

2 The police state

- 24 2.1 The Gestapo, SS, SD and concentration camps
- 24 2.2 Nazi control of the legal system
- 24 2.3 Nazi policies towards the Churches

3 Controlling and influencing attitudes

- 26 3.1 Goebbels and the Ministry of Propaganda
- 26 3.2 Nazi control of culture and the arts

4 Opposition, resistance and conformity

- 28 4.1 The extent of support for the Nazi regime
- 28 4.2 Opposition from the Churches
- 28 4.3 Opposition from the young

Key topic 4: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–39

1 Nazi policies towards women

- 30 1.1 Nazi views on women and the family
- 30 1.2 Nazi policies towards women
- 30 1.3 Successes and failures of Nazi policies

2 Nazi policies towards the young

- 32 2.1 Nazi control of the young through education
- 32 2.2 Hitler Youth and the League of German Maidens
- 32 2.3 Successes and failures of Nazi policies

3 Employment and living standards

- 34 3.1 Nazi policies to reduce unemployment
- 34 3.2 Changes in the standard of living

4 The persecution of minorities

- 36 4.1 Nazi racial beliefs and policies
- 36 4.2 The treatment of minorities
- 36 4.3 The persecution of the Jews

Exam focus

- Question 1: Inference
- Question 2: Causation
- Question 3(a): Utility
- Question 3(b): How interpretations differ
- Question 3(c): Why interpretations differ
- Question 3(d): How far do you agree with one of the interpretations?

Revision techniques

Key topic 1 The Weimar Republic, 1918–29

The **Weimar Republic** faced challenges to its authority in its early years from 1919 to 1924. It experienced a period of recovery in the years 1924–29, during which there were important changes in society.

1 The origins of the Republic, 1918–19

REVISED

The Weimar Republic was set up due to the legacy of the First World War.

1.1 The legacy of the First World War

Defeat in the First World War in 1918 led to revolution in Germany.

The Revolution of October/November 1918–19

- The First World War started in 1914 and the USA joined the Allies in the war against Germany in April 1917. By the early autumn of 1918, the German army was being pushed back in France. The British naval blockade had resulted in shortages of food for the German people. German defeat was imminent.
- In early October 1918, a new government was formed led by Prince Max of Baden. He approached US President Wilson about ending the war. Wilson said that he would not discuss peace terms with Germany while **Kaiser Wilhelm** and his military advisers were in control.
- At the end of October 1918, the German navy mutinied. Sailors at Kiel refused to put to sea and fight the British. Unrest began to spread across Germany.
- On 9 November, Kaiser Wilhelm's abdication was announced.
- On 10 November, a new republic was set up under Chancellor Ebert. The following day, Ebert signed the **armistice** with the Allies.

1.2 The setting up of the Weimar Republic

In January 1919, a new democratic **constitution** for Germany was drawn up. It was finalised in August 1919 and had both strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths of the new constitution

- It established the most advanced democracy in Europe – men and women had the vote at the age of 20 at a time when in Britain the age was 21 for men and 30 for women.
- The President was elected every seven years and had the power to appoint the Chancellor (head of the government).
- The Reichstag (parliament) had the power to pass or reject changes in the law. Members of the Reichstag were elected by **proportional representation** every four years.
- It established the right of free speech and freedom of religious belief.

Weaknesses of the new constitution

- Article 48 said that in an emergency the President could make laws without going to the Reichstag. This gave the President too much power.
- Proportional representation often led to many small parties gaining seats, including extremist groups such as the Nazis. No one party was large enough to secure a majority. **Coalition governments** were often weak and short lived.
- The army generals and judges were the same men who had served the Kaiser. Many of them opposed the Weimar Republic.

