



Weimar Germany Revision Guide

Name:



Key Topics

1. The setting up the Weimar Republic
2. The early challenges, 1918-23
3. The recovery of Germany, 1924-29
4. The Weimar Golden Age



Knowledge Organiser – Topic One: Weimar Germany 1919-29

Timeline

1. 9 th Nov 1918	Kaiser II abdicates (leaves the throne) and flees Germany.
2. 9 th Nov 1918	The Weimar Republic is set up.
3. 11 th Nov 1918	The First World War ends. The Armistice is signed after Germany surrenders to the allies
4. 9 th Nov 1918	Kaiser II abdicates (leaves the throne) and flees to the Netherlands
5. Jan 1919	The Spartacist Uprising in Berlin and other cities. Crushed by the army and Freikorps
6. 26 th June 1919	Treaty of Versailles is signed
7. 3 rd March 1920	Kapp Putsch – Attempted putsch by Freikorps led by Wolfgang Kapp. Failed due to lack of support.
8. Jan 1923	Ruhr Crisis – France invades the Ruhr over reparations leading to huge problems in Germany.
9. June 1923	Hyperinflation causes huge social and economic problems
10. August 1923	Gustav Stresemann becomes Chancellor
11. Sept 1924	Stresemann signs the Dawes Plan which ends Hyperinflation
12. Dec 1925	Germany signs the Locarno Treaties
13. June 1929	The Young Plan is agreed
14. Oct 1929	Wall Street Crash – Germany goes into depression

Key People

15. Friedrich Ebert	First Chancellor of Germany and later President
16. Gustav Stresemann	Chancellor from 1923, solved Hyperinflation, Ruhr Crisis and brought about a period of stability and success to Weimar Germany.
17. Kaiser Wilhelm II	King of Germany, who fled in November 1918

Key Words

18.	Armistice	Agreement to stop fighting, Germany asked for it in 1918
19.	November Criminals	Weimar politicians blamed for the 'Stab in the Back' of Germany by surrendering at the end of World War One.
20.	Constitution	The system of laws and rules of a country
21.	Reichstag	The German Parliament
22.	Article 48	Gave the President 'emergency powers' in times of crisis
23.	Proportional Representation	A political system where parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes they receive.
24.	Chancellor	Head of Government, chosen by the President
25.	President	Head of state and military, voted by people, could use Article 48 and had power to dismiss government.
26.	Coalition	When a group of 2 or more political parties form a government together
27.	Extremist	Groups that believe in violent and radical ideas
28.	Communism	Left wing groups, who believe everybody should be equal in the country and it should be run for the workers
29.	Fascists	Right wing groups, who believe in a strong ruling leader.
30.	Freikorps	WW1 veterans who formed private armies.
31.	Spartacists	Revolutionary Communists who wanted Germany to be run by the working classes. Led by Rosa Luxemborg
32.	Putsch	A violent attempt to overthrow the government
33.	Reparations	£6.6 billion fine placed on Germany at Versailles
34.	Demilitarized	No military forces are allowed in the area
35.	Article 231	Called 'The War Guilt Clause'. Part of the Treaty of Versailles which blamed Germany for causing WW1
36.	Rentennmark	German currency (money) introduced by Stresemann

Germany at the end of the First World War, 1918

Growing problems in Germany

By 1918, Germany was facing mounting problems; Germany's Spring Offensive had failed, the allies were on the offensive, the country had lost over 2 million soldiers and there was feeling the army would collapse. Furthermore, the allied blockade of the ports was causing mass suffering due to food shortages.

It's not my fault, blame the English and French!



As a result, many civilians and soldiers became angry at Kaiser Wilhelm II (who had total control of Germany) for the failures and hardships.

Many were influenced by the recent Russian Revolution where the Tsar (King) was overthrown and replaced by a government of the people, some felt the same should happen in Germany.

Revolution spreads across Germany.

In late 1918, revolutionary feeling spread across the country, leading to the abdication (stepping down) of the Kaiser with Germany's first democratic government – the Weimar Republic.

29th October 1918

German sailors at Wilhelmshaven refuse to follow orders, this leads to the Kiel Mutiny where sailors refuse to go and fight the British navy.



4th November 1918

40,000 sailors join dock workers and set up a Workers' and Soldiers' council to rule themselves, they take over the dockyard. Government control of the country breaks down in areas like Bavaria and Hamburg.



9th November

Kaiser Wilhelm II realises he has lost control of Germany, and under pressure from his own ministers and Allies who say they will only negotiate with 'representatives of the people' decides to abdicate. He flees to Holland.



