

GCSE Topic: Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship

Remember, you could be assessed on any topic you have studied this year!

Economic	To do with money
Political	To do with ruling a country
Weimar Government	The name of the German government between 1919-1933
Hyperinflation	When prices increase rapidly due to the printing of excess money

Economic Problems of the Weimar Republic

The effects of WW1

- The **Treaty of Versailles** charged Germany £6.6 billion in reparations (war debts). Germany had some of its best land taken away, so paying this debt was impossible. In 1922 it said that it **couldn't pay the next instalments**
- The French didn't believe the Germans and sent 60,000 soldiers to **occupy the Ruhr**, an industrial area, to **confiscate iron and coal**
- The Weimar government told its workers to go on **strike** - it would support their families by **paying their wages**



Hyperinflation (1923)

- As they were short of money, the Weimar government printed large amounts of money to pay striking workers and to pay war debts
- This started to cause problems; more money in Germany meant rapid price rises - wages did not increase at the same rate. There was widespread suffering

Losers

- People with bank savings were the biggest losers. 1000 marks in the bank might take a lifetime to save for. After hyperinflation it wouldn't buy a loaf of bread!



Winners

- Business owners who had borrowed money found it was easy to pay off their debts.



Remember your acronyms!

12 mark bullet-point question:

- Describe (what is it?)
- Explain (why was it important?)
- Assess (this is all about its impact on the topic in question)
- Decide in a conclusion on which was more important. You can often find links between them to work this out.



For each bullet-point

Political Problems of the Weimar Republic

The Spartacist Uprising - 1919

When - Jan. 1919. The Spartacists were communists who believed that workers should rule Germany

Why - They believed the time was right - WW1 had damaged workers' lives more than anyone

What happened - The Spartacists captured key buildings and occupied Berlin for 3 days. The government left for the safety of a small town called Weimar. As there was no army to stop the Uprising, the government asked some right wing ex-soldiers, the Free Corps to stop the Spartacists. The Free Corps were successful and the leaders of the Spartacists were executed

Result - The government survived but looked weak



The Munich Putsch (1923)

When - November 1923, Hitler and the Nazis tried to seize control of the Munich in south Germany

Why - Hitler promised to get rid of the Treaty of Versailles, destroy communism and restore Germany to greatness

How - He then planned on marching to Berlin. The Nazis had forced other right-wing groups to support their plans at gunpoint, but as soon as they could, leaders of these groups told the police and army about Hitler's plans giving the game away

What happened - As Hitler and about 2000 supporters marched through Munich they were met by armed police. Three policemen and 16 Nazis died in a short gun battle

Result - Hitler was imprisoned but received a short sentence because the judge what Hitler had to say



4 mark 'why' interpretations are different question:

- Time (when was it written? how is this important?)
- Author (who wrote the source? why did they write it? is it biased?)
- Place (where was it written? from who's point of view is it written?)