Key terms

Armistice The agreement to end hostilities in war

Coalition government

Two or more political parties joining to form a government when no single political party gets a majority of the seats, in order to have sufficient support to pass laws

Constitution The basic principles according to which a country is governed

Proportional representation

The number of votes won by a party determines the number of seats they get in parliament

Weimar Republic

The republic that existed in Germany, 1919–33

Key individual

Kaiser Wilhelm The last German Emperor, ruling from 1888 to 1918

Revision task

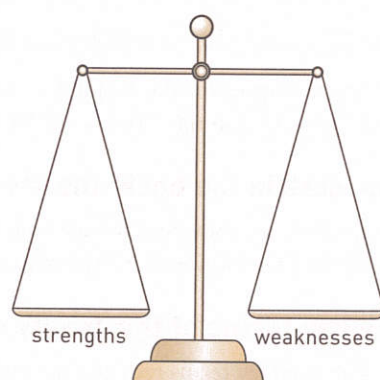
Create a timeline showing the main developments in Germany, 1918–19, adding in dates and events.

Exam tip

You need to know the weaknesses of the German constitution, especially the effects of proportional representation and Article 48.

Strengths and weaknesses

- 1 Using the information on page 4, copy and complete both sides of the scales to show the strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar constitution.



- 2 Do you think the strengths outweigh the weaknesses? Give reasons for your answer.

You're the examiner

- 1 Below are an exam-style question, a mark scheme and a paragraph written in answer to the question. Read the paragraph and the mark scheme and decide what mark you would give the answer.

Give **two** things you can infer from Source A about German reactions to the Versailles peace treaty. (4 marks)

SOURCE A

From a speech by Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, head of the German Versailles delegation to the Allied powers, 7 May 1919.

We shall be made to pay and, as the guilty, we shall be punished. We are required to admit that we alone are to blame for the war. Such an admission on my lips would be a lie. We emphatically deny that Germany, whose people were convinced that they were waging a war of defence, should be burdened with the sole responsibility for the war.

Mark scheme

2 marks	1 mark for each valid inference up to a maximum of two inferences
2 marks	The second mark for each inference is for supporting detail selected from the source

STUDENT ANSWER

The source suggests that many Germans strongly opposed the War Guilt clause. The source also suggests that the War Guilt clause was unfair.

Mark Reason _____

- 2 Now write an answer which could gain 4 marks.

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

REVISED

2.1 The early unpopularity of the Republic

The main reasons for the Republic's early unpopularity were the '**stab in the back**' theory and the **Treaty of Versailles**.

The 'stab in the back' theory

Many Germans thought the German army had been 'stabbed in the back' by the politicians ('the November Criminals') who signed the armistice in November 1918.

The key terms of the Treaty of Versailles

- The military terms reduced the German army to 100,000 and demilitarised the Rhineland. Germany was not allowed tanks, military aircraft or submarines.
- The territorial terms robbed Germany of key industrial areas, such as the iron of Alsace-Lorraine and the coalfields of the Saar. Germany lost thirteen per cent of its land.
- The financial terms seemed too harsh – with **reparations** set at £6.6 billion.
- Germany had to accept the blame for starting the war (the War Guilt clause).

Opponents of the Treaty described it as a *diktat* or dictated peace.

2.2 Challenges to the Republic from the left and right

The Republic faced threats from the left and right; there were several uprisings.

Opposition from the left – the Spartacists

- The **Spartacists**, led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, demonstrated against the government in December 1918. Sixteen people died in clashes with the army.
- They formed the German Communist Party and on 5 January 1919 staged an uprising in Berlin to overthrow the government and create a Communist state.
- The rising was crushed and Liebknecht and Luxemburg were killed.

Opposition from the right – the Kapp Putsch

- The **Freikorps** were furious about the Treaty of Versailles. In March 1920, they attempted to take power in Berlin, through a **putsch** led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp.
- Kapp set up a new right-wing government in Berlin. The army would not put the putsch down, showing its lack of support for the Weimar Republic.
- Berlin workers supported Weimar and went on strike; the putsch collapsed.