10th November

Power is given to Friedrich Ebert from the Social Democrat party (SPD), he becomes Chancellor of the new government called the Weimar Republic. Germany was now a democracy for the first time in its history.



Effects of the Revolution

- Short Term** – The new Weimar Republic immediately calls for a ceasefire (an end to the fighting) which leads the armistice on the 11th November 1918. Germany had lost the First World War.
- Long Term** – Politics in Germany became very unstable as extreme left-wing and right-wing groups fought for power over the country. There was so much trouble, the new government didn't fully take control until mid-1919.



The impact of the First World War

The First World War had significant impact on Germany, the Weimar Republic and the future of Germany.

New Government

Many were unsure of the new government, some wanted the Kaiser to return.

Deaths and Casualties

In total, Germany had over 7 million casualties (dead or injured).



Mass Starvation

The allied blockade of German ports led to mass starvation due to lack of food supplies. In total, 500,000 people died as a result of this.

Financial Problems

The war had almost bankrupted Germany, it cost them £37 billion. The allied blockade had nearly ended trade, leaving Germany in poor situation.

Losing the war

The German population were deeply unhappy the Weimar Republic surrendered, they did not feel they had lost the war. They felt the government had 'stabbed them in the back' by giving in.

Social Unrest

Thousands of soldiers left the army, causing riots and problems with those back in Germany. One group were the **Freikorps** (ex soldiers who refused to give up their weapons)

What was the Weimar Republic?



At the end of WW1, Kaiser Willhem II, the king of Germany fled to Holland. As part of the Treaty of Versailles, It was agreed that Germany had to become a democracy and elections were held in 1919. They were won by Social Democrats (SPD) led by Friedrich Ebert – he set up Germanys first ever democratic government– the Weimar Republic



The Weimar Constitution

1. Everyone had freedom of speech, religion and to hold meetings
2. Personal freedom and equality
3. All men and women over 20 could vote
4. The Reichstag (government) was voted for by the people and made the laws

The first job was to establish the constitution (A set of rules used to govern a country)

The Weimar Republic

The Weimar Constitution was carefully created so that no one person or group could have too much power through proportional representation and the roles of President, Chancellor and Reichstag.

The voting system

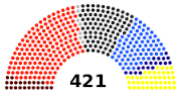
Proportional representation was the way that political parties were voted into government.

Every party could gain seats in the Reichstag (The parliament) if they are voted for

Political parties get percentage of seats in the government as a result of the 'proportion' of people who voted for them.

E.g. .33% of votes= 33% of seats in the government

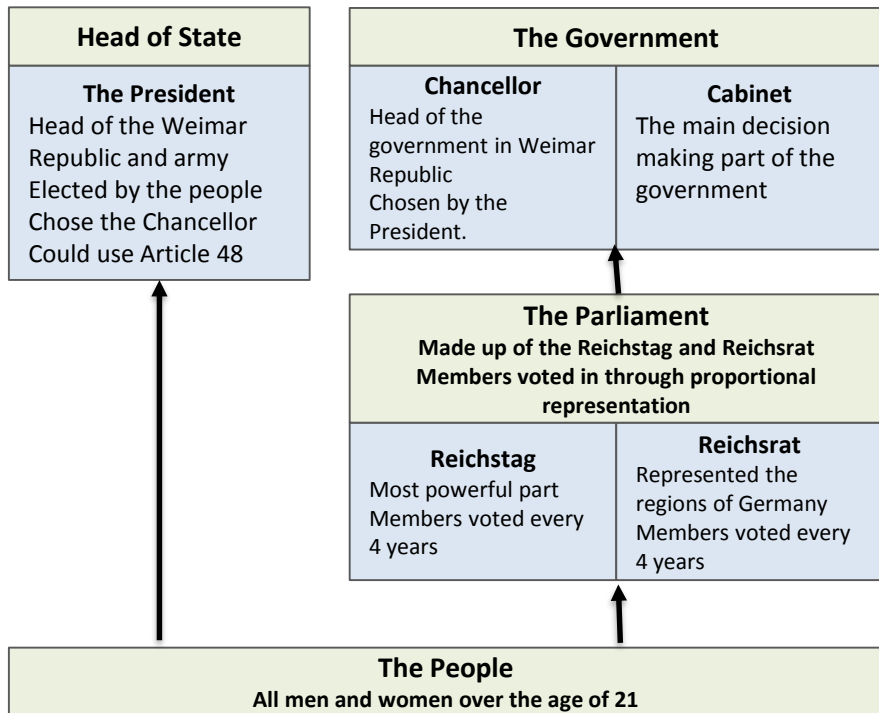
There were 421 seats in the Reichstag



Article 48

In an emergency or crisis, the President can use Article 48 to rule themselves.

