy and Belgium, Poincare sent French troops into the industrial area of western Germany known as the Ruhr. This was the main centre of Germany's coal iron and steel production, which the French aimed to take in lieu of reparation payments. There sat the French army in occupation until early 1925. In response to the invasion, the German government encouraged workers to go on strike. This decrease in production had a major effect on the economic life of Germany. It paralyzed Germany's economy and triggered hyperinflation which eventually led to the collapse of the German currency.

By Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-09896 / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5414625

Hyperinflation



Germany was already suffering from inflation before 1923. Ever since the end of the war the German economy was struggling. Due to the blockade and the Treaty of Versailles goods were scarce, which led to expensive prices. During the invasion of the Ruhr in 1923 the situation got much worse. The coal/iron/steel shortages made inflation grow. Under increasing pressure the German government made the decision to print more money to initially pay the workers who were on strike in the Ruhr. They also decided to pay their war debts (reparations) with extra printed money. This led to hyperinflation, where money quickly became worthless.

By Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-R1215-506 / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5436340

Munich Putsch



The Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, also known as the Munich Putsch, was an attempt to seize power in Munich, Bavaria, on 8-9 November 1923. Approximately two thousand Nazis were marching to the Feldherrnhalle, in the city centre, when they were confronted by a police cordon, which resulted in the death of 16 Nazis and four police officers. Hitler, who was wounded during the clash, escaped immediate arrest and was spirited off to safety in the countryside. After two days, he was arrested and charged with treason.

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Invasion of the Ruhr	This was a crisis because...
Hyperinflation	This was a crisis because...
Munich Putsch	This was a crisis because...

Weimar Germany

The day after the Kaiser fled, Friedrich Ebert became the new leader of the Republic of Germany. He immediately signed an ARMISTICE with the Allies. The war was over. He also announced to the German people that the new Republic was giving them freedom of speech, freedom of worship and better working conditions. A new constitution was drawn up.

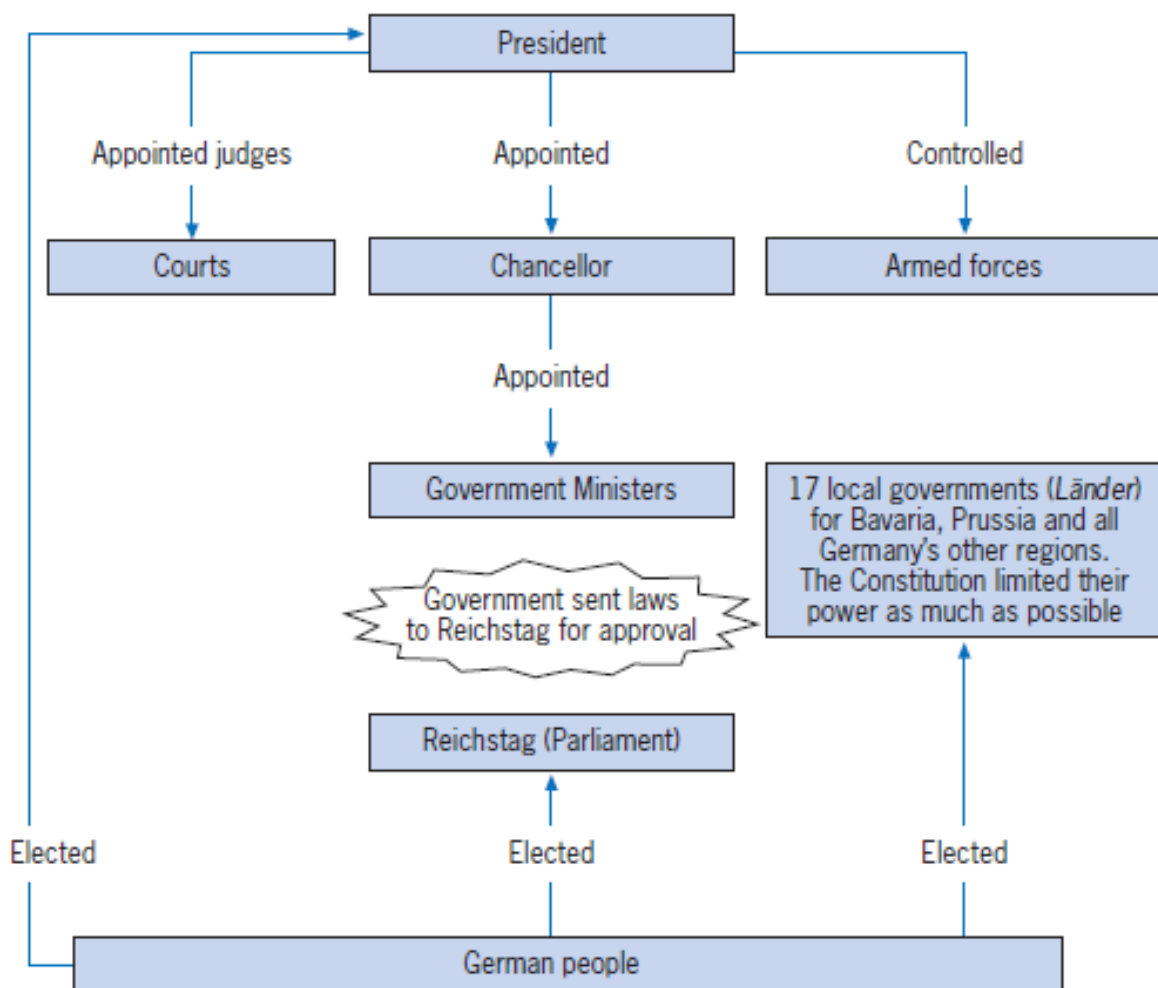
The success of the new government depended on the German people accepting an almost instant change from the traditional, AUTOCRATIC German system of government to this new democratic system. The prospects for this did not look good.

Weimar democracy

The reaction of politicians in Germany was unenthusiastic. Ebert had opposition from both right and left. On the right wing, nearly all the Kaiser's former advisers remained in their positions in the army, judiciary, civil service and industry. They restricted what the new government could do. Many still hoped for a return to rule by the Kaiser. A powerful myth developed that men such as Ebert had stabbed Germany in the back and caused German defeat in the war. On the left wing there were many Communists who believed that at this stage what Germany actually needed was a Communist revolution just like Russia's in 1917. Despite this opposition, in January 1919 free elections took place for the first time in Germany's history. Ebert's party won a majority and he became the President of the Weimar Republic. It was called this because, to start with, the new government met in the small town of Weimar rather than in the German capital, Berlin. Even in February 1919, Berlin was thought to be too violent and unstable.

FIGURE 16

The Weimar Constitution.



