Germany
1890 – 1945
Democracy to Dictatorship
Germany Overview

Germany Democracy to Dictatorship 1890 – 1945 can be divided into 6 stages

Creation – 1890 - 1914
Chaos 1914 – 1923
Calm, Cash and Culture 1924 – 1929 (and what the Nazis were doing)
Crash – 1929
Consolidation (Nazi Power) 1929 – 1934
Control -1933 – 1945

Creation - Chaos – Calm - Crash General Information
Germany was created in 1870 and knowledge of this ‘new nation’ is important for understanding this course. The German people suffered during WWI. Germany was printing money and borrowing money to fund the war, so debt and inflation started during WWI. The German defeat in the WWI brought about the downfall of the German ruler, Kaiser Wilhelm, in 1918. He was replaced by a republic, which was set up in 1919, in the south German town called Weimar.

The Weimar Republic enjoyed mixed fortunes. It was very unpopular in its early years, 1919- 1923, mainly because it signed the hated Treaty of Versailles but also because of hyperinflation. However it recovered in the years 1923 – 1929 mainly due to the work of Stresemann, only to become unpopular again after the years 1929 as a result of the Wall Street Crash which caused the Great Depression.

The rise of the Nazi party led from 1921 by Adolf Hitler was closely linked to the fortunes of the Weimar Republic. When the Republic was popular, in the years 1924 – 1929, the Nazis had little support. However as the republic became more and more unpopular after 1929, because of high unemployment, support for Hitler and the Nazis increased.

Creation – 1890 – 1914

Germany before WWI
1871 – Germany was united as the country of Germany. Before 1871, there was no such country as Germany. The person in charge of this country was the Kaiser.
1. **The Army**
The idea of Militarism was very important. Militarism is the idea that a country should have very strong armed forces and should be prepared to use it aggressively. The Kaiser was the supreme commander of the armed forces.

The Navy Laws – laws between 1898 and 1912 that expanded the size of the German navy. The Kaiser wanted a large navy to help him take over more countries and protect those already in the German Empire. To pay for this, taxes were increased, and the government borrowed money. This was the beginnings of Germany’s debt problems.

2. **The Government** – Germany was united and was divided up into 25 states

Kaiser – extremely powerful and could make his own decisions ruled over all of Germany. Head of the armed forces, controlled foreign policy (relationships with foreign countries), appointed the chancellor

Chancellor – In charge of the government and had authority over the Bundesrat

Bundesrat = a group made up of German state representatives who supported the Kaiser and would consult with the Kaiser over new laws

Reichstag = the main elected German parliament

3. **The People/The Society**
- Similar to England, Germany had rapidly industrialised and by 1914 it was a world economic power
- workers were unhappy with poor wages and poor working conditions
- trade unions were joined by workers, and socialism grew. Socialism is that power and wealth should be shared by all people equally.
- The Social Democratic Party therefore became popular
- Some socialists wanted to go further and start a revolution against the Kaiser

**Chaos 1914 – 1923**

**Germany during WWI**

1914 – war was popular; felt it would end quickly

- British Navy blockades German ports – this means food and other essentials (eg medicines) are not getting into Germany – German people suffer

1915 – 16 - 17 – some protesters want an end to war; stalemate occurs on the western front
General Ludendorff secretly tells Kaiser that Germany can’t win war. German soldiers told they are winning the war.

There was continuing civilian hardship due to the Naval Blockade and wartime spending, and factories making war supplies rather than consumer supplies/goods, rationing and poor harvests. The Turnip Winter of 1916 – 1917 was a time of particular civilian hardship.

October 1918 – Mutiny of the German Navy – Sailors refuse to follow orders to fight. However, many soldiers fighting in trenches still being told that Germany is winning the war.

9th November ’1918 – Kaiser abdicates and secretly leaves the country. Ebert (SDP party) becomes the leader, as the country needs a leader now that the Kaiser is gone. There is no more monarchy and Germany is a republic, and democratic.

11 November Germany signs the armistice that means effectively that Germany has surrendered. It is the Weimar Government that signs the armistice.

Germany at the end of the War – end of 1918.

- Economically – Germany practically bankrupt
  - Had borrowed money and printed money all through the war to fund it. They were convinced and confident that they would win and would get money from their ‘enemies’ as a form of reparations (of course they were wrong – Germany was the one who had to pay reparations)
  - Had lent money to some of its allies
  - War pensions had to be paid
  - German factories had to change back to peacetime production (no longer producing bullets, shells)

Division in Society –

- Some factory owners had become wealthy, yet the workers had restrictions/limits placed on their wages - of course they felt this was unfair.
- Women had worked in factories and some felt that this had damaged family values

Political Instability

- Many ex-soldiers and civilians felt that Germany could have won they war and they felt betrayed by the new Weimar Government and hate it for signing the armistice. They call the government The November Criminals for signing the armistice. The army feel stabbed in the back as they were told they were winning
The Weimar Government – The Treaty of Versailles; How the government was organised and its weaknesses

The Treaty of Versailles
- Weimar Government forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles June 1919
- The Treaty outraged and humiliated the German people

***Remember – ‘LAMB’ for the treaty***
Land – Lost 13% of the land (eg Alsace Lorraine went to France), Lost all overseas colonies
Army – army reduced to 100,000 men, no submarines/tanks or airforce, navy cut to 15,000 men/only allowed 6 battleships
Money – reparations had to be paid £6600 million
Blame – forced to take full blame for starting the war ‘War Guilt Clause’

How the new Weimar Government was organised – The Constitution

The Hierarchy of the Constitution
President – Head of State; elected every 7 years, Article 48 – could rule on his own without the support of the Reichstag.
The Chancellor (The Prime Minister) chosen by the president, generally from whichever party had got the most votes at an election. Responsible for the day to day running of the country
Reichstag (parliament) discussed and introduced laws. Elections based on proportional representation.
The Electorate – the German people – all men and women over the age of 20 could vote. They elected the President and the politicians in the Reichstag.