2.3 The challenges of 1923

The German government could not pay its first reparations payment. In January 1923, the French marched into the Ruhr industrial area, determined to get payment in kind by taking goods. The workers chose passive resistance to the occupation and went on strike. This meant that fewer goods were being produced. The German government printed more money to pay the strikers which, alongside fewer goods, turned inflation into **hyperinflation**. By November 1923, the German mark was worthless: \$1 was worth 4,200,000,000 marks.

Hyperinflation losers	Hyperinflation winners
Old-age pensions became worthless	Businesses were able to pay off debts
People's savings lost all value	The rise in food prices helped farmers
Wages could not keep up with inflation and many people could not afford everyday necessities such as bread	

Key terms

Freikorps Private armies set up by German army officers at the end of the First World War; mainly consisted of ex-soldiers

Hyperinflation Extremely high inflation, where the value of the money plummets and it becomes almost worthless

Putsch An attempt to seize power by force

Reparations War damages (money) to be paid by Germany to countries it had fought against

Spartacists A Communist group who wanted to create a Communist state

'Stab in the back' theory The belief that Germany could have won the war and that politicians had stabbed the army in the back at the end of the war

Treaty of Versailles The peace treaty ending the First World War, signed on 28 June 1919

Revision task

Make a table to show the reasons for German discontent with the Treaty of Versailles, using these headings:

- military terms
- War Guilt
- Rhineland
- reparations
- loss of land.

Exam tip

Be aware of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, how they affected Germany and why they brought widespread opposition.

RAG: Rate the timeline

Below are an exam-style question and a timeline. Read the question, study the timeline and, using three coloured pens, put a **red**, **amber** or **green** star next to the events to show:

- Red:** events and policies that have **no** relevance to the question
Amber: events and policies that have **some** relevance to the question
Green: events and policies that have **direct** relevance to the question.

Explain why there were challenges to the Weimar Republic in the years 1919–23.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Spartacists
- Hyperinflation

You must also use information of your own.

1918 November
Kaiser Wilhelm II
abdicated

1918 November
Germany signed
the armistice

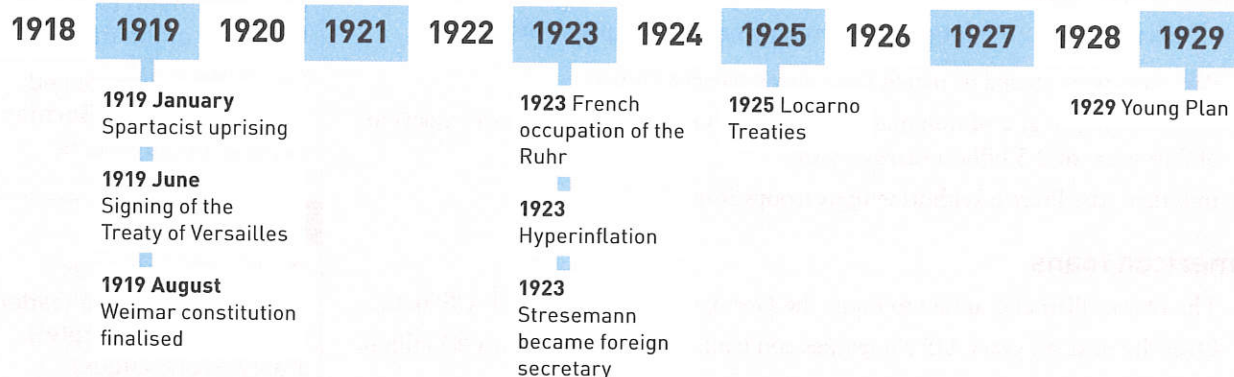
1918 November
The 'stab in the
back' theory

**1920 Kapp
Putsch**

1924 Dawes Plan

**1926 Germany
joined League
of Nations**

**1928 Kellogg–
Briand Pact**



Spot the mistakes

Below is a paragraph which is part of an answer to the question in the timeline activity above. However, it has factual mistakes. Identify the mistakes and on a separate piece of paper rewrite the paragraph.

