GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U80-1

S23-2100U80-1

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2023 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2
DEPTH STUDY 8
Germany: Democracy and dictatorship c.1918–1945
Part 1: Weimar and its challenges c.1918–1933

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example | **0** | **1** |.

Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

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Answer **both** questions

0 1 Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the challenges facing the Weimar Republic in the period from 1919 to 1925. [30]

Source A Adolf Hitler presents *The Programme of the German Workers' Party* to the public, in a meeting at a Munich beer cellar (24 February 1920). The programme was co-written with Anton Drexler.

The programme of the German Workers' Party is …

1. We demand the union of all Germans in a Greater Germany on the basis of the right of national self-determination.
2. We demand equality of rights for the German people in its dealings with other nations, and the revocation [repeal] of the peace treaties of Versailles and Saint-Germain.
3. We demand land and territory to feed our people and to settle our surplus population.
4. Only members of the nation may be citizens of the state. Only those of German blood, whatever their creed, may be members of the nation. Accordingly, no Jew may be a member of the nation …

23. The publishing of newspapers which are not favourable to the national welfare must be forbidden. We demand the legal prosecution of all those tendencies in art and literature which corrupt our national life, and the suppression of cultural events which violate this demand.

Source B Franz Bumm, the President of the Reich Department of Health, in a speech to the Reichstag (20 February 1923)

Unfortunately, this picture of accelerating and shocking decline in health conditions applies to the whole Reich. Especially hard hit are the middle class, those living on small retirement funds, the widows and the pensioners, who with their modest incomes can no longer afford the most basic necessities at present day prices. It is going just as badly for those who cannot yet earn … The height to which prices have climbed may be shown by the fact that as of 15 February, wholesale prices have risen on average to 5,967 times the pre-war level, those of foodstuffs to 4,902 times, and those for industrial products to 7,958 times. Meat consumption has fallen from 52 kilograms per person in 1912 to 26 kilograms per person in 1922. In the occupied zone (the Ruhr), moreover, this small amount has presumably to be shared with many foreign mouths as well. One finds "old age" and "weakness" listed in the official records on the causes of death; these are equivalent to death through hunger.

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Source C Gustav Stresemann, Foreign Minister of the Weimar Republic, in a private letter to the ex-Crown Prince of Germany (September 1925)

In my opinion there are three great tasks that confront German policy in the immediate future:

1. the solution of the reparations problem in a way that is tolerable for Germany;
2. the protection of those ten to twelve million Germans who now live under foreign control in foreign lands;
3. the readjustment of our eastern frontiers; the recovery of Danzig, the Polish Corridor.

The question of the option between east and west is not affected by our entry into the League of Nations. Such options only become viable when we have military force behind us. Unfortunately, we do not have that …

The most important task for German politics is to free German soil from foreign domination. We have to free the stranglehold on our throat. Therefore, German policy must be one of machination [scheming] and the avoidance of any fundamental decision on frontiers. I further request that you fully appreciate the frank tone of this letter since I am naturally obliged to practise the utmost restraint in my public utterances.

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0 2 Historians have made different interpretations about **the Nazi rise to power**. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations and use your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the miscalculations of politicians were responsible for the Nazi rise to power in 1933? [30]

Interpretation 1 AJP Taylor, in this extract from his book *Europe: Grandeur and Decline* (1967), provides an interpretation emphasising the responsibility of politicians for Hitler's rise to power.

The answer to the question how Hitler came to power is … to be found more in the actions of those German politicians who were not National Socialists than in those of Hitler himself … If there had been a strong democratic sentiment in Germany, Hitler would never have come to power – or even to prominence. He would have failed if the weak democratic parties had held together … One can blame all parties in turn. The Communists started the habit of violence and disrupted the working-class front. The Social Democrats had lost all ability to act and had lost faith in their strength. The Centre would bargain with anybody, even with Hitler. But the greatest responsibility lay with those who let Hitler in and established him as Chancellor.

Interpretation 2 Ian Kershaw, in this extract from his book *To Hell and Back: Europe 1914–1949* (2015), provides an economic interpretation.

The most disastrously affected economy in Europe was the most important … Germany …
As the Great Depression tightened its grip, the social fabric cracked … The sense of a formerly great nation now in crisis massively intensified, its very existence in danger; humiliated, helpless and hopelessly divided amongst itself. Under such pressure, the structure of parliamentary democracy gave way … And as it did, one political force alone, in the eyes of increasingly large numbers of Germans, offered the hope of national salvation: Hitler's Nazi Party. The result would be Hitler's takeover of power in Germany on 30 January 1933.

END OF PAPER

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