Weaknesses of the Constitution
1. Proportional Representation: there could be many small political parties which resulted in coalitions, making decision making and law making difficult and slow

At this time there was political and social unrest and severe economic problems and may people hated the Weimar Government – including Hitler. Some richer people, army generals, wanted the ‘good old days’ when the Kaiser ruled Germany

Communism was growing in Europe. Russia had recently had a revolution, and the communists were in control. Although in Germany communism wasn’t strong, it was a perceived threat all the way through.

2 Communist ‘Uprisings’ against the Weimar Government (Left Wing Uprising)
The Spartacist Rising January 1919 – wanted a total communist revolution. Wanted more support for the workers in Germany and wanted the government to do more
to improve the lives of German workers. In January 1919 workers were protesting throughout Germany and the Sparticists tried to make this a revolution. In Berlin, took over the government’s newspaper, and telegraph headquarters. They didn’t get support from the people, government ordered the army to stop it. The army, supported by the Freikorps put down the uprising. The uprising was violent and over 100 workers were killed. Leaders Rosa Luxembourg and Karl Liebknecht were killed.

The Red Rising in the Ruhr 1920 – they were groups of workers led by members of the communist party. Workers were angry about bad pay and bad working conditions. In 1920 a communist ‘red army’ went into the Ruhr area and took control of raw materials. The German army and the Freikorps crushed the rising. Communists had weak leadership, no clear plan and there was not widespread support.

Right Wing Uprising
The Kapp Putsch 1920 – this was an attempted overthrow by the Freikorps led by Wolfgang Kapp. In 1920 the Freikorps were ordered to be disbanded (stopped) The government didn’t need them anymore as the left-wing groups (Sparticists and Red Rising) were no longer a threat. In anger 12,000 Freikorps marched to Berlin and the government was forced to flee. BUT the government told workers to go on strike and go against the putsch which made it impossible for Kapp to rule. It ended after 4 days.

There were also assassinations and use of terror tactics used to eliminate those who accepted the Treaty of Versailles. There were over 350 political assassinations by 1922.

***The Munich Putsch*** ‘Hitler’s first Hit!’

***There is one more putsch – The Munich Putsch but to understand that we must look at a couple of events in 1923…….

The invasion of the Ruhr by the French – The Germans fell behind in their reparations and in 1922 said they could not pay their reparations for the next 3 years so in January 1923 the French invaded the Ruhr in order to take raw materials as compensation for not getting money. They took over coal mines, factories and railways.

SO…….

The German government ordered passive resistance – meaning they told the workers to go on strike so that the French would not get these raw materials as compensation…….

AND
The government PAID THE WORKERS during the strike and so had to PRINT MONEY in order to do this and this resulted in......HYPERINFLATION

Most Germans were affected badly by hyperinflation – savings accounts became worthless. People on fixed income did badly (eg pensioners), workers’ wages didn’t rise enough to keep up with increase in prices. Those who did well were people in debt, and business men who had business loans

ENTER STRESEMANN – BECAME CHANCELLOR
AUGUST 1923
‘Relieves the stress’

August 1923 – Stresemann become Chancellor
September 1923 – calls off passive resistance – workers go back to work
October 1923 – Rentenmark is introduced which begins to control hyperinflation

German people beginning to feel better about things and better about the Stresemann Government

.....Which means that the Munich Putsch 1923 fails...

The Munich Putsch  November 8th/9th 1923 – Led by Hitler/General Ludendorff and the Nazi Party (Nazi Party started in the 1920). They didn’t believe in democracy and that German needed a strong leader, and that the people should obey the leader. The Nazi’s planned to take over the government and set up Ludendorff as the leader. During the Putsch they started in Munich, Hitler and the 600 SA broke up a meeting where the leader of Bavaria was speaking in a beer hall, and forced them to support their plan. Hitler was arrested and put on trial and Nazi Party forced to end

Reasons for Failure - Munich Putsch

- People were no longer interested in extremist parties due to Stresemann’s actions – Hitler had misread the feelings of German people
- Badly organised
- Police/soldiers tipped off and able to meet and crush them
- Nazi party banned

How it was a success - Munich Putsch

- During Hitler’s trial he was able to get the Nazi Party views across and Hitler became a ‘household name’ as his trial was publicised all over Germany
- He was only sentenced to 9 months in prison (not 5 years) showing he had some sympathy from the judge. His time in prison was lenient
- While in prison he was able to have the time to write Mein Kampf – his book that has his ideas and vision for Germany
Made the Nazi party realise that they couldn’t use violence to get into power – they began to plan other ways

**Acronyms to help you remember this section**

1. To remember the Treaty of Versailles use LAMB (On page 1)

2. To remember the **important events of 1923** – HIM
   - H – Hyperinflation
   - I – Invasion of Ruhr
   - M – Munich Putsch