One reason why there were challenges to the Weimar Republic in the years 1919–23 was the presence of groups who wanted to form a Communist state. One of these groups was the Spartacist League, which was led by Karl Liebknecht and Gustav Stresemann. In December 1920, there were Spartacists' demonstrations against the government which led to clashes with the army and resulted in the deaths of sixteen Spartacists. At the end of the month, the Spartacists formed the Nazi Party. In January 1921, the Spartacists began their attempt to overthrow the Weimar government in order to create a Communist state. Ebert used the SS to put down the uprising.

3 The recovery of the Republic, 1924–29

REVISED

The German economy recovered from the disasters of 1923 while relations with other countries, especially Britain and France, improved.

3.1 Reasons for economic recovery

There were several reasons for the economic recovery of the Republic, including:

- the role of Stresemann
- American loans
- the Rentenmark
- the Young Plan
- the Dawes Plan

The role of Stresemann

In August 1923, **Gustav Stresemann** was appointed Chancellor to deal with the problems of hyperinflation. It was his decision to call off passive resistance in the Ruhr and to negotiate the **Dawes Plan**.

The Rentenmark

In November 1923, Stresemann introduced the **Rentenmark** to replace the German mark. This was a temporary measure in order to stabilise the currency and restore confidence. The Rentenmark's value was based on property values rather than on gold reserves. It was converted into the Reichsmark the following year, backed by gold reserves.

The Dawes Plan

The Dawes Plan of 1924 reorganised Germany's reparation payments:

- Payments were staged to match Germany's capacity to pay.
- Payments began at 1 billion marks for the first year and increased over a period of four years to 2.5 billion marks a year.
- In return, the French withdrew their troops from the Ruhr.

American loans

- The Dawes Plan also aimed to boost the German economy through US loans.
- Over the next six years, US companies and banks gave loans of nearly \$3 billion.

The Young Plan

In 1929, Germany negotiated a further change to reparations known as the **Young Plan**:

- A timescale for payment was set, with Germany making payments until 1988.
- The reparation figure was reduced from £6 billion to £1.85 billion.

3.2 Stresemann's achievements abroad

Stresemann was responsible for several successes abroad that greatly assisted German recovery.

- Stresemann greatly improved relations with Britain and France by ending passive resistance in the Ruhr. The **Locarno Pact** of 1925 followed, signed by Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Belgium. By this agreement, Germany agreed to keep its existing borders.
- Germany had to become a member of the **League of Nations** for the Pact to come into operation. It was given a permanent seat in September 1926, which recognised its return to a Great Power.
- In 1928, Germany signed the **Kellogg–Briand Pact** along with 64 other nations. It was agreed that these nations would keep their armies for self-defence but would solve all future disputes by 'peaceful means'.

Key terms

Dawes Plan Introduced in 1924 to restructure Germany's annual reparations payments

Kellogg–Briand Pact International agreement to solve all disputes peacefully

League of Nations International body established after the First World War to maintain peace

Locarno Pact Series of agreements guaranteeing Germany's frontiers with neighbouring countries

Rentenmark New currency brought in by Stresemann to restore the value of the mark

Young Plan Introduced in 1929 to reduce German reparation payments

Key individual

Gustav Stresemann In 1919, he became leader of the German People's Party. From August to November 1923, he served as Chancellor of Germany and, later in the same year, he was appointed foreign secretary, a position he held until his death in 1929

Exam tips

- 1 Make sure you are aware of Stresemann's policies both at home and abroad.
- 2 You should have precise knowledge about the terms of both the Dawes Plan and the Young Plan. This will impress an examiner.



Eliminate irrelevance

Below is an exam-style question:

Explain why the Weimar Republic recovered in the years 1924–29.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Dawes Plan
- The Locarno Pact

You **must** also use information of your own.