They would not have to ask the Chancellor or Reichstag for permission to pass laws.



Strengths of the Weimar Constitution

- Proportional representation made sure small parties had a fair share of seats in the government
- The system meant that not one group or person could have too much power, it hoped to end dictatorships
- In 1919, Germany was the most democratic in Europe, by giving equal rights and votes to women, more than Britain
- There were elections for both the Reichstag and President
- There was free speech and freedom of religious beliefs

Weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution

- Proportional representation often led to coalition governments (made up of a few parties) who found it difficult to get along and agree, so they often collapsed.
- In the 1920s, there were 29 different parties, which meant less chance of one getting a majority.
- The army, judges and civil servants wanted a return of the Kaiser and were opposed to the Weimar Republic
- Article 48 meant that the President could take control if he thought there was an 'emergency' – leading to dictatorship.
- The Weimar Republic was hated by the people,

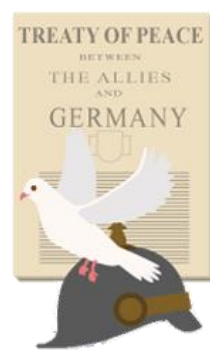
The Political Spectrum

There were over 29 different parties across the political spectrum, below are the main parties.

The SPD joined in a coalition with the DDP and Centre Party to control 80% of the Reichstag whilst the extreme right and left had the remaining 20% of the Reichstag.



The Treaty of Versailles



Although the Germans signed the armistice on 11 November 1918, it was not until 28 June 1919 that the treaty ending the First World War was signed, it was called the **Treaty of Versailles**. The treaty became the **first main reason why Germans hated the Weimar Republic**.

The Treaty of Versailles was decided by Britain, France and the United States of America and forced on Germany – they had no say in it. This automatically meant they hated it and they were horrified at the terms (points) of the treaty, as they believed they would be treated fairly by America’s Woodrow Wilson.

The Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

Military Terms

- The German army was limited to 100,000 men
- Conscription was banned
- No tanks or artillery



- The Navy was cut down to 6 battleships and submarines were banned
- The German air force was banned.



- The Rhineland (German land on the border with France) was demilitarized – no soldiers were allowed there.



Blame

- Germany had to accept full responsibility for starting the war. This was called Article 231 – The War Guilt Clause.
- They were not allowed to join the League of Nations.



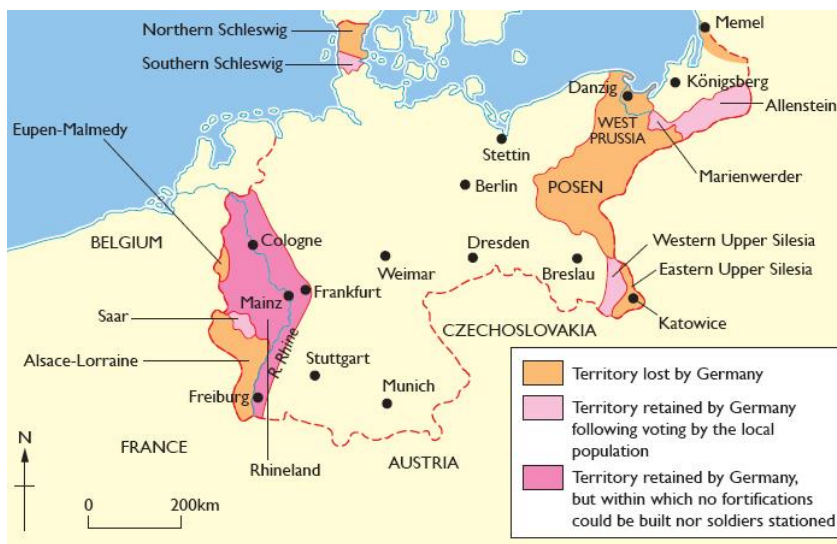
Reparations

- Germany had to pay reparations of £6.6 Billion to Britain, France and Belgium as compensation for the war
- France was given the Saar coalfields to mine for 15 years
- Germany lost its merchant navy.



Territorial Terms

- In total, Germany lost 13% of its land and 6 million Germans
- 48% of their coal production was lost
- Germany’s overseas Empire was taken away and given to Britain and France
- Anschluss (union) with Austria was forbidden
- Germany lost the following areas:
 - Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France
 - Danzig became a free city
 - Malmedy was given to Belgium.
 - German territory in West Prussia and Upper Silesia was given to Poland to create the ‘Polish Corridor’ – cutting off East Prussia
 - The Saar Coalfields (rich in industry and raw materials) were given to France for 15 years



German Reactions to the Treaty of Versailles

For most Germans, the Treaty of Versailles was utterly humiliating and they hated it for a number of reasons:

The Diktat

The Germans were given no say in the treaty – sign it or risk invasion. This led to the Germans calling the Treaty the ‘**Diktat**’ – a dictated peace!