**Calm, Cash and Culture 1924 – 1929**

**The Golden Years OR Dancing on a Volcano????**

The Golden Years – What Stresemann did to help Germany and make the people not want extremist parties like the NAZIs and the COMMUNISTS

**Arguments for Economic Recovery**

1923 – Stresemann had introduced the Rentenmark in order to bring hyperinflation under control. This worked and prices came down – **people happier!**

1924 – Dawes Plan (Cash) – organised loans from the USA to ‘kick start’ the economy. It gave Germany longer to pay off reparations. The government used money to lend to businesses, build railways, build factories. **people happier!!**

1925 Locarno Treaty (Pact) France, Germany, UK and Belgium sign a pact to agree not to invade each other = this **improves the relationship between Germany and the other European countries.** Also Germany is allowed to join the League of Nations (it was banned from joining in 1919). *(To remember this remember ‘Locarno Love’)...people happier!*

1929 Young Plan – gave even more time for Germany to pay reparations and reduced the amount they had to pay – **people happier**
DANCING ON A VOLCANO.....But people also UNHAPPY!!! –

Arguments against Economic Recovery

Dawes Plan – made Germany dependent on the USA, also many people felt they should not pay reparations anyway – felt that Stresemann was weak for doing this

Locarno Treaty - Some Germans felt that he should use this to get back some of the land lost from the Treaty (eg lost colonies) and that Stresemann was weak for doing this

Young Plan - Some Germans felt they shouldn’t be paying reparations and that Stresemann was weak for doing this

Farmers – they had benefitted from hyperinflation and there was a depression in farming from 1924 onwards

Politics – 1924 – 1929

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political – 1924 - 1929 Arguments for Recovery</th>
<th>Political 1924 - 1929 Arguments against Recovery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ More stable government</td>
<td>➢ The basic problem of the Constitution continued - no one party could get a majority, many short-lived coalitions – weakness</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Stresemann a popular leader</td>
<td>➢ Many opposed the Dawes and Young Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Little support for extremist parties like Nazis and Communists</td>
<td>➢ Extremist parties like Nazis and Communists still wanted to take over the government</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Hindenburg was elected president and was popular as he was a war hero. He promised to maintain the constitution</td>
<td>➢ Hindenburg disliked the new Republic</td>
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Culture – Germany’s Golden Age – 1924 – 1929

The early 1920s were a difficult and unstable time for Germany. As well as having to come to terms with the defeat of the first World War and the Treaty of Versailles punishments, it was a time of invasion=, hyperinflation, putsch’s and murders.

However as the 1020s went on there were great cultural changes – in cinema, art literature and music. The question is How far these were accepted by all Germans

Features of the Golden Age

1. Cinema - became very popular – famous actresses such as Marlene Dietrich became popular
2. Nightlife - In cities in particular, eg Berlin, Germany was a centre for new plays, operas and theatre shows. Plot lines that would have been banned in the times of the Kaiser became popular. A liberal approach emerging, eg transvestite evenings at clubs. Jazz a popular form of music. Cabaret became popular
3. Literature - writing became big business – newspapers, novels, magazines in wide circulation
4. **Art – Avant-garde** – change in art to showing reality of everyday life. Tried to show what Germany was actually like and often painted in a way that criticised current events in Germany. **Abstract art** was popular.

5. **Design – Bauhaus** – a group of new designers and architects – designed everything from furniture to office buildings and believed in modern, simple designs rather that elaborate designs of the Kaiser’s age.

**Negative Reactions to Cultural Change**

_Some hated it and wanted to return to the days of the Kaiser in every way. They thought Germany was heading towards** moral decline. Hitler and the Nazis disliked many of the changes and when Hitler came to power many artists and performers had to flee Germany_.

**What were Hitler and the Nazi’s doing in the Golden Years of 1924 - 1929??**

The Nazis were not popular during this time as the economy was better (on the surface)

**How the Nazis tried to Gain support before 1928?**

**Change of Tactics** – Nazis realised **force/violence would not work** – they must get elected

**The Work of the SA** – the SA had been set up in 1921 by Hitler (the SA were former Freikorps, hated communism). The SA used **violence and intimidation**. They disrupted other political meetings and kept Nazi meetings from being disrupted. Some Germans liked them because they **looked disciplined and orderly** and some Germans hated them.

**Propaganda** – Goebbels began to use propaganda in order to get support- posters, political meetings, newspapers

**Party Rallies** - first one was in 1926 in Weimar and this set a pattern for rallies

**Party Organisation** – Set up national headquarters in Munich and Branches of the party were set up all over Germany (called Gaus)

**Farmers** - told farmers how important they were and how they would help them

**The appeal of ideas and Hitler** – some of Hitler’s ideas in Mein Kampf really appealed to Germans – eg hatred of the Treaty of Versailles, Hitler was a **brilliant speaker** (allowed to speak from 1928)

**Nazi Organisations** – set up youth groups (youth groups were a really popular in German culture – there were church youth groups) and both Hitler Youth and the League of German Maidens were set up in the 1920s

**Reasons Why the Nazis did not succeed in gaining power by 1928**

1. **They lacked the support of the working classes** – they either supported Communists or the Social Democratic party

2. **Hitler banned from speaking until 1928**
3. **1924 – 1928 – was a time of prosperity** – extremist parties not needed/not appealing to the German people

4. **Nazi ideas too extreme** – for some Germans the beliefs of the Nazi party were too extreme – violence, anti-Semitism

**The 1928 Election** – Terrible for the Nazis- get only **12 seats**

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**Crash 1929 (Extremist Parties looking good again...)**