Below is part of an answer to the question above. Some parts of the answer are not relevant to the question. Identify these and draw a line through the information that is irrelevant, justifying your deletions in the margin.

The Weimar government experienced hyperinflation in 1923. By November 1923 the German mark was worthless. Many people suffered due to the effects of hyperinflation, including pensioners who found that their pensions became worthless and people with savings who found that they lost all value.

German recovery in the years 1924–29 was partly due to the work of Stresemann who introduced the Dawes Plan which aimed to boost the German economy through US loans, beginning with a loan of 800 million marks. Reparations were sensibly staged to match Germany's capacity to pay. Reparation payments would begin at 1 billion marks for the first year and would increase over a period of four years to 2.5 billion a year. In return, France withdrew its troops from the Ruhr.

A further reason for German recovery was the Locarno Pact. Stresemann was determined to improve Germany's relations with Britain and France and restore German prestige abroad. The Locarno Pact of 1925, which also included Italy and Belgium, achieved all of these aims and guaranteed Germany's frontiers with France, Belgium and Italy. This, in turn, led to Germany being invited to join the League of Nations.

German recovery ended in 1929 with the Wall Street Crash in the USA. Many German businesses were forced to close. They were heavily dependent on loans from the USA.

German farmers also suffered as prices fell even more in the years after 1929.



Choosing a third cause

To answer the exam-style question in the eliminate irrelevance activity above, you need to explain three causes. It is sensible to make use of the two given points. However, you will need to add one of your own. In the spaces below, write down your choice for a third point and the reasons behind it.

Reason: _____

Why I have chosen this reason: _____

Details to support this reason: _____

4 Changes in society, 1924–29

The period 1924–29 is often described as the ‘golden age’ of the Weimar Republic.

4.1 Changes in the standard of living

For many Germans, these years saw an improvement in their standard of living.

Wages

- The real value of wages increased each year after 1924 – benefiting German workers. By 1928, Germany had some of the best paid workers in Europe.
- While unemployment fell generally, it remained high in the professions such as lawyers, civil servants and teachers.

Housing

Weimar governments also attempted to deal with a shortage of housing. Between 1924 and 1931 more than 2 million new homes were built and by 1928, homelessness had been reduced by more than 60 per cent.

Architecture

A new group of architects and designers emerged, called the *Bauhaus* who used bold designs and unusual materials, and basic shapes and colours.

Unemployment insurance

The Unemployment Insurance Law (1927) required workers and employees to make contributions to a national scheme for **unemployment welfare**.

4.2 Changes in the position of women

Debate about the status of women was an important feature of Weimar Germany.

Politics

- In 1919, women over 20 were given the vote.
- The Weimar constitution introduced equality in education, equal opportunity in civil service appointments and equal pay in the professions.
- By 1926, there were 32 women deputies in the Reichstag.

Leisure

Women enjoyed much more freedom, socially. They:

- went out unescorted and drank and smoked in public
- were fashion conscious, often wearing shorter skirts
- had their hair cut short and wore makeup.

Employment

- There was a growing number of women in new areas of employment, most noticeably in public employment such as the civil service and teaching, but also in shops and on the assembly line.
- Those women who worked in the civil service earned the same as men.
- By 1933, there were 100,000 women teachers and 3000 women doctors.

Key terms

Bauhaus An architectural and design movement – means ‘School of Building’

Unemployment welfare Payments made to the unemployed by the state

Revision task

Summarise in no more than ten words the changes to women in Germany in the years 1924–29.

Exam tip

Cultural changes are generally not as well revised as the recovery of the Republic under Stresemann. Ensure you have precise knowledge of these changes.

4.3 Cultural changes

Some of the most exciting art and culture in Europe emerged during this period.

Art

Neue Sachlichkeit (new objectivity) was a new approach to art which portrayed society in an objective way. It was associated with painters such as George Grosz and Otto Dix.