Ebert and the Weimar Government were called the ‘**November Criminals**’ who had stabbed Germany in the back to take power from the Kaiser and army (*The Dolchstoß Theory*)

War Guilt

Many German people hated Article 231 – they felt why should they be blamed for that the Kaiser and other countries had done.

They said it was unfair to blame the new Weimar government for the actions of the now abdicated Kaiser.

The German people were disgraced and humiliated by this clause.

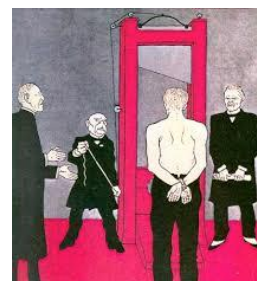


The Terms of the Treaty

The loss of the armed forces hurt Germany’s pride and made them feel weak/insecure – how could they control their own country or defend themselves? The loss of territory split up the country and took away 13% of Germany’s population, this had financial and social consequences.

Germans were bitter and angry at the allies, who they thought were trying to destroy Germany.

The £6.6 billion fine would almost bankrupt Germany, and the loss of land would make it harder to pay back.



Threats from the left and right

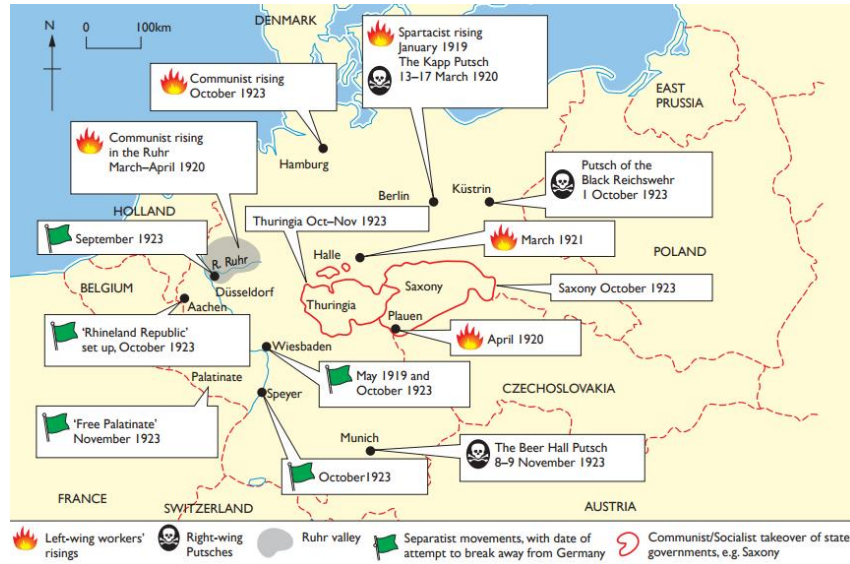
In the early years (1918-23) there were constant threats from the left and right, assassinations and several uprisings across Germany



Unrest spread for many reasons - many hated the Weimar Republic for signing the Treaty of Versailles or high taxes they introduced to pay reparations, others fought to take control for political reasons whilst many were unhappy at the social problems facing Germany.

Adding to these problems was the communist Revolution in Russia in October 1917, which spread ideas of a revolution to Germany.

Two different groups attempted to takeover Germany – **the left and right wing**. These groups had vastly different ideas.



The extreme left (communists) wanted everyone to be equal and for the people to own the businesses and share profits out.

The extreme right wanted a strong army and military leadership. They believed it was 'survival of the fittest'. They would ignore the Treaty of Versailles.

Challenge from the left:

Background

In 1918, revolution was in the air and many workers began to set up council

This worried the army and Weimar Republic, who wanted to stop the chance of a communist revolution.

The Spartacist Uprising

The Spartacists were an extreme group led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg who aimed to turn Germany into a communist country.



In January 1919, 50,000 Spartacists attempted to overthrow Ebert and the Weimar Republic. They captured the government newspaper but failed to take any others, or get any support from other left wing groups.



Ebert used the army (Reichswehr) and Freikorps to put down the rebellion. The Spartacist were defeated, Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were murdered. The communist threat ended after the swift and violent put down.

Other Problems

Violence and Murder

The army continued to put down any threats, killing hundreds.

There were 376 murders (most of them by the right wing) in the period 1919-22.