The **Wall Street Crash in the USA** in 1929 was a **huge economic crash** that **affected the entire world**. The USA was the strongest economy and many countries were linked to the USA either through trade or **loans**, and so when the economy crashed in the USA the whole world was affected

**The Effects of the Crash on Germany**

- **Dawes Plan** – USA calls in the loans given to Germany – Germany no longer has these loans to prop up their economy, but they must begin to pay them back to the USA
- This results in **many bankruptcies and unemployment**
- **40% of factory workers** and **50% of the young** were **unemployed by 1932**
- **unemployment reached 6 million**

**Most Germans blamed the Weimar Government for the problems.....**

- said they should never have taken loans that made them dependent on America
- The Weimar government under **Bruning (the 'Hunger Chancellor' raised taxes, reduced wages and made cuts in unemployment benefit)** (they were frightened of creating hyperinflation again if they increased government spending)
Consolidation (of Nazi Power) 1929 - 1933

Hitler took advantage of the awful economic conditions and set about making the Nazis popular again

Hitler’s Rise to Chancellor in January 1933
Acronym to remember this LIMP PAPER
Long Term bitterness of the Treaty of Versailles – Hitler took advantage of the continued hatred of the Treaty and revived the Stab in the Back theory – eg the fact that they had to pay reparations, reduction of army.
Ineffective Government – the government was not effective in dealing with the depression – increased taxes and decreased unemployment benefit, the Dawes agreement of 1924, the lack of strong leadership due to coalition governments
Money – Nazis got backing from big business who were worried about the communists – they gave money to the Nazi party so people would support them and not the communists (Henry Ford, Coco Chanel 2 examples of international supporters of Nazis who gave money)
Propaganda – this money was used for Propaganda – Goebbels used radio, posters, rallies, marches/parades, loudspeakers, films, planes – Hitler travelled all over Germany by plane to spread his message. Simple messages like ‘Bread and Jobs’
Personal Attributes – Hitler a great speaker, can read and move a crowd, extremely charismatic
Attacks by the SA – people liked their attacks on the communists, attacks on other political party meetings, people liked their ‘organisation’ in the time of chaos
Promises – Nazi’s promised to solve Germany’s economic problems; ignore Treaty of Versailles- not pay reparations, build up army; make Germany a great country again
Economic Problems – crash of 1929 – with high unemployment and extreme poverty caused by the crash people turned to extreme parties like the Nazis for ‘answers’
Recruited by Hindenburg/Room Deal – in January 1932 – the year of 3 Chancellors, with Von Papen, Von Schliecher and then Hitler being Chancellors

Hitler’s Rise to Dictator – events between January 1933 - August 1934
Acronym to remember this FEET PANDA

Fire/February – Reichstag Fire – Hitler blamed it on the communists. 4000 communists arrested on the night of the fire. Hitler told Hindenburg to use emergency decree – so Hitler could search for and arrest more communists and hold them without trial
Election of 1933 – Nazi’s have more seats than ever before but not enough to take the power in Reichstag
Enabling Act – convinced Reichstag to pass Enabling Act which gave him power to pass any law
Trade Unions banned – part of Enabling Act – this meant there would be no strikes against the Nazi Regime. The Nazi trade union was the only one allowed – the German Labour Front
Political Parties banned - only Nazis allowed in German – communists and social democrats not gone – this political threat is now gone

And in 1934
Night of the Long knives 29/30 June – the SA (Rohm) is purged (the SA had between 2 and 3 million members, was a genuine threat to Hitler – He wanted to merge the SA and the army. Rohm was a leading Nazi who could have overthrown Hitler as leader of Nazis
Death of Hindenburg - 2nd August – This meant that the position of president was open – Hitler seized it and was now Chancellor and President
Army oath of Allegiance – 20th August – The army now was under the control of Hitler – they swore and oath (promise) to obey him and follow his ideas

Hitler as Fuhrer/DICTATOR end of Aug 1934 – Hitler declared himself Fuhrer which means ‘leader’. He was unmarried (therefore married to Germany), always dressed as an ordinary soldier, was a ‘man of the people’ – films of him relaxing, reading the newspaper, walking, he toured the country speaking to people, he also introduced the Heil Hitler salute – this unified people and was compulsory for public employees

***Information about Election results – Seats/% that Nazi’s got in the Reichstag***
1924 – 14 seats (hardly any)
1928 – 12 seats (hardly any)
1932 July – 230 seats 37% of Reichstag
1932 Nov – 196 – 33% of Reichstag
1933 – March – 288 – 44% of Reichstag – still no majority in the Reichstag – used to reduce the support for communists as anti-communist feeling increased as a result of the Reichstag Fire (Nazi’s spread anti-communist ideas/propaganda)

Control 1933 - 1945

This section will be on how the Nazis kept control. This includes terror and propaganda, but also social effects of Nazi rule – Women, the Young, Jews, and how life changed in the war years. It will also include how the Nazis dealt with opposition groups

Control By Terror – The Police State SS, Himmler, Gestapo
1. Control by Terror - The SS and Himmler
The SS was actually first set up in 1925 as Hitler’s personal bodyguard but later became one of the most powerful and feared organizations in all of Nazi Germany. Heinrich Himmler became head of the SS, in 1929 and expanded the group’s role and size.
Recruits, who had to prove none of their ancestors were Jewish, received military training and were also taught they were a superior ‘version’ of all humankind. They wore uniforms with the SS on them to make them instantly recognisable as different from other police or the army
By the start of World War II (1939-45), the SS had more than 250,000 members and played a huge role in enabling the Nazis to keep control. **They could arrest people without trial, search houses**

