

## A-level HISTORY

Component 1L The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991

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Thursday 23 May 2024      Morning      Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1L.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

After the First World War, the free-market economy was restored, and from 1919 German industrialists gained greater influence within the state and over the trade unions. During the inflation year of 1923, and in the period of stabilisation that began in 1924, the growing influence of the major industrialists continued. The strongest section of employers, which was grouped around the coal, iron and steel industrialists, worked towards a capitalist economic system, which they could control. From 1929, the leaders of heavy industry envisaged a solution to the economic crisis involving the suppression and destruction of the trade unions. This is precisely what was offered to them by Hitler, who won over the industrialists by proposing an economic programme which focused on tax cuts and an industrial production policy. Hitler made it clear, in his discussions with industry representatives, that his assumption of office would mean no significant change in the existing free-enterprise system.

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Adapted from F Fischer, *From Kaiserreich to Third Reich*, 1986

**Extract B not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions.**

**The extract is adapted from pages 136 – 142 of *Explaining Hitler's Germany* by John Hidden and John Farquharson, printed by BT Batsford in 1989, ISBN 0713462574.**

**Extract C**

The structural weaknesses of the German economy, which had existed from 1919, were very visible during the brief period of stabilisation after 1924. The only way that workers' demands for higher wages and the greatly increased claims for welfare benefits and pensions could be met was by an economic miracle. This did not happen. After 1929, with the onset of the Depression, the battle to deal with the escalating cost of welfare payments seemed impossible. Therefore, in January 1933, the Hitler government was confronted by formidable economic problems. The German economy was practically bankrupt and the official unemployment rate was well over six million. However, Nazi efforts to revive the economy were remarkably successful. By the summer of 1934 unemployment had come down to 2.5 million. Conscription and rearmament caused this decline to accelerate further and by 1938 virtually full employment was achieved. By 1939, the German economy was second only to America's and less vulnerable to global pressures than either the French or the British.

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Adapted from DG Williamson, *Germany since 1789*, 2016

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the development of the German economy in the years 1919 to 1939.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2**

'In the years 1878 to 1914, the chancellors of Germany responded effectively to the challenge of socialism.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 3**

'Very little was done to confront the legacy of Nazism in West Germany in the years 1945 to 1969.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 4**

To what extent did West German society change in the years 1969 to 1991?

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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