Two Weimar politicians were assassinated in this time:

- Matthias Erzberger in 1921, a 'November Criminal' who signed the Treaty of Versailles
- Walther Rathenau, 1922, the German Foreign Minister.



Further uprisings

In 1920, a week after the Kapp Putsch, a communist group called the Red Army rebelled in the Ruhr but were taken down by the army.



In 1923, Hitler and the Nazis attempt the Munich Putsch. This was their attempt to seize power but it failed. (See page...) for information.

Challenge from the right:

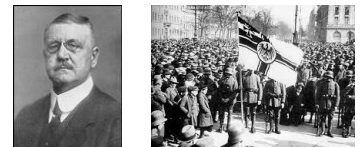
Background

Right wing groups like the army hated the Weimar Republic for signing the Treaty of Versailles, they agreed with the Dolschtoss Theory that they had been stabbed in the back. They wanted to set up a military right wing dictatorship

The Kapp Putsch

In 1920, after the crushing of the left, Ebert tried to reduce the size of the army and disband the Freikorps, causing uproar.

The leader of the Freikorps and Berlin politician **Wolfgang Kapp** then took the government buildings using the army. They declared a new right wing government.



The Weimar government fled to Dresden and ordered the army to stop the Putsch (armed takeover) but they refused. Ebert then called on the workers of Berlin to not support the putsch and go on strike, the workers supported this and agreed.



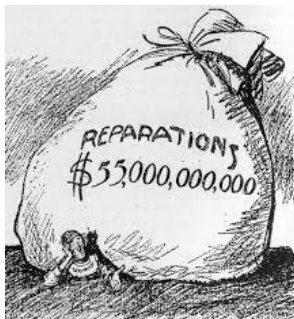
The Kapp Putsch failed but despite 400 army officers being involved, very few were punished.

The Crises of 1923 – The Ruhr Crisis

Background

By 1923, Germany was struggling to keep up with its reparations payments of £6.6 billion (loss of territory and bankrupt from WW1).

In January 1923, Germany defaulted on their payments to France – they didn't pay up



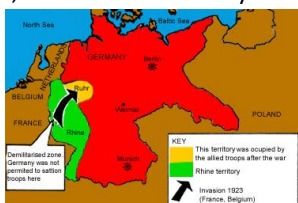
France was angry as they also needed money to pay off their war debts to USA.

They decided to take raw materials like coal and steel for themselves by going into the Ruhr where 80% of Germanys steel was produced, they thought taking the Ruhr would make up for Reparations Germany had missed.



The Ruhr Crisis, 1923

On 11th January, 60,000 French and Belgian troops march into the Ruhr. They seized control of all mines, factories and railways.



The French believe the Germans will work for them, but this does not happen.

The people support the Weimar Republic's decision not to work.

The workers decided on 'passive resistance' and go on strike, refusing to work. Some even burn factories



Industry in the Ruhr came to a standstill so the French brought in their own workers.



The French arrested, imprisoned and deported the resistance leaders

As a result there was violence with huge protests over the French treatment of the workers.



The French then shoot a number of strikers and some French soldiers are also killed.



German industrial production fell dramatically

Results of the Crisis

The invasion united the German people against the French and impact of the Treaty of Versailles.



To support the workers, the government prints more money to pay them



However, as the government had no money, this caused the value of the mark (money) to drop.



This led to the second crisis **Hyperinflation!**



Exam Questions

Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions.

Remember to use the 'how to' guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.



1. What does Source A suggest about German attitudes to the French occupation of the Ruhr in 1923? (4 Marks)

One thing I can infer

Another thing I can infer



Source A, German poster from 1923. The poster is titled: 'Keep your hands off the Ruhr'

Nazis in the 1920s Exam Questions

Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions.

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1. Explain why there were economic problems for the Weimar Republic from 1919 - 1923 :

- reparations
- The French occupation of the Ruhr

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)



Using these this box to micro-plan your answer in 3-4 paragraphs using key words/terms for each.

P1.
P2.
P3.
P4.

2. Give two things you can infer from Source A about the state of Germany in 1918. (4 Marks)

Source A: From the papers of Jan Smuts, a South African politician who visited Germany in 1918.

'...motherland of our civilisation (Germany) lies in ruins, exhausted by the most terrible struggle in history, with its peoples broke, starving, despairing from sheer nervous exhaustion, mechanically struggling forward along the paths of anarchy (disorder with no strong authority) and war'

Answer your question under this headings:

- What I can infer
- Details in the source that tell me this

3. Give two things you can infer from Source B about German reactions to the Treaty of Versailles. (4 Marks)

Source B: From an article in Deutsche Zeitung, A German newspaper 28th June 1919.