2. **Control by Terror - The Gestapo.....‘Always watching...’**
The Gestapo was the secret police part of the SS. They spied on people, used informants, tapped phones, could search a house without a warrant, gave block wardens the right to go and ask questions to people in their block, made ‘secret arrests’ late at night

3. **Control By Terror – Concentration Camps**
These were run by the SS. First one was set up in **1933 in Dachau (Germany)** They were prison camps. At first they were not for ‘Jews’ but for questioning, torture and ‘re-education’ of opponents of the Nazis. Prisoners did hard labour (eg working in stone quarries). They held people for a time and then released them.
The concentration camps grew and by the 1940s there were concentration and death camps in several countries. Among the most well-known are Auschwitz/Birkenau, and the death camp Treblinka in Poland.
Groups sent to concentration camps were
- Jews
- Religious groups who opposed Nazis – Catholics and protestants,
- Mentally disabled
- Gypsies
- Criminals (normal professional criminals)
- Political prisoners (communists, trade union leaders)

4. **Control By Terror – Removing Civil Rights**
The Nazis steadily passed laws that took away the rights of the people. The decree passed after the Reichstag Fire gave the Nazis the right to restrict civil rights ‘until further notice’. This directly links to the Gestapo ability to tap phones, search houses, arrest and imprison people, not trials, open letters,

5. **Control By Terror – The Courts**
All judges had to pledge loyalty to Hitler and become Nazi party members. This made having a fair trial impossible. New Nazi laws were enforced

6. **Control By Terror – Local Wardens**
Each town was divided into blocks and had a Block warden who would spy on people and write reports. They looked for people who did not participate in pro-Nazi celebrations. The reports went to the Gestapo.

An acronym to remember the role of the SS is **BIG WC**
- Bodyguards
- Informers
- Gestapo
- Waffen SS (Einsatzgruppen) – Death squads sent to kill Jews in Russia before the Final Solution was decided upon

**Concentration Camps**
Control by Propaganda and Censorship - Goebbels

1. Control by Propaganda

Posters - used extensively to promote Hitler myth, hatred of groups such as Jews, what a ‘women’ should be like, what a ‘perfect Aryan’/perfect Hitler youth would look like.

Radio - cheap so everyone could have one, (Goebbels ordered cheap radios be mass produced. By 1939 70% of households had a radio), loudspeakers used as well so the Nazi message could be heard by everyone. Made radio ‘short wave’ so it wouldn’t pick up foreign stations.


Rallies – Image was very important – people would believe Hitler was making Germany great if they could see it. Goebbels organised mass rallies and marches that had an images of power and organisation, but also terror. Nuremberg was where the Party rally was held every year.

Culture - The Nazis despised modern art, music and theatre. They wanted traditional art with themes of the family, heroism, national community.

Berlin Olympics - Nazis could ‘advertise’ their huge success in running Germany and making it successful to the entire world. Germany won far more medals than any other nation showing the superiority of the Aryan race (although famously black athlete Jesse Owens won 4 gold medals).

2. Control by Censorship

Goebbels controlled newspapers, radio, book publishing, films and the arts.

Books – no book could be published without Goebbels permission.

Book Burning – Goebbels ordered the public burning of books that disagreed with Nazi views.

Radio – controlled by Goebbels and were designed for short range so they couldn’t pick up foreign stations – was illegal to listen to them.

Newspapers – those that opposed Nazi views were closed down. The remaining got their news from Nazi news agencies.

Control – Social Effects of Nazi Rule - Women

The 1920s was a time of freedom – jobs, fashion, shorter hair – women (in bigger cities) were enjoying a more modern freer life. This changed under the Nazi

Nazi Policy toward women – what the Nazi’s wanted

-Kinder, Kirche, Kuche – Children, Church, Kitchen) Nazi’s wanted women to stay at home and have children, while husbands went out to work.

-wear traditional clothes – not revealing

-be strong and healthy – slimming seen as bad

-increase the birth rate

How did Nazi’s achieve their policy- achieve what they wanted
-1933 – Women forced to leave jobs as doctors, lawyers, and teachers and employers were told to favour men.
-1933 – Law for the Encouragement of Marriage – this was introduced to provide loans to help young couples get married, as long as the women left her job. Loan was ½ year’s pay to leave work. For each child up to 4 children, they could keep 25% of the loan.
-Birth control clinics closed down, abortion became illegal
-propaganda to promote the ‘perfect woman’
-Gave medals for having children – Bronze for 4 kids, silver for 6 and gold for 8.