The Weimar Constitution

- Before the war Germany had had no real DEMOCRACY. The Kaiser was virtually a dictator.
- The Weimar Constitution, on the other hand, attempted to set up probably the most democratic system in the world where no individual could gain too much power.
- All Germans over the age of 20 could vote.
- There was a system of PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION - if a party gained 20 per cent of the votes, they gained 20 per cent of the seats in the Parliament (Reichstag).
- The Chancellor was responsible for day-to-day government, but he needed the support of half the Reichstag.
- The Head of State was the President. The President stayed out of day-to-day government. In a crisis he could rule the country directly through Article 48 of the Constitution. This gave him emergency powers, which meant he did not have to consult the Reichstag.

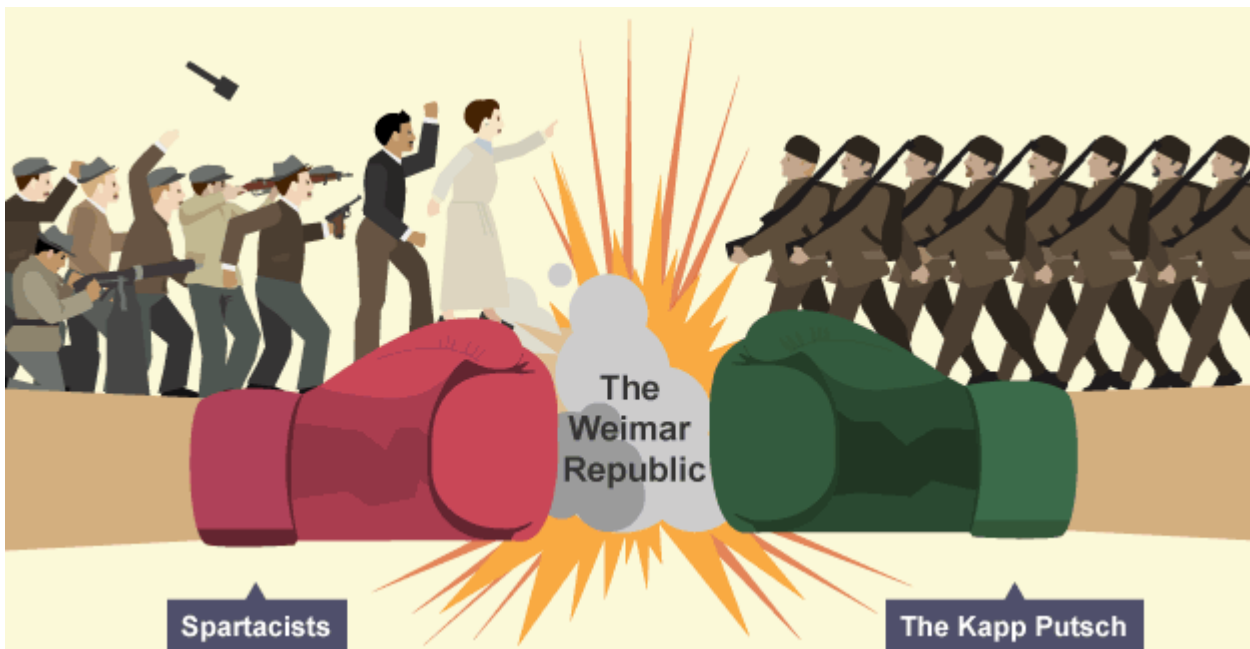
Strengths	Weaknesses

Political unrest, 1919-1923

The Weimar Republic was created at a time of confusion and chaos after Germany had lost World War One. People were starving, the Kaiser had fled and the new Republic got off to a troubled start for two reasons:

- Many Germans hated the government for signing the armistice in November 1918 - they called them the **November criminals**. The defeat in the war came as a huge surprise to the German people, which led to a theory that the brave German army had been 'stabbed in the back' by the politicians.
- Many Germans felt their country had received a very harsh deal in the Treaty of Versailles. They resented the government for agreeing to its conditions and signing it, even though they were forced to by the Allies.

The Weimar Republic's unpopularity meant it faced violent uprisings from both sides of the political spectrum during 1919 and 1920.



The threat from the left

- During 5 - 12 January 1919, 50,000 members of the post-World War One Communist Party, known as the Spartacists, rebelled in Berlin, led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.
- The government was saved when it armed bands of ex-soldiers, known as the Freikorps, who defeated the Spartacist rebels.
- In the aftermath, communist workers' councils seized power all over Germany, and a Communist People's Government took power in Bavaria.
- By May 1919 the Freikorps had crushed all of these uprisings.

The threat from the right

- In crushing the communists the Freikorps had saved the government, but the terms of the Treaty of Versailles meant Germany's army had to be significantly reduced and the Freikorps had to be disbanded.
- During 13 - 17 March 1920, as a reaction to this, the right-wing nationalist, Dr Wolfgang Kapp led a Freikorps takeover in Berlin.
- The regular army refused to attack the Freikorps; Kapp was only defeated when the workers of Berlin went on strike and refused to cooperate with him.

Why were the left a problem for the government?

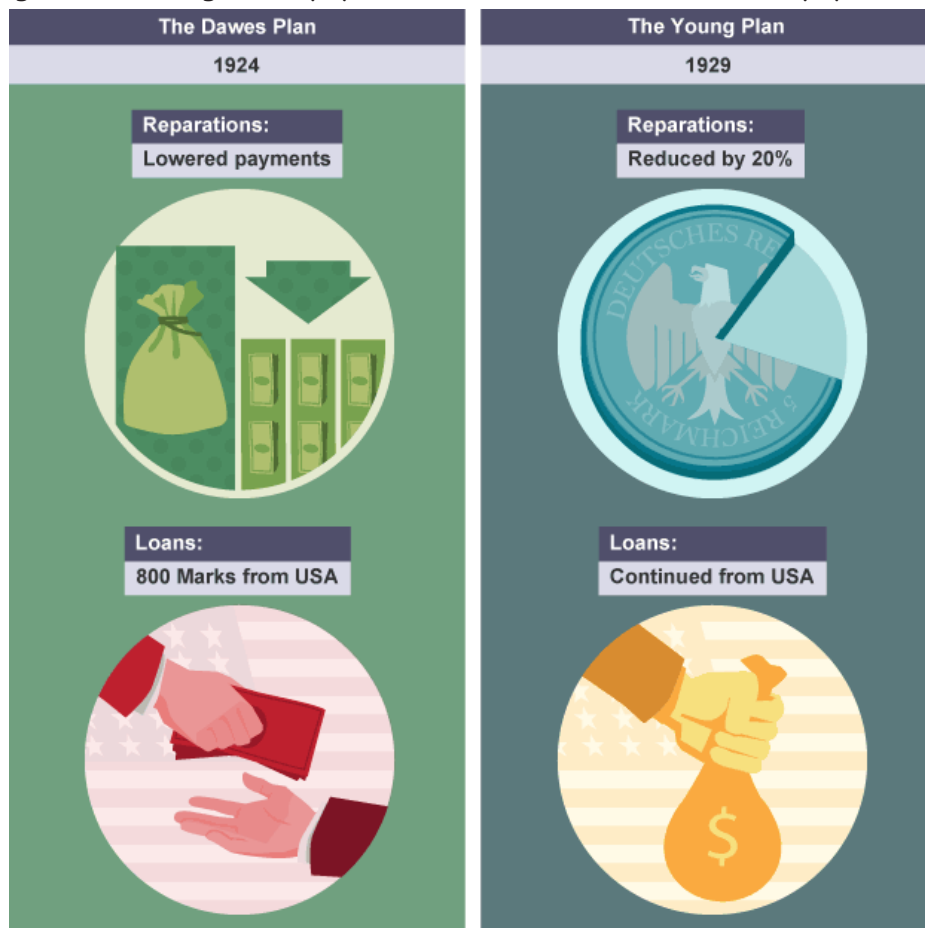
Why were the right a problem for the government?