'Vengeance, German nation: Today, in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, a disgraceful treaty if being signed. Never forget it! On that spot...German honor is being dragged to its grave. There will be revenge for the shame of 1919.'

Answer your question under this headings:

- What I can infer
- Details in the source that tell me this

Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany.

1. What is the main difference between these views? (4 marks)
2. Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany
3. How far do you agree with Interpretation 1 about the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany?

Interpretation 1 From Versailles and After, 1919-1933 by Dr. Ruth Henig, published in 1995

Compared to the treaties which Germany had imposed on and Rumania in defeated Russia 1918, the Treaty of Versailles was quite moderate... The Treaty of Versailles was not excessively harsh on Germany, either territorially or economically. However, the German people were expecting victory not defeat. It was the acknowledgement defeat as much as the treaty terms themselves, which they found so hard to accept.

Interpretation 2 From an online article The Treaty of Versailles – The peace to end all peace by Alan Woods Monday, 2009

The Versailles Treaty of 1919 was one of the most outrageous treaties in history. It was a blatant act of plunder perpetrated by a gang of robbers against a prostrate and bleed ing Germany. Among its numerous provisions, it required Germany and its allies to accept full responsibility for causing the war and, under the terms of articles 231-248, to disarm, make substantial territorial concessions and pay reparations to the Entente powers.

The Crises of 1923: Hyperinflation



What does hyperinflation mean?

Inflation
Is when money loses its value, so you need more money to pay for the same thing.



Hyperinflation
When out of control inflation happens very quickly, over weeks and months



The causes of Hyperinflation

The Hyperinflation crisis of 1923 was caused by two problems.

- **The reparations** – The £6.6 billions reparations had almost financially bankrupted Germany after WW1.
- **The occupation of the Ruhr** – When the government did not have enough money from reparations and the French taking their main industry in the Ruhr, they simply printed more money. However, **When a government prints more money**, which it does not have, **the value of the money goes down but prices go up.**



Effects of Hyperinflation

Hyperinflation had serious affects on Germany, the mark (currency) became worthless and millions faced starvation and poverty.

Prices went up so fast that workers had to rush into shops after being paid, as prices went up by the hour.

At one point it cost 80 million marks for a single egg

Children played with the worthless money in the, some used it as fuel as it was cheaper than wood!



Cost of Bread in Germany

This is a great example of hyperinflation

- Nov 1918 – 1 mark
- Nov 1922 – 163 marks
- Sep 1923 – 1.5 million marks
- Nov 1923 – 200 billion marks



Workers

Works did well, they had few savings, so not badly affected. Those employed were paid higher wages

Pensioners

Their pensions and savings became worthless as prices rose. They could not work either so faced starvation, or could afford to heat their homes.

Middle class

Savings were made worthless by inflation. Businessmen could no buy goods from abroad as German money was worthless. Many became bankrupt. The only consolation was that debts could be paid off easily

Impact of Hyperinflation

The rich

The rich had land, possessions and foreign currency. Possessions could be bartered (swapped) for food and other essentials. They could even but small businesses.

Farmers

Farmers were spared the worst, they could grow and eat their own food. It could be also used to trade or sell for goods and money



Source A, German poster from 1923. It had a caption 'Paper Money' at the top and 'Bread' at the bottom

Exam Questions

Source B – A man whose father owned a small business

“My father began to pay wages largely in goods, mostly food. My mother stacked these in the flat where we lived. Livestock, such as chickens, was kept in the bathroom and on the balcony. Flour, fats etc. were bought in bulk as soon as money became available. My mother had to parcel all this food out in rough proportion to the employee’s entitlement. Come pay-day the workforce assembled in the flat in groups for their handouts.”

Source C – The memories of a German writer.

One fine day I dropped into a café to have a coffee. As I went in, I noticed the price was 5000 marks –just about what I had in my pocket. I sat down, read my paper, drunk my coffee and spent altogether about one hour in the café, and then asked for the bill. The waiter duly presented me with a bill for 8000 marks. Why 8000? I asked. The mark had dropped in the meantime, I was told. So I gave the waiter all the money I had and he was generous enough to leave it at that.



Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions. Remember to use the 'how to' guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

1. What does source A suggest about the impact of hyperinflation on Germany (4 Marks)
2. How useful are sources B and C in telling us about the impact of the Hyperinflation in 1923

How did the Weimar Republic recover?

The **GOLDEN YEARS**

In August 1923, Gustav Stresemann became Chancellor. Historians have claimed that this period was the Weimar governments '**Golden Years**' as he was able to help the country recover from the crises and bring about a period of prosperity.



