GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U80-1

Z22-2100U80-1

MONDAY, 6 JUNE 2022 – MORNING

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 political developments in the Weimar Republic between 1920 and 1932. [30]

Source A Wolfgang Kapp, a right-wing political activist, in a public proclamation to the German people (1920)

The Reich and nation are in grave danger. With terrible speed we are approaching the complete collapse of the State and of law and order. The government, lacking in authority, impotent and in league with corruption, is incapable of overcoming the danger. How are we to escape internal and external collapse? Only by re-erecting a strong State, there is no other way but a government of action. What are the tasks of the new government? The government will ruthlessly suppress strikes and sabotage. Striking is treason to the nation, the Fatherland and the future. We shall not govern according to theories but according to the practical needs of the State and the nation as a whole. In the best German tradition the State must stand above the conflict of classes and parties. Everyone must do his duty! The first duty of every man today is to work. Germany must be a moral working community.

Source B An article from a left-wing British periodical, *The New Statesman*, about the electoral campaign during the recent Reichstag election (September 1930)

The worst enemy the Socialists had to face was the Communists. Between the two parties there was no argument or debate, only hatred and physical violence. In the use of the latter the Communists usually took the offensive. Socialist meetings could hardly be held at all unless there were persons present ... [who could] throw out the Communist hecklers, interrupters, and even raiders armed with sticks and stones. Most clashes occurred with the communist paramilitary force, the Red Fighting League. The Nazis by the way, were the most violent of all. Their attacks, which included beating with sticks, cudgels and knuckle dusters, throwing stones and broken bottles, stabbing and even the occasional use of firearms, were directed against all political parties. Fights between the Nazis and Communists occurred almost daily. The violence was not mindless, it was planned and encouraged by Nazi leaders.

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Source C Dr Wilhelm Kultz, former Reich Minister of the Interior, in a memorandum to the German Democratic Party (1932)

Looked at politically, objectively, the result of the July election is so fearful because it seems clear that the present election will be the last normal Reichstag election for some time to come. The so-called race of thinkers and poets [the German people] is hurrying with flags flying towards dictatorship. The elected Reichstag is totally incapable of functioning even if the Centre [Party] goes in with the National Socialists, which it will do without hesitation if it is in their interests. The one consolation could be the recognition that the National Socialists have passed their peak. But against this stands the fact that the radicalism of the right has unleashed a strong radicalism on the left. The Communists have made gains almost everywhere and thus internal political disturbances have become very bitter. More than half the German people have declared themselves against the present state, but have not said what sort of state they would accept. The lesser of many evils to be feared, I think, would be the open assumption of dictatorship by the present government.

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0 2 Historians have made different interpretations about **the foreign policy of the Weimar Republic between 1924 and 1929**. 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 foreign policy of the Weimar Republic was successful in the period from 1924 to 1929? [30]

Interpretation 1: Jonathan Wright, in this extract from the article 'Stresemann and Weimar' for the magazine *History Today* (1989), presents a revisionist interpretation.

By 1929, Stresemann had constructed an ingenious foreign policy system for the Weimar Republic, but he had been unable to make it work. Germany was both too weak to force its foreign policy demands on others and also potentially so strong as to arouse fear and resistance from the other European powers. Stresemann knew that France would not agree to union with Austria. Poland was unlikely to agree to frontier revision unless it was forced to do so by war. If Germany was to persuade other states to allow it to re-arm and then tried to achieve these aims by force, it would risk isolation and defeat again. How could a framework be found in which Germany could achieve revision of the Treaty of Versailles without Europe going to war? By the time of his death Stresemann had found no answer to this problem. Indeed there was a growing feeling in Germany that Stresemann's policy of Fulfilment was coming to a dead end.

Interpretation 2: Mary Fulbrook, in this extract from her book *A History of Germany, 1918–2008: The Divided Nation* (2008), presents a post-revisionist interpretation.

There is no doubt that by the time of Stresemann's death in 1929 Germany's position had been transformed… Under his guidance, a considerable amount had been achieved in foreign policy for the Weimar Republic by 1929. He was at the centre of negotiations on major initiatives: reparations payments had been re-negotiated to a more manageable level; Germany's relations with her former enemies Britain, France and Russia had been regularised; the Ruhr and Rhineland had been evacuated [of occupying troops]; Germany had been accepted into the League of Nations, and at the same time there appeared to be the possibility of reconsidering Germany's eastern frontiers. It is impossible to say where these remarkable developments would have led since they depended to a great extent on the ability of the foreign minister to manage the pressures of his domestic opponents.

END OF PAPER

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