Who was the biggest threat and why?

Stresemann was a saviour	Stresemann wasn't a saviour

Renegotiating reparations

The payment of reparations, which had caused the hyperinflation crisis in the first place, had to resume, but Stresemann's decisive actions in the autumn of 1923 gained Germany the sympathy of the Allies. They agreed to renegotiate payments and this led to two new repayment plans in the next five years:



	The Dawes Plan	The Young Plan
Date	Proposed April 1924, agreed September 1924	Proposed August 1929, agreed January 1930
Amount of reparations to be paid	Stayed the same overall (50 billion Marks) but Germany only had to pay one billion Marks per year for the first five years and 2.5 billion per year after that	Reduced the total amount by 20 per cent. Germany was to pay two billion Marks per year, two thirds of which could be postponed each year if necessary
Repayment time	Indefinite	59 years, with payments to end in 1988
Loans made available to Germany	Germany was loaned 800 million Marks from the USA	US banks would continue to loan Germany money, coordinated by J P Morgan, one of the world's leading bankers

Similarities between the two plans

Differences between the two plans

What problems can you see with these loan plans?

Did the Weimar economy really recover?

The years 1924 to 1929 have been referred to as Weimar's 'Golden Years', but historians disagree as to just how much the German economy recovered from the effects of World War One and hyperinflation.

Signs of recovery	Signs of continued weakness
By 1928 industrial production levels were higher than those of 1913 (before World War One)	But... agricultural production did not recover to its pre-war levels
Between 1925 and 1929 exports (sending goods or services abroad) rose by 40 per cent	But... it spent more on imports than it earned from exports, so Germany was losing money every year
Hourly wages rose every year from 1924 to 1929 and by 10 per cent in 1928 alone	But... unemployment did not fall below 1.3 million and in 1929 increased to 1.9 million
IG Farben, a German chemical manufacturing company, became the largest industrial company in Europe	But... German industry became dependent upon loans from the USA
Generous pension, health and unemployment insurance schemes were introduced from 1927	But... The government ended up spending more than it received in taxes and so continued to run deficits from 1925 onwards

Do you think the Weimar economy really did recover? Explain your answer with a balanced argument

International relations

After losing World War One, being forced to take the blame for the conflict and the subsequent issues surrounding payment of reparations, Germany was an international outcast. Germans were still incredibly bitter about their treatment in the Treaty of Versailles, where they also lost territory on all sides. As Foreign Minister Stresemann oversaw a dramatic improvement in Germany's relationship with the rest of Europe between 1925 and 1928. This is best illustrated by three agreements:



	How would this improve Germany's international position?
<p>Locarno Treaties 1925. In October 1925 Germany, France and Belgium agreed to respect their post-Versailles borders. Germany had previously complained bitterly about their loss of territory, but now the Germans were accepting the loss of Alsace-Lorraine to France. France also had to respect their frontier with Germany, which meant no more 'invasions of the Ruhr' like the one in 1923. However, the Locarno guarantee of frontiers only applied to Western Europe. Germany's frontiers in the east were regarded as negotiable, and this gave Stresemann the opportunity in future to negotiate the frontiers with Poland and Czechoslovakia in particular.</p>	
<p>Germany's entry into the League of Nations 1926. When the League of Nations was set up as part of the Versailles agreement Germany was initially excluded. By signing the Locarno Treaties, Germany showed that it was accepting the Versailles settlement and so a year later was accepted as a permanent member of the Council of League, making it one of the most powerful countries in the League.</p>	
<p>Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928. Germany was one of 62 countries that signed up to this agreement, which committed its signatories to settling disputes between them peacefully.</p>	

Weimar Culture - use the info to complete the table of developments

Despite the trauma of its early years, during its so-called 'Golden Age' Weimar experienced a flourishing culture, in Berlin especially, that saw developments in architecture, art and the cinema. This expression of culture was greatly helped by the ending of censorship in the new republic.

Education and intellectual life

Berlin was a melting pot of intellectual development. Weimar Germany became associated with two areas in particular:

Science. Towering figures like Max Planck and Albert Einstein worked in Germany in the 1920s, and Einstein received his Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921.

Philosophy. One of the most influential philosophers of the 20th century, Martin Heidegger, published his major work *being and Time* in 1927. The political philosophers Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss received their university education in Germany during the Weimar period.

Visual arts

The most influential visual arts movement in Weimar was the Bauhaus School, founded by Walter Gropius in the town of Weimar in 1919.

Bauhaus' impact on German architecture was limited because the movement only focused on architecture after 1927 and it was then suppressed by the Nazis in 1933. After this most of its followers fled abroad, where they developed their work further. However, Gropius did design several apartment blocks that are still in use today.

In fine art, there were two main movements that influenced German art:

Dada. The Dada movement started in Zurich during World War One. It was a protest against the traditional conventions of art and western culture, in which the war had begun. Its output included photography, sculpture, poetry, painting and collage. Artists included Marcel Duchamp and Hans Arp.

New Objectivity. The New Objectivity movement started in Germany in the aftermath of World War One. It challenged its predecessor, Expressionism, which was a more idealistic and Romantic Movement. Artists returned to a more realistic way of painting, reflecting the harsh reality of war. Artists included Otto Dix and George Grosz.

Experimentation in German art came to an end when the Nazis came to power in 1933. Hitler rejected modern art as morally corrupt and many of the best German artists - some of whom were Jewish - fled abroad.

Music

Music in Weimar was dominated by three themes:

Modern classical. Composers like Arnold Schoenberg, Kurt Weill and Alan Berg composed classical pieces and operas.

Jazz. The increasing influence of American culture brought jazz music to Berlin and Munich, with classical composers often crossing over into what was known as 'atonal' music, or jazz.

Cabaret. This became popular in Berlin, where young people could sit around in clubs, drinking and watching musical performances.