The Dawes Plan

First of all he tackled the problem of **hyperinflation**. Stresemann gained help from US banker Charles Dawes to create the **Dawes Plan**.

Dawes ordered all of the currency (the mark) to be burned and destroyed. This immediately ended the huge prices. He introduced a temporary new currency (**The Rentenmark**) which reset the prices of goods.



Germany was also given more time to pay their reparations and set payments at 2.5 billion marks a year.

US banks agreed to loan money to Germany, 800 million at first.

Over 6 years, \$3 billion was given, This was used to build railways, roads and factories to boost the economy.



The Young Plan

Germany also negotiated the Young Plan in 1929. Reparations were reduced from £6 billion to \$1.85 billion, whilst it was agreed they would pay for 60 years.

Solving the Ruhr Crisis

The Dawes plan also helped to solve the **Ruhr crisis**.

With a new stable currency and reduced reparations payments, Germany was able to start paying their debts.



Stresemann ordered an end to the strike in the Ruhr.



France and Belgium pulled their troops out of the Ruhr as Germany were now cooperating.

German Industry was able to start up again, helping the German economy recover.



International Respect

In 1925, **Stresemann signed the Locarno Treaty** with France and Belgium, Great Britain and Italy.

This pact agreed that the countries borders should stay the same. This improved the friendship between the countries in Europe and Germany



Although Germany was banned when it was set up in 1919, Germany had earned enough trust to be allowed to **join the League of Nations in 1925**. This increased Germany's international respect and made them a 'Great Power' again.



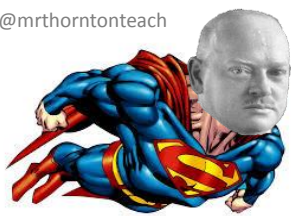
Germany also **signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact in 1928**. 64 countries agreed to keep their armies for self defence but they agreed to solve all future disagreements by 'peaceful means'.



Political Stability

Stresemann also was able to organise a coalition of different parties in the Reichstag (parliament). They agreed to work together and this meant decisions could be made and the long arguments in the Reichstag stopped, the Weimar Republic was now able to make decisions quickly. This brought stability to Germany, people began to have more faith in the government.





The extent of German recovery 1924-29

Some historians have called Stresemann a 'Superman' who was able to help Germany recover between the years 1924-29 whilst others have argued the recovery was not as

Therefore, we must discuss **was Stresemann really a 'superman'?**

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stresemann successfully ended the Ruhr Crisis and Hyperinflation - Germany's most serious crises in 1923 • Stresemann had hugely improved Germany's international reputation with the Locarno Treaty, entry to the League of Nations and Kellogg Briand Pact. • The ending of hyperinflation meant that people could buy goods again, workers could be paid and families no longer risked starvation • As a result of the loans and ending hyperinflation, industry grew between 1924-29 by 40% • Wages increased, working hours did not increase and as a result workers were happier. There was less striking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany was very reliant on the loans from America – if they were to go, Germany would fall into crisis (This happened in 1929 after the Wall Street Crash) • Unemployment still remained a problem, it peaked at 10% in 1927 • The middle classes never recovered from hyperinflation and the economic crises, they felt they were ignored by the Weimar Republic and hated them. • Farmers continued to struggle in the 1920s, their profits drooped and production never • Hatred towards the Weimar Republic never went away, some like the Nazis thought that Stresemann had given in to the French in the Ruhr.

Exam Questions



Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions.

Remember to use the 'how to' guides in the front of this book to help you in your answers.

1. Explain how Gustav Stresemann was able to bring about recovery in Germany, 1924-29.

You may use the following in your answer:

- **The Dawes Plan**
- **The Locarno Pact**

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)

2. Study interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the extent of German recovery in the years 1924-29 . What is the main difference between these views? Explain your answer using details from both interpretations.

3. Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the extent of German recovery in the years 1924-29.

4. How far do you agree with interpretation 2 about the recovery of Germany 1924-29 . Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context. (16 Marks)

Interpretation 1 From Weimar and Nazi Germany, F Reynoldson, published in 1996.

From 1924 to 1929 the Weimar Republic was much stronger than it had been just after the war. Led by Stresemann in the Reichstag, the different parties managed to work together. The extreme parties such as the Nazis gained fewer seats in the elections. The German people were better off and more contented. The Weimar Republic looked safe

Interpretation 2 From Weimar and Nazi Germany, E. Wimplott, published in 1997

German prosperity was built on quicksand foundations The Weimar economy was dependent upon high-interest American loans, which usually had to be repaid or renewed within three months. In times of depression, US moneylenders could demand repayment. Moreover, unemployment never fell below 1.3 million. Although big business grew in the 1920s, small firms struggled and many went bankrupt.