Success of Nazi Policy toward women
  a. Birth rate increased 1933 – 38
  b. In early 1930s number of married women in work fell
  c. Around 6 million women joined Nazi Women’s Organisations

Failures of Nazi Policy toward Women
  a. Number of women in work increased from 1933 – 39 In 1936 there was a labour shortage due to men being taken into the army and factories needing workers, so numbers of working women rose from 1936
  b. Employers still hired women because their wages were lower than men’s (for doing the same job)
  c. Average German family had 2 children

Women - How this changed during the War (1939 – 1945)
Women were needed to do the jobs of men as men were conscripted into the army. More women worked in factories even though the Nazi’s didn’t want to use them as it would affect their child bearing ability.
From 1943 women were fully conscripted into working for the war effort. They worked as typists, telephonists, clerks
Women were still expected to be good housewives
2 women’s organisations – how their focus changed during the war
  a. DFW (women’s Nazi Trade Union) – organised work in munitions factories and other important war industries,
  b. NSF (Nazi Women’s Organisation) – taught women how to feed family on rations. Rations were chaotic and gradually rations were reduced. The meat ration went from 1600 grams per month in 1941 to 550 grams per month in 1945.
  c. Trained them to help in hospitals and become firefighters,
  d. Organised the evacuation of children. Air raids were regular and there weren’t good air raid shelters. In Berlin in 1943, a bombing raid left 9000 dead and 800,000 homeless

The war for women was extremely hard. Uncertainty of what would happen to husbands/brothers/sons, food shortages and rationing, keeping children safe in air raids, coping with bombing
Control – Social Effects of Nazi Rule - The Young/Education

**Education**

**Nazi Schools**
- Boys to be prepared to be soldiers – took science, maths, physical fitness, military drilling
- Girls to be prepared to be housewives and mothers - took needlework, languages, physical fitness (music and movement) cooking, ironing, cleaning ‘home crafts’

**History** – only German history allowed – attacked the Treaty of Versailles, blamed Jews and communists for all of the problems

**Nazi Eugenics** - taught about the Master Race, Aryan Supremacy, selective breeding and not to marry inferior races such as Jews. Taught that Jews were sub-human

**Geography** – taught that German needed land back that was taken by the Treaty, and that they needed more land - ‘Living Room’ (Lebensraum) for the expansion of the German race. This justified invading Poland etc

**Nazi Textbooks** – form 1935 all text books had to be centrally approved and new textbooks promoted Nazi ideas

**Teachers** expected to join Nazi Party

**Special Schools** – National Political Education Institute – run by the SS who would train future leaders
The Adolf Hitler Schools – provide future political leaders

**Nazi Youth Movements**

**Hitler Youth** – boys 14 – 18
**League of German Maidens** – Girls aged 14 – 18
(There were also younger versions of these for girls and boys aged 10 – 14)

**Successes**
- The young enjoyed the activities – camping, hiking were very popular.
- Membership was fairly high due to this
- 1937 it was compulsory to join Hitler Youth Group

**Failures**
20% didn’t join
Edelweiß Pirates didn’t join and mocked them
Some parents didn’t want them to join as they worried about family life and the fact that they had to swear allegiance to Hitler
How this changed during the War – Nazi Youth 1939 – 1945
The role of Nazi Youth changed during the war years
- collected scrap metal for armaments factories
- collected clothes for troops, charity donations for war widows
- worked on farms (boys and girls)
- operate search lights during raids
- clear up after bombing raids
- put out fires, support homeless
- hardly any education at this time at all
- entered army – conscription lowered to 16
- in March 1945, were give weapons and ordered to fight the invading Russian and American armies

Control – Economic Changes of Nazi Rule

Nazi Policy on the economy – what the Nazi’s wanted
- reduce unemployment – in 1933 6 million Germans unemployed
- make Germany self-sufficient (not dependent on any other country) Autarky

Nazi Policy - How to reduce unemployment
- start huge building programme to create new roads, houses, hospitals. These were government job creation schemes. 7000 kilometres of new roads created, Berlin Stadium for the Olympics built, Volkswagen car – they invested in the car industry
- re-arm Germany – create millions of jobs in ammunition factories
- increase the armed forces to 1,400,000 men
- force all young men between ages of 18 and 25 to work – National Labour Service was set up and had to serve 6 months on schemes such as draining marshland to make for farmland
- remove women, Jews, unmarried men and opponents from the unemployment figures to make the figures look like the policy is working
- Use Schacht’s New Plan (1933 – 1937) and Goring’s 4-year plan (1936 – 1939) to achieve this

Schacht’s New Plan
Aim – reduce unemployment and make Germany self sufficient
Success? – His plan coincided with worldwide recovery after the crash of 1929. He made some trade agreements with some countries so that Germany could get some of the raw materials they needed in exchange for German goods. By 1935 there was a small trade surplus.
He resigned as he did not agree with Hitler’s plan to rearm quickly
Goring’s 4-year plan (1936 – 1939)

**Aim** - prepare Germany for War within 4 years and make Germany self-sufficient in war materials such as rubber, oil and steel

**Success** – Huge mining and metal works were set up. Arms production was priority over the consumer goods. There were food shortages. Government put millions of pounds into the 4-year plan and business was told to make textiles from wood, coffee from acorns and petrol from coal all in order to become self-sufficient. Germany was still dependent on other countries for raw materials in 1939.

The only way they could become self-sufficient was by invading other countries to get raw materials. Could be the reason why Nazis invaded Poland in 1939.

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What it was like for German workers? Good or Bad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Bad</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- DAF (Nazi Trade Union) was supposed to negotiate rights for workers</td>
<td>- DAF supported employers – average working week increased from 43 hours in 1933 to 47 hours in 1939. There was an increase in wages but this was due to increase in working hours. No real increase. Basic goods more expensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>- DAF’s Strength Through Joy (KDF) organised holidays, cruises, sports events and other things for workers families</td>
<td>- in reality not many holidays set up – mostly just cheap cinema tickets</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The Beauty of Labour Scheme was set up to improve working conditions eg better lunches, swimming pools,</td>
<td>- workers were expected to make these themselves in their spare time</td>
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<td>- Volkswagen Car promised to the workers (Volkswagen means ‘People’s Car’)</td>
<td>- workers paid 5 marks per week as a deposit for a future car – no car was bought by 1939, none of the money refunded and the production stopped in 1939 to produce for the war effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers – supported Nazis and benefited from guaranteed high food prices</td>
<td>- people moved to towns to find work in factories so farmers found it hard to find workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Business</td>
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</tbody>
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How this changed during the War
The war meant that there needed to be a lot of workers in factories to produce guns, tanks, airplanes, shells and other war supplies. BUT the death rate and wounded of the soldiers meant that the soldiers needed to be replaced and more and more men were called up, creating a need for workers.