Cinema

The German film and cinema industry boomed during the 1920s. The main features of the industry were as follows:

The economic disruption of the Weimar period produced an expressionist style in German film-making, with films often having unrealistic sets and featuring exaggerated acting techniques.

The shortage of funding gave rise to the Kammerspielfilm movement, with atmospheric films made on small sets with low budgets.

Expressionist film-makers favoured darker storylines and themes, including horror and crime.

The most prominent film directors of the time were Fritz Lang and F.W. Murnau.

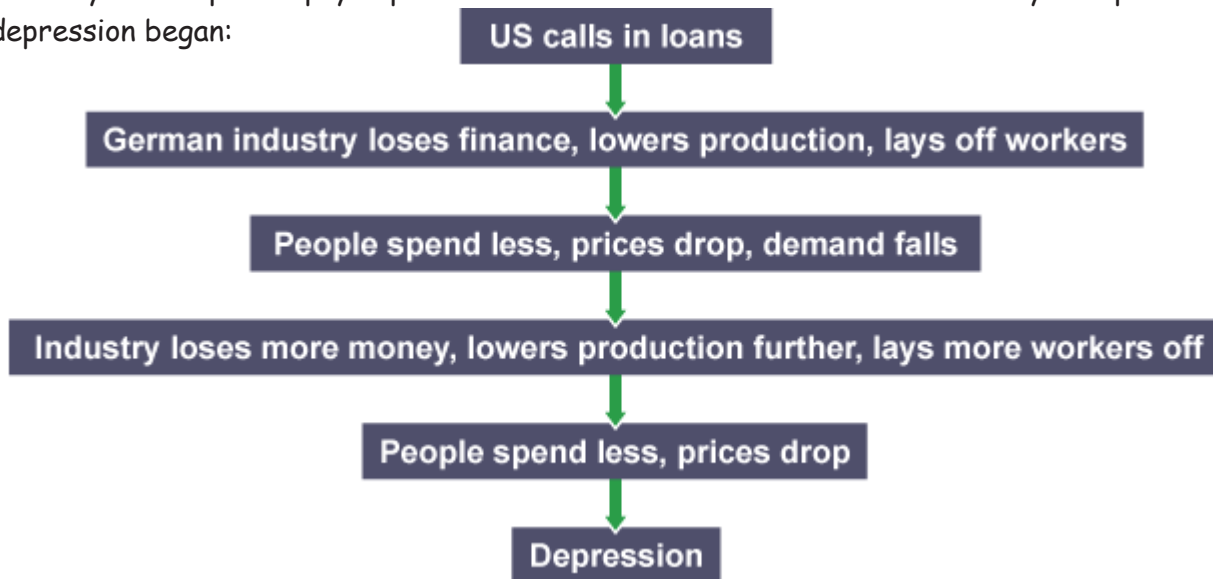
The most famous films of the period were *The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari* (1920), *Nosferatu* (1922 - based on the Dracula story), *Phantom* (1922), *The Last Laugh* (1924) and *Metropolis* (1927).

	Key developments
Education and Intellectual life	
Visual arts	
Music	
Cinema	

Were the 'Golden years' really golden?

The Impact of the Depression

In October 1929 the Wall Street Crash on the US stock exchange brought about a global economic depression. In Europe, Germany was worst affected because American banks called in all of their foreign loans at very short notice. These loans, agreed under the Dawes Plan in 1924, had been the basis for Weimar's economic recovery from the disaster of hyperinflation. The loans funded German industry and helped to pay reparations. Without these loans German industry collapsed and a depression began:



The impact of unemployment

- The rise in unemployment significantly raised government expenditure on unemployment insurance and other benefits.
- Germans began to lose faith in democracy and looked to extreme parties on the both the Left (the communists) and the Right (the Nazis) for quick and simple solutions.

Political failure

- In March 1930 the German Chancellor, Hermann Müller, resigned when his government could not agree on how to tackle the rise in government spending caused by the rise in unemployment. He was replaced by Heinrich Brüning. His policies were ineffective in dealing with the unemployment crisis and further undermined Germans' faith in democracy:
- In July 1930 Chancellor Brüning cut government expenditure, wages and unemployment pay. This added to the spiral of decline and unemployment continued to rise, as well as making those who had lost their jobs even poorer.
- However, Brüning could not get the Reichstag to agree to his actions, so President Hindenburg used Article 48 of the Weimar constitution, which gave the President the power to pass laws by decree, to govern. This undermined democracy and weakened the power of the Reichstag - arguably opening the way for Hitler's later dictatorship.

The rise of extremism

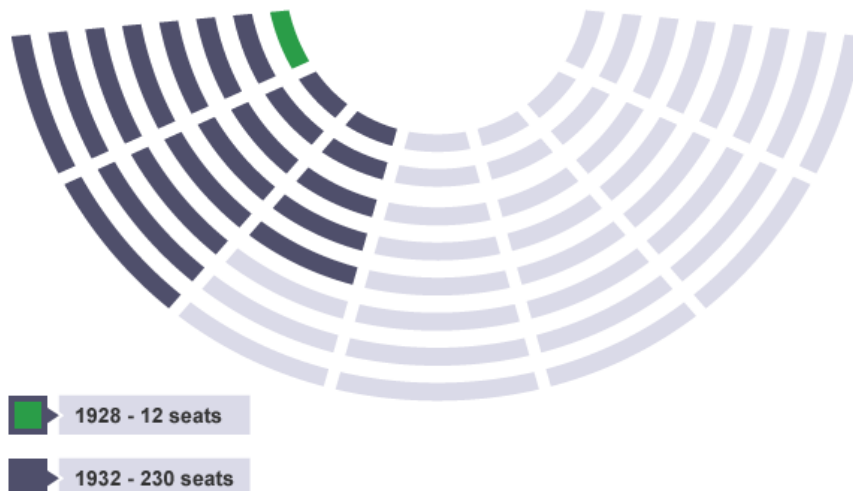
- When people are unemployed, hungry and desperate, as millions were in Germany between 1930 and 1933, they often turn to extreme political parties offering simple solutions to their problems. Between 1930 and 1933 support for the extreme right-wing Nazis and the extreme left-wing communists soared.
- By 1932 parties committed to the destruction of the Weimar Republic held 319 seats out of a total of 608 in the Reichstag, with many workers turning to communism. However, the real beneficiaries were the Nazis.

For each of the problems, explain how this would lead to the Nazis coming to power

Problem	How would it help the Nazis come to power?
Unemployment	
Political failure	
The rise of extremism	

Reasons for the growth in support of the Nazi Party

In 1928, the Nazis had only 12 seats in the Reichstag; by July 1932 they had 230 seats and were the largest party.