Golden Years

How did society change in the Weimar Republic?

The period between 1924 and 1929 is often described as a 'golden age' in the Weimar Republic due to significant changes in culture, the standard of living and the position of women.

Many welcomed these new ideas as they challenged tradition and seemed to strengthen support for the Weimar Republic. Others, however, criticised these changes and believed that they seriously weakened German society and values, causing even more opposition to the Weimar Republic.

The standard of living

For many, there was an improvement in their standard of living, especially in wages, housing and unemployment insurance.

Wages and employment

Wages increased every year from 1924, 10% in total and by 1928 German workers were some of the best paid in Europe.



However, many of the middleclass did not experience a rise in wages and unemployment remained high (128,000 in 1928) in professions such as lawyers, civil servants and teachers.

Housing

The Weimar government attempted to deal with a critical shortage of housing. Between 1924 and 1931 more than two million new homes were built, while almost 200,000 were improved.



By 1928, homelessness had been reduced by more than 60 per cent. The effect of this was to considerably improve the quality of homes for many Germans.

Unemployment insurance

The Weimar Republic improved health and welfare insurance by adding unemployment insurance law in 1927. This required workers and employees to make contributions to a national scheme for unemployment welfare.



Other reforms provided benefits and assistance to war veterans, wives and dependents of the war dead, single mothers and the disabled

Women

Politics

In 1919, women over 20 years old were given the vote and took an increasing interest in politics.



The Weimar Constitution also introduced equality in education for the sexes, equal opportunity in profession. By 1926, there were 26 women deputies in the Reichstag.

Leisure

Women enjoyed much more freedom socially in the Weimar Republic. They went out unescorted, drank and smoked in public.



Women were fashion conscious, often wearing relatively short skirts, had their hair cut short and wore make-up.

Employment

There was an increase in women working in new jobs such as in the teaching, social work or work in shops or on the assembly line. Pay in civil service was also equal to men. By 1933, there were 100,000 women teachers and 3,000 doctors.



However, there was still hostility to women completing 'men's work' and married women working.

Culture and the arts

Germany became a cultural capital of Europe, censorship was removed and exiting art and culture emerged from the period.

Architecture and Art

A new group of architects and designers emerged called the Bauhaus. They used bold designs, unusual materials with basic colours, their slogan was 'Art and Technology) – they designed new buildings and furniture



Neue Sachlichkeit became a new type of art which showed society in an objective way, artists include Otto Dix

Cinema and Theatre

It was a golden age for German cinema, the best known film of the era was Metropolis which was the most advanced film in the decade. Marlene Dietrich became one of the most popular film stars in the world playing glamorous women.



METROPOLIS



New operas and plays focused on realism commenting on the problems in German society, like the Salesman of Berlin.

Explain why there was a golden age in the Weimar Republic

You may use the following in your answer:

- Women
- Culture

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)



The Weimar Republic Exam Questions



Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions. Remember to use the 'how to' guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

1. Explain why Germans hated the Treaty of Versailles (1919)

You may use the following in your answer:

- the economic affects
- Article 231

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)

2. Explain why there were challenges to the Weimar Republic in the years 1919-23. You may use the following in your answer:

- The Kapp Putsch, 1920
- The Ruhr Crisis, 1923

You must also use your own information (12 Marks)



Using these two boxes to micro-plan your answer to the above questions

You only need to plan out your 3-4 paragraphs, and key words/terms you would include in each

P1.
P2.
P3.
P4.

P1.
P2.
P3.
P4.

Interpretation 2 From Weimar and Nazi Germany, by Stephen Lee published in 1996.

The 1920s saw a huge cultural revival in Germany. Indeed, these years have been seen as the greatest period of experimentation in the whole of Germany's history. As things settled down politically, writers and artists had more of a chance to try out new ideas. The results were impressive and spread across all areas of the Arts.

Interpretation 2 From an article on women in Weimar Germany, written by Rudiger Graf in 2009.

Because of women's improved position in the workforce and their newly acquired rights as citizens women themselves seemed to have changed Magazines... presented a new generation women that differed fundamentally from their mothers.

3. Study interpretations 1 and 2. They give different about the attitudes towards women in Weimar Germany. What is the main difference between these views? Explain your answer using details from both interpretations.

4. Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the attitudes towards women in Weimar Germany.

5. How far do you agree with interpretation 2 about the attitudes towards women in Weimar Germany. Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context. (16 Marks)