- Foreign workers filled this need – from Italy, Holland and Poland – they were occupied countries and their government were ordered to send people to work in German factories. There were 2.8 million Russians working in Germany by 1944.

- Slave labour – Jews and others from concentration camps worked in Germany as slave labour. Over 30% died of starvation, disease and maltreatment.

- War boosted the economy in the short term 1939 - 1941 – factories and the army (conscription) provided jobs.

- Long term – was bad – farming disrupted so food shortages, trade disrupted so lack of resources needed, fuel shortages, bombing of Germany disrupted transportation and services such as gas and electricity. Factories bombed. Severe hardships for German citizens.

Control – Minority Groups - Jews
In Germany there were the undesirables – they were those who
- couldn’t work – eg physically disabled
- wouldn’t work – criminals, alcoholics, tramps
- weren’t Aryans - Jews, Gypsies, Black people
- didn’t fit in as ‘normal’ – eg homosexuals
- those who wouldn’t swear first loyalty to Hitler – church leaders, communists

Jews – from prejudice to persecution to mass murder
Life became increasingly harsh and there are turning points:
1933 – Nazis encouraged boycott of shops, anti-Jewish graffiti, SA stood outside Jewish shops to threaten people
- Jewish lawyers and judges fired
- Jews banned from all public service jobs such as teachers
- non-Aryan children banned from playing with Aryan children
1935 Nuremberg Laws – Turning Point - Racial Policy – Jews cannot be citizens of Germany, cannot marry non-Jews
- Jewish writers not published/musicians can’t play in state orchestras
- Park benches labelled – ‘for Jews’
1936 – Jews can’t own typewriters or bicycles, anti-Jewish posters temporarily taken down for Olympics
1938 – Turning Point – Violence – Night of Broken Glass – Kristallnacht – after a Jew shot a German diplomat (politician) in Paris the Nazis used this to ‘get revenge’ and started a 2 night wave of violence on 9, 10 November. Jews were attacked and taken
from homes, shops, homes and synagogues were burned. In the following months 30,000 Jews were arrested and taken to concentration camps.
- Jews also can’t work as doctors, can’t run own businesses, children can’t go to state schools, Jews banned from cinema, theatre, swimming pools and concert halls

1939 – Jews can’t work as dentists, chemists, or nurses, Jews not allowed out of homes after 8pm in winter and 9 pm in summer
- Jews must hand over jewellery, gold, silver, to the police

War starts
Ghettos set up in cities – eg Warsaw Ghetto

1941 – Turning point – Einsatzgruppen – SS death squads sent out to find and kill Jews in occupied territories like Russia – By 1943 the Einsatzgruppen murdered over 2 million Jews

1942 – Turning point – The Final Solution – at a conference in Wannsee Nazis agree to the Final Solution – the elimination of all Jews in Europe

1942 – 1945 – 6 million Jews killed in concentration camps/death camps like Auschwitz and Treblinka

Control – The Churches
30% of the population was Catholic and almost 60% was Protestant.
The Churches were the largest non-Nazi organisation left in Germany after 1933 so they posed a real threat to Nazi Power, and Hitler had to deal with them

Catholic Church
They were a threat because
- Owed allegiance first to Pope, not to Hitler
- Had their own Youth Groups so catholic children did not join Hitler Youth
- Had their own education system so they did not get brainwashed by the Nazi education system
- Supported the Social Democrats

Hitler’s first solution – The Concordat July 1933 – This meant that Hitler promised not to interfere with the church as long as it stayed out of politics
Hitler broke this agreement by 1934 and was attacking the Church
1934 - Schools were taken away from church control
1937 – Catholic youth made illegal
Priests were arrested – 400 sent to concentrations camps
Despite this the Catholic Church was not destroyed, but it was ineffective in stopping the Nazis

Protestant Church
The Reich Church 1933- set up and was made up of Protestants who supported Hitler. Ludwig Muller became the first Reich bishop in 1933. Their motto was ‘The swastika on our chest and the cross in our hearts’

The Confessional Church - set up in opposition to the Reich Church and Hitler.
Led by Martin Neimoller
6,000 pastors supported the church
Many arrested and sent to concentration camps
The Nazis created protestant martyrs
Largely ineffective against the Nazis

Control – Opposition – Other Groups

There was opposition to the Nazi’s, from several groups, but none were able to pose a big threat to the Nazis and none were able to overthrow the Nazis. **Opposition was weak.** The role of the Gestapo and the network of Local Wardens and Nazi informants helped bring down any opposition

1. **The Confessional Church** – Many Christians opposed the Nazis and 2 leading opponents were Martin Niemoller, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Bishop Von Galen

   **Martin Niemoller** – Although at first he supported the Nazis he changed his mind when the Nazis set up the Reich Church, which he believed was more about Nazism than Christianity.