Support came from:

- **wealthy businessmen:** frightened by the increase in support for the communists, they began to finance Hitler and the Nazis
- **the middle-class:** alarmed by the obvious failure of democracy, they decided that the country needed a strong government and gave their votes to Hitler
- **nationalists:** they blamed the legacy of the Treaty of Versailles and reparations for causing the depression and so lent their support to the Nazis
- **rural areas:** Nazi support was particularly strong amongst both middle class shopkeepers and artisans, farmers and agricultural labourers

The effects of propaganda

- **The Führer cult.** Hitler was always portrayed as *Germany's* saviour - the man who would rescue the country from the grip of depression.
- **Volksgemeinschaft** (people's community). This was the idea that the Nazis would create one German community that would make religion or social class less relevant to people.
- **Scapegoating the Jews (and others) for Germany's ills.** Jews were often portrayed as sub-human, or as a threat to both the racial purity and economic future of the country.

Hitler was a great speaker with an extraordinary power to win people over. Goebbels' propaganda campaign was very effective and brought huge support for the Nazis by targeting specific groups of society with different slogans and policies to win their support.

The work of the SA

- intimidating the Nazis' political opponents - especially the communists - by turning up at their meetings and attacking them
- providing opportunities for young, unemployed men to become involved in the party
- protecting Hitler and other key Nazis when they organised meetings and made speeches

Attacking the Treaty of Versailles

The Nazis had consistently attacked the Treaty, calling it a Diktat that had been imposed on the German people, not only by the victorious Allies, but also by the new Weimar government who had signed it. Hitler promised to discard the restrictions of the Treaty and restore *Germany's* armed forces and its position of strength and pride in international affairs. Hitler also promised to ignore the payment of reparations.

	How did this encourage support?
Propaganda	
SA	
Attacking Treaty of Versailles	

The creation of a dictatorship, 1933-34

In January 1933 Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and by August 1934 he had declared himself Führer - the sole leader of Germany. During this time Hitler eliminated all sources of opposition to himself, both within the Nazi Party and in Germany as a whole.

Initially, Hitler needed more support in the Reichstag if he was to be head of a strong government and then eventually gain absolute power, as was his aim. He therefore convinced President Hindenburg to call a new Reichstag election for March 1933. This set off a series of events that ended with Hitler becoming a dictator.

Date	Events	How this helped Hitler to gain power
27 Feb - 5 Mar 1933	Reichstag Fire and Reichstag election: on 27 February the Reichstag building was set on fire. A Dutch communist, van der Lubbe, was caught red-handed in the burning building. Days later in the election 44 per cent of the population voted for the Nazis, who won 288 seats in the Reichstag - still not an overall majority. Hitler had to join with the nationalists to form a majority.	
23 Mar 1933	The Enabling Act: with the communist deputies banned and the SA intimidating all the remaining non-Nazi deputies, the Reichstag voted by the required two-thirds majority to give Hitler the right to make laws without the Reichstag's approval for four years.	
14 July 1933	Political parties were banned: only the Nazi party was allowed to exist.	

30 June 1934	Night of the Long Knives: Many members of the SA, including its leader Ernst Röhm, were demanding that the Nazi party carry out its socialist agenda and that the SA take over the army. Hitler could not afford to annoy businessmen or the army, so the SS (Hitler's personal body guards) murdered around 400 members of the SA, including Röhm, along with a number of Hitler's other opponents like the previous Chancellor, von Schleicher.	
19 Aug 1934	Hitler became Führer: when Hindenburg died, Hitler declared himself jointly president, chancellor and head of the army. Members of the armed forces had to swear a personal oath of allegiance not to Germany, but to Hitler.	

Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1939

Employment and living standards

The German people had suffered terribly during both the First World War and the Depression and a huge part of the Nazis' appeal was that they promised to make Germany's economy strong again. Hitler aimed for full employment and by 1939 there was virtually no official unemployment in Germany. He also wanted to make Germany self-sufficient (a concept known as autarky), but the attempt to do so was ultimately unsuccessful.

How Hitler increased employment

He began a huge programme of public works, which included building hospitals, schools, and public buildings such as the 1936 Olympic Stadium. The construction of the autobahns created work for 80,000 men.

Rearmament was responsible for the bulk of economic growth between 1933 and 1938. Rearmament started almost as soon as Hitler came to power but was announced publicly in 1935. This created millions of jobs for German workers.

The introduction of the National Labour Service (NLS) meant all young men spent six months in the NLS and were then conscripted into the army.

Invisible employment

Although Germany claimed to have full employment by 1939, many groups of people were not included in the statistics, including:

- The 1.4 million men in the army at this time.
- Jews who were sacked and their jobs given to non-Jews.
- Women who were encouraged to give up their jobs to men.

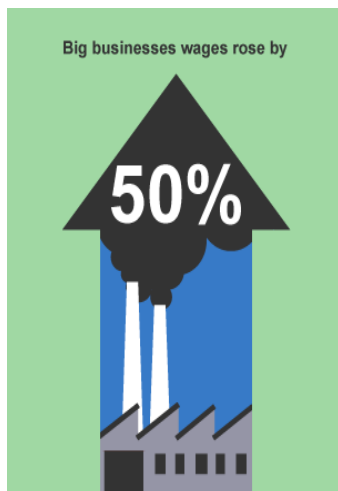
Autarky

The policy of autarky attempted to make Germany self-sufficient, so it would no longer be necessary for Germans to trade internationally. In 1937 Hermann Göring was made Economics Minister with the job of making Germany self-sufficient in four years. The measures he introduced, such as tighter controls on imports and subsidies for farmers to produce more food, were not successful. By the outbreak of World War Two Germany was still importing 20 per cent of its food and 33 per cent of its raw materials.

Impact of Nazi economic policies on German people

Despite the loss of freedom, life improved in Germany for many ordinary people who were prepared to conform in order to have a job and a wage.

Nazi economic policies had different effects on different groups in society:



Big businesses - The Nazis had promised to curb the power of monopolies, but by 1937 they controlled over 70 per cent of production. Rearmament from 1935 onwards boosted profits of big weapons companies, and managers of the major industrial companies saw their incomes rise by 50 per cent between 1933 and 1939.

Small business - Rules on opening and running small businesses were tightened, which resulted in 20 per cent of them closing.

Farmers - Having been one of the main sources of their electoral support during their rise to power, farmers benefitted under the Nazis. By 1937, agricultural prices had increased by 20 per cent and agricultural wages rose more quickly than those in industry. The Hereditary Farm Law of 1933 prevented farms from being repossessed from their owners, which gave farming families greater security.

	Impact
Big Businesses	
Small Businesses	
Farmers	

Industrial workers

The Labour Front. This was a Nazi organisation that replaced Trades Unions, which were banned. It set wages and nearly always followed the wishes of employers, rather than employees.

Strength Through Joy. This scheme gave workers rewards for their work - evening classes, theatre trips, picnics, and even very cheap or free holidays.

Beauty of Labour. The job of this organisation was to help Germans see that work was good, and that everyone who could work should. It also encouraged factory owners to improve conditions for workers.

The living standards of German workers in the non-armaments industries did not really improve under the Nazis. From 1933 to 1939:

- wages fell
- the number of hours worked rose by 15 per cent
- serious accidents in factories increased
- workers could be blacklisted by employers for questioning their working conditions

Summarise the following policies:

The Labour Front	
Strength Through Joy	
Beauty of Labour	

Nazi policies towards women

Nazi views on women and the family

The Nazis had clear ideas of what they wanted from women. They were expected to stay at home, look after the family and produce children in order to secure the future of the Aryan race.

Hitler believed women's lives should revolve round the three 'Ks':

The Three K's	What does this imply the woman's role is?
Kinder (children)	
Kirche (church)	
Kuche (kitchen)	

Marriage and family

Hitler wanted a high birth rate so that the Aryan population would grow. He tried to achieve this by:

- introducing the Law for the Encouragement of Marriage which gave newlywed couples a loan of 1,000 marks, and allowed them to keep 250 marks for each child they had
- giving an award called the Mother's Cross to women who had large numbers of children
- allowing women to volunteer to have a baby for an Aryan member of the SS

Employment

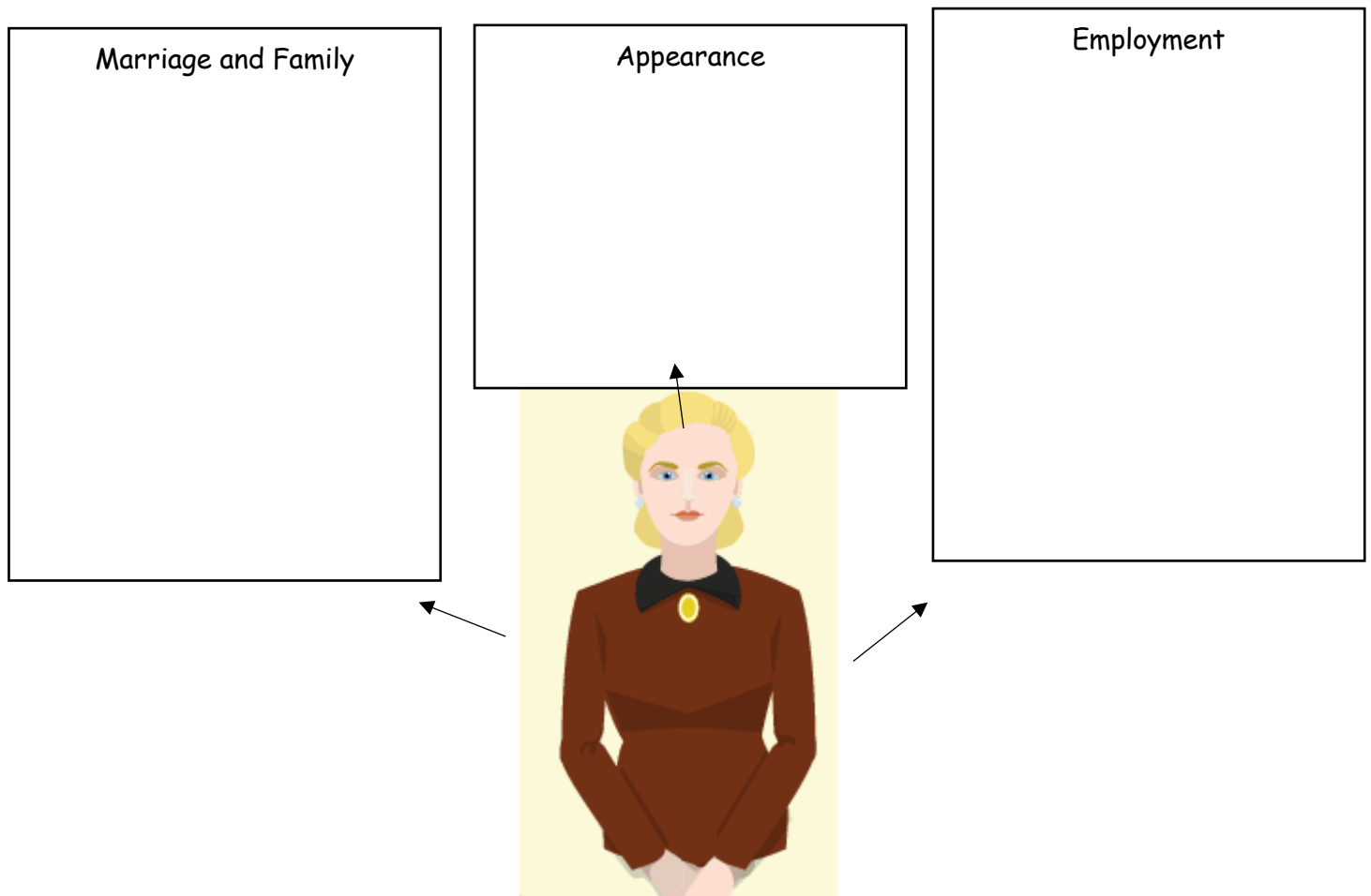
- Measures were introduced which strongly discouraged women from working, including:
- the introduction of the Law for the Reduction of Unemployment, which gave women financial incentives to stay at home

- not conscripting women to help in the war effort until 1943

However, female labour was cheap and between 1933 and 1939 the number of women in employment actually rose by 2.4 million. As the German economy grew, women were needed in the workplace.

Appearance

Women were expected to emulate traditional German peasant fashions - plain peasant costumes, hair in plaits or buns and flat shoes. They were not expected to wear make-up or trousers, dye their hair or smoke in public. They were discouraged from staying slim, because it was thought that thin women had trouble giving birth.



Nazi aims and policies towards the young

Young people were very important to Hitler and the Nazis. Hitler spoke of his Third Reich lasting for a thousand years and to achieve this he would have to ensure German children were thoroughly indoctrinated into Nazi ideology.

To this end, from the age of 10 boys and girls were encouraged to join the Nazis' youth organisation, the Hitler Youth (the girls' wing of which was called the League of German Maidens). Membership from age 10 was made compulsory in 1936 and by 1939 90 per cent of German boys aged 14 and over were members.

The Hitler Youth	The League of German Maidens
Its aim was to prepare German boys to be future soldiers	Its aim was to prepare German girls for future motherhood
Boys wore military-style uniforms	Girls wore a uniform of blue skirt, white blouse and heavy marching shoes
Activities centred on physical exercise and rifle practice, as well as political indoctrination	Girls undertook physical exercise, but activities mainly centred on developing domestic skills such as sewing and cooking

Nazi control of the young through education

As well as influencing the beliefs of young Germans through the Hitler Youth, schools indoctrinated young people into the political and racial ideas of Nazism.

All teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers' Association, which vetted them for political and racial suitability.

The curriculum was altered to reflect Nazi ideology and priorities:

History - lessons included a course on the rise of the Nazi Party.

Biology - lessons were used to teach Nazi racial theories of evolution in eugenics.

Race study and ideology - this became a new subject, dealing with the Aryan ideas and anti-Semitism.

Physical Education - German school children had five one-hour sports lessons every week.

Chemistry and Mathematics - were downgraded in importance.

Again, the aim was to brainwash children so that they would grow up accepting Nazi ideas without question.

How did the lives of young people change under the Nazis? (8 marks)

REMEMBER TO TALK ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT WAYS AND HOW THIS CHANGED OVER TIME. YOU SHOULD ALSO MENTION THE DIFFERENT GROUPS AND THEIR EXPERIENCES.

Religion

Nazi policies towards the Catholic and Protestant Churches

There were approximately 45 million Protestants and 22 million Catholic Christians in Germany in 1933. Hitler saw Christianity as a threat and a potential source of opposition to Nazism because it emphasised peace. The Nazis tried to control the Churches with policies and bargaining.

Control of the Churches

A state Reich Church under the leadership of the Nazi Bishop Ludwig Müller was established to unify the different branches of Protestantism. This enabled the Nazis to use a group called the 'German Christians' within the Reich Church to promote Nazi ideas.

In 1933 Hitler agreed a **Concordat** with the Pope, which said that he would not interfere in the running of the Catholic Church if it stayed out of political matters. Hitler didn't keep his side of the bargain, however, as the Nazis attempted to infiltrate the Church and spread their propaganda.

Nazi attempts to suppress the Churches

The Reich Church attempted to ban the use of the Old Testament in religious services as it was considered a 'Jewish book'. Eight hundred Pastors of the Confessional Church, a non-conforming Protestant group, were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

The Nazis attempted to stop Catholics using the crucifix in church, though this attempt was not successful. Catholic schools and youth organisations were suppressed, with German children being educated in state schools and taught a Nazi curriculum, as well as being expected to join the various branches of the Hitler Youth. Catholic newspapers were banned and four hundred Catholic priests were sent to Dachau concentration camp.

Impact of the Nazis actions

In 1937 Hitler was forced to return control of the Church to the old Protestant leadership, in return for a promise that the Church would stay out of politics.

Attendance at Catholic churches increased substantially under the Nazis, especially during World War Two, showing that Hitler's attempts to reduce the influence of religion in Germany was ultimately unsuccessful.

Both Protestant and Catholic clergy played a large role in opposing Hitler and the Nazis, for which they often paid a high price.

What was the Concordat?

Was it successful? Explain

Propaganda and Control

The Police State

By August 1934 Hitler was a dictator with absolute power. In order to maintain this power he needed organisations that could control the population to ensure absolute loyalty to the Führer. After the demise of the SA on the Night of the Long Knives, there were three main interlinked organisations (in addition to the regular German police force) involved in controlling the German people through spying, intimidation and if necessary imprisonment:

Schutzstaffel (SS) - Led by Heinrich Himmler, the SS was the most important of these organisations and oversaw the others. Initially set up as Hitler's personal bodyguard service, the SS was fanatically loyal to the Führer. It later set up concentration camps where 'enemies of the state' were sent.

Gestapo - This was the Nazis' secret police force. Its job was to monitor the German population for signs of opposition or resistance to Nazi rule. It was greatly helped by ordinary German people informing on their fellow citizens.

Sicherheitsdienst (SD) - This was the intelligence gathering agency of the SS. It was responsible for the security of Hitler and other top Nazis and was led by Himmler's right hand man, Reinhard Heydrich.

Name of group	What was it?	How did it help to keep control?
SS		
Gestapo		
SD		

Nazi control of the legal system

The Nazis quickly swept away many of the freedoms that Germans had enjoyed under the Weimar constitution. The party's control of the legal system made opposition to the regime very difficult indeed:

Judges had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and were expected to act always in the interests of the Nazi state.

All lawyers had to join the Nazi Lawyers' Association, which meant they could be controlled.

The role of defence lawyers in criminal trials was weakened.

Standard punishment for crimes were abolished and so local prosecutors could decide what penalties to impose on those found guilty.

These changes more than halved the number of criminal offences between 1933 and 1939, whilst the number of crimes that carried the death penalty increased from three to 46. Many convicted criminals were not released at the end of their sentences but instead were moved to the growing number of concentration camps being established by the SS.

Hitler and the Nazi Party were a constant presence in the life of the German people, with:

- The infamous Swastika symbol appearing on every government uniform and public building.
- Pictures of Hitler displayed everywhere.
- Germans having to greet each other with a 'Heil Hitler' raised arm salute.

The government department responsible for all of this was the Ministry of Enlightenment and Propaganda, headed by Dr Joseph Goebbels. It aimed to brainwash people into obeying the Nazis and idolising Hitler. Its methods included:

- **Censorship of the press.** All newspapers were controlled by the government and could only print stories favourable to the Nazi regime.

How would this help to maintain control?

- **Control of radio broadcasts.** Radios were sold very cheaply so that most Germans could afford one. All radio output was controlled by Goebbels' ministry through the Reich Broadcasting Corporation.

How would this help to maintain control?

- **Mass rallies.** These public displays of support for Nazism involved music, speeches and demonstrations of German strength. The biggest one was held each year in August at Nuremberg.

How would this help to maintain control?

- **Use of sports events.** Berlin hosted the Olympics of 1936, which the Nazis used as an opportunity to showcase the success of the regime and to demonstrate the superiority of the Aryan race. The victories of the African-American athlete Jesse Owens for the USA infuriated the Nazi leadership.

How would this help to maintain control?

- Loudspeakers in public places also blared out Nazi propoganda. Much of the information Germans received reinforced the message of Aryan racial superiority whilst demonising the Jews and other 'enemies' of the regime.

How would this help to maintain control?

Nazi control of culture and the arts

Type	German influence
Art	The Weimar period had seen a flourishing of German art, much of which was abstract. Hitler saw this modern art as 'degenerate' and over 6500 works of art were removed from display across Germany. Hitler encouraged 'Aryan art' instead, which showed the physical and military power of Germany and the Aryan race.
Architecture	Hitler was very interested in architecture and believed it could be used to project the power of the Nazi regime. The most important architect of the period was Albert Speer, who redesigned Berlin, as well as designing the stadium in Nuremberg where annual rallies were held.
Literature	Nazis ceremonially burned thousands of books in 1933 that were viewed as being subversive or as representing ideologies opposed to Nazism. These included books written by Jewish, pacifist, classical, liberal, anarchist, socialist, and communist authors.
Film	To make sure that film served the goals of propoganda, the Nazi Party gradually took over film production and distribution. A state-run professional school for politically reliable film-makers was founded, and membership of an official professional organisation (Reichsfilmkammer) was made compulsory for all actors and film-makers. The Nazi leaders often used film stars, like Lil Dagover, to help promote the popularity of the party in Germany.
Music	In classical music, works by Jewish composers like Mendelssohn and Mahler were banned and the works of the German composer Wagner were promoted, gaining huge popularity. The Nazis were strongly opposed to jazz music, which they referred to as Negro music and called it degenerate.

SUMMARY: How did the Nazis maintain control?

Opposition and resistance

Historians tend to define 'opposition' in Nazi Germany as any acts which openly defied the regime, while resistance is taken to mean active attempts to overthrow Hitler and the Nazis. There were obviously a great deal more of the former than of the latter. However, it is also generally acknowledged that the regime was widely accepted and enjoyed much popular support.

The extent of support for the Nazi regime

It is difficult to know exactly how popular the regime was as Hitler's police state made it very difficult to express opposition and Nazi propaganda portrayed the Führer as his people's saviour. However, it is clear that the Nazis were the most popular party when they came to power and many Germans welcomed the stability and economic growth an authoritarian regime brought. In general, Germans were happy to trade the freedom and democracy of Weimar for the certainty and security Hitler brought. His regime restored Germany's international prestige through rearmament and the dismantling of the Treaty of Versailles. The sheer scale of propaganda - especially that directed towards German children - meant that many more Germans became active Nazi Party members and were convinced of Hitler's greatness.

Opposition from the Churches

Protestantism

Many Protestant pastors, led by Martin Niemöller, formed the **Confessional Church** in opposition to Hitler's Reich Church. Niemöller was held in a concentration camp during the period 1937-1945 and a total of 800 clergy were sent to camps.

Another Protestant pastor and member of the Confessional Church, Dietrich Bonhöffer, was linked to the 1944 bomb plot and was executed.

Catholicism

Despite the Concordat, some Catholic priests opposed Hitler. In 1937, the Pope's message '**With Burning Concern**' attacked Hitler as 'a mad prophet with repulsive arrogance' and was read in every Catholic Church.

The Catholic Archbishop of Munster, **von Galen**, led a successful campaign to end euthanasia of mentally-disabled people.

400 German Catholic priests were imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp by the regime.

Opposition from the young

The main youth opposition group was the **Edelweiss Pirates**, based in the Rhineland. They reacted to the discipline of the Hitler Youth by daubing anti-Nazi slogans and singing pre-1933 folk songs. In 1942 over 700 of them were arrested and in 1944, the Pirates in Cologne killed the Gestapo chief, so the Nazis publicly hanged 12 of them.

The **White Rose group** was formed by students at Munich University in 1943. They published anti-Nazi leaflets and marched through the city in protest at Nazi policies. Its leaders, brother and sister Hans and Sophie Scholl, were arrested to and sentenced to the guillotine.

During the war, 'Swing Youth' and 'Jazz Youth' groups were formed. These were young people who rejected Nazi values, drank alcohol and danced to jazz. The Nazis rejected jazz music as **degenerate** and called it Negro music, using their racial ideas against this cultural development. These youths were closely monitored by the Gestapo, who regularly raided illegal jazz clubs.

Opposition from workers

Perhaps the most widespread and persistent opposition to the Nazi regime came from ordinary German workers, often helped by communists, who posted anti-Nazi posters and graffiti, or organised strikes. In Dortmund the vast majority of men imprisoned in the city's jail were industrial workers. Workers went on strike over high food prices in 1935 and during the Berlin Olympics in 1936.

Summarise the tactics of each of the groups giving examples for each
 Rank each group's threat out of 10 (1 being the highest threat) and explain

Group	What did they do and why?	Threat?
Church		
Young		
Workers		

The persecution of minorities

Hitler and the Nazis had firm views on race. They believed that certain groups were inferior and were a threat to the purity of the Aryan race. There were many groups who were targeted for persecution, including Slavs (Eastern Europeans), gypsies, homosexuals and the disabled - but none more so than the Jews.

Black people were also persecuted in Nazi Germany and in German-occupied territories. They suffered forced sterilization, medical experimentation, incarceration, brutality and, sometimes, were murdered. However, there was no systematic program for their elimination as there was for Jews and other groups.

Nazi racial beliefs

The Nazis' racial philosophy taught that Aryans were the master race and that some races were 'untermensch' (sub-human). Many Nazi scientists at this time believed in **eugenics**, the idea that people with disabilities or social problems were degenerates whose genes needed to be eliminated from the human bloodline. The Nazis pursued eugenics policies vigorously.

Policy of persecution

Sterilisation - In order to keep the Aryan race pure, many groups were prevented from reproducing. The mentally and physically disabled, including the deaf, were sterilised, as were people with hereditary diseases. Children born to German women and French African soldiers in the Rhineland at the end of World War One were called 'Rhineland Bastards' and also sterilised.

Euthanasia - Between 1939 and 1941 over 100,000 physically and mentally disabled Germans were killed in secret, without the consent of their families. Victims were often gassed - a technique that was later used in the death camps of the Holocaust.

Concentration camps - Homosexuals, prostitutes, Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies, alcoholics, pacifists, beggars, hooligans and criminals were often rounded up and sent away to camps. During World War Two 85 per cent of Germany's gypsies died in these camps.

The Nazis' persecution of the Jews

The group most heavily targeted for persecution by the Nazis were the Jews of Germany. The outbreak of World War Two brought the horror of mass killings and the Final Solution, but the period 1933 saw a gradual increase in persecution, reaching a turning point during Kristallnacht in November 1938:

1933

- Nazis organised a boycott of Jewish businesses.
- Books by Jewish authors were publicly burnt.
- Jewish civil servants, lawyers and teachers were sacked.
- Race science lessons were introduced, teaching that Jews were sub-human.

1935

- The Nuremberg Laws formalised anti-Semitism into the Nazi state by:
- Stripping Jews of German citizenship.
- Outlawing marriage and sexual relations between Jews and Germans.
- Taking away from Jews all civil and political rights.

1938

- Jews could not be doctors.
- Jews had to add the name Israel (men) or Sarah (women) to their name.
- Jewish children were forbidden to go to school.

Kristallnacht - 9 November. The SS organised attacks on Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues in retaliation for the assassination of the German ambassador to France by a Jew.

1939

- Jews were forbidden to own a business, or even a radio
- By the outbreak of World War Two in September 1939, the Jews were stateless, their employment options in Germany were severely restricted and they feared for their safety.

Plot the events on the timeline on the next page

Which of the laws do you think would have had the biggest impact on lives and why?

Why do you think the Nazis introduced these laws?

Why do you think most Jewish people stayed in Germany and didn't leave?