Cinema

This was a golden age for the German cinema. Fritz Lang was its best known director. He produced *Metropolis* (1927), the most technically advanced films of the decade. German actress Marlene Dietrich became one of the most popular film stars in the world, often playing strong and glamorous women.

Inference

Below are an exam-style question and part of an answer.

Give two things you can infer from Source A about women in Weimar Germany.

Women had greater freedom socially. The details from the source which support this are the women who are shown in a bar drinking alcohol with men.

Now make a second inference and use details from the source to support it.

Utility

Use the questions and statements in the white boxes around the photo to make notes in answer to the following question:

How useful is Source A for an enquiry into the position of women in the Weimar Republic in the 1920s? Explain your answer, using Source A and your knowledge of the historical context.

SOURCE A

A photograph showing women in a famous Berlin bar in the 1920s.

What is useful about the contents of the source?



What is useful about the nature, origins or purpose of the source?

Contextual knowledge to support your answer

Key topic 2 Hitler's rise to power, 1919–33

In 1919–20, the **Nazi Party** was set up and, in the Munich Putsch of 1923, Hitler unsuccessfully tried to seize power by force. There was limited backing for the Nazis during 1924–28 but the Depression in 1929 brought increased support. Political developments in 1932 led to Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933.

1 Early development of the Nazi Party, 1920–22

REVISED

The Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler, emerged in the early 1920s and was able to take advantage of the problems experienced by the Weimar Republic.

1.1 Hitler's early career

Hitler was born in Austria in 1889. When he was sixteen, he went to Vienna to become an artist. This did not work out. From 1908 to 1913 he was virtually a 'down-and-out' on the streets of Vienna. It was during these years that Hitler developed his hatred of Jews:

- **Anti-Semitism** was widespread in Vienna.
- He was envious of the wealthy Jews and blamed them for his own problems.

In 1914, Hitler joined the German army and served with distinction, winning the Iron Cross. He found it hard to accept the armistice, believing that Germany was on the verge of winning the war when it was betrayed by the politicians.

Hitler stayed in the army after the war, working for the intelligence services. He came across the **German Workers' Party (DAP)**, led by Anton Drexler, and joined it in 1919.

In 1920, the party was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP or Nazi Party).

1.2 The early growth and features of the Nazi Party

Hitler was good at public speaking and in February 1920 he was put in charge of recruitment and propaganda, attracting new members to the party. By 1921, he was strong enough to challenge Drexler and take over the leadership of the party himself.

- The political meetings generated much violence. In order to protect Nazi speakers, protection squads were used. These developed into the *Sturmabteilung* (**SA**) in 1921. It attracted many ex-soldiers, especially from the *Freikorps*. The SA would disrupt the meetings of Hitler's opponents, especially the Communists, and often beat up opposition supporters.
- By 1922, the Nazi Party had 6000 members, rising to 50,000 two years later.
- The Nazi Party drew up a **Twenty-Five Point Programme** (see box below). This was their political manifesto. It was vague and deliberately designed to appeal to as many groups as possible.

Key terms

Anti-Semitism Hatred of Jews

German Workers' Party (DAP) An anti-Weimar government party set up by Anton Drexler

Nationalise To change from private ownership to state ownership

Nazi Party The National Socialist German Workers' Party set up by Hitler in 1920

SA Hitler's private army set up to protect Nazi meetings and disrupt those of his opponents

Twenty-Five Point Programme The main aims and principles of the Nazi Party

Exam tip

You need to be aware of the impact of the DAP and the early Nazi Party on Hitler's career, including the Twenty-Five Point Programme and the setting up of the SA.

Key features of the Twenty-Five Point Programme

- The union of all Germans to form a Greater Germany.
- Getting rid of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Citizenship of the state to be granted only to people of German blood. Therefore no Jew was to be a citizen of the nation.
- The government to **nationalise** all businesses that had been formed into corporations.
- All newspaper editors and contributors to be German, and non-German papers to appear only with the permission of the government.