   **1934** – He established **The Confessional Church** and frequently over the next 3 years spoke out against the Nazis.

   **1936** – He wrote a strong protest against Nazi anti-Semitism and interference in life.

   He was **arrested in 1937**, was taken to a concentration camp in **1938** and freed in 1945.

   **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** – a church leader. In 1934 he helped Niemoller set up Confessional Church.

   Was against Nazi racist views as did not fit with Christianity. Spoke out against **Nuremberg Laws of 1935**.

   Preached that true religion must stand up to corrupt, evil governments

   **1937** Gestapo banned him from preaching

   **1939** – joined the group that worked in secret to try to overthrow Hitler.

   Helped Jews escape to Switzerland

   **1943** – arrested by Gestapo for plotting against Hitler. Was sent to prison, then a concentration camp, and in 1945 was executed by the SS

   **Bishop Von Galen** – Catholic who openly criticised Nazi racial policies in his sermons

   **1941** – his protests against Nazi euthanasia policy led to it being stopped for a short time. He was so popular that the Nazi’s did not remove him.

2. **Former Political Opponents – Communist Party/Socialist Party/Trade Unions – 1933 - 1935**

   Communist party and Trade Unions still had millions of members. They wanted

   -Trade Unions wanted -Democracy restored, free speech, workers rights

   -Communists want a full workers revolution
In 1933 all political parties and trade unions were banned and the Nazis used violence and terror to shut them down and keep them shut down. However, from 1933 – 1935 there were 400 strikes. The Gestapo made loads of arrests and leaders were forced into exile (had to go abroad) or forced ‘underground’ holding meetings in secret. Handed out some leaflets. Largely ineffective

3. **Opposition from the Young – Edelweiss Pirates and White Rose Group**

   **Edelweiss Pirates – 1933 - 1945** working class young people. Did not join Hitler youth, mocked them, had fun, not very organised, there weren’t that many – a few 100 in each big city
   Would meet up sing songs that made fun of Hitler, the Nazis and Hitler Youth. Drank, some beat up Nazis. Wore badges with the Edelweiss flower on it. These groups really angered the Nazis because the rejected the whole Nazi idea. In 1944 a Hitler youth leader was killed and some Edelweiss pirates were hanged in revenge

4. **White Rose Group – 1942 – 1943** Hans and Sophie Scholl leaders. Small group at Munich University
   Their aim was to shame German people by protesting against the Nazis and to sabotage the war effort and over throw Hitler.
   They spread anti-Nazi messages by handing out leaflets, putting up posters and writing graffiti on walls. They were against the anti-Semitism of the Nazis
   Hans and Sophie Scholl were arrested, tortured and executed

5. **Opposition – The Army – Army Officers – 1943 - 1944**

   Small group of Army officers
   Aim was to overthrow Hitler and seize power
   Attempted to Assassinate Hitler
   The upper classes (which would include army officers as they would be upper class citizens) were against Hitler as he was ‘working class’.
   Many were against Hitler’s decision to invade Poland in 1939 and the invasion of Russia in 1941, and did not like the actions of the SS in terms of the murder of Jews (Einsatzgruppen) as it was against the ‘code of honour of war’
   They did not think Hitler should get involved in military strategy.
   When the tide of the war changed in 1943 and the Germans began to be defeated the Army wanted Hitler out.
   **July Plot** - July 1944 the planted a bomb to assassinate Hitler. It went off but Hitler wasn’t killed.
   Hitler used the failed plot to round up all of his known opponents.
   5000 people were arrested and executed
Control – Culture
The Nazis were determined to control all aspects of people’s lives, including the paintings they looked at, the books they read, the music they listened, the films they watches, the buildings they lived in.

The Chamber of Culture
- Lead by Goebbels – all musicians, writers, artists, and actors had to be a part of it. Jews and other undesirables banned from joining it
- The ‘rule’ was that all forms of culture had to give the same message – the Nazi message with the Nazi beliefs

Cinema – Goebbels realised how powerful cinema could be and Nazis had direct influence on how films were made. Goebbels approved film scripts, making sure they carried a pro-Nazi message. Eg German soldiers always seen as heroes.

Music – Goebbels said that music had to be German or Austrian, and had to be old folk songs or classical (Mozart, Bach..). Jazz music banned, Jewish composers banned

Theatre – Nazi’s ruled that plays should focus mainly on Germany history and politics. Cabaret clubs shut down

Literature - Goebbels created a list of banned books and they were removed from libraries and bookshops. They were banned if they were classified as un-German, or written by Jewish authors. Popular books written in the Weimar Germany period were banned. Around 2500 writers left Germany between 1933 and 1945. Goebbels encouraged books about race, the glory of war and the brilliance of the Nazis. He even wrote his own book about this.

Art – Hitler hated the modern art of the 1920s and in 1936 burned 5000 paintings
The Nazis categorised art into ‘unacceptable’ and ‘acceptable’. Acceptable are was simple and showed healthy, heroic German figures, family scenes of happy, strong pure Germans, and many images of Hitler himself.

Design – The Bauhaus movement was rejected and the movement was closed down in 1933 by the Nazis. Hitler and the Nazis favoured buildings based on ancient Greece and Rome.

Sport and Leisure – Sport was used to promote the Nazi regime. Health and physical fitness was important to the Nazis and their policies and outlook. The Olympic Games were used as a propaganda tool, showing the ‘talented and strong German race’, but also latest technology in terms of filming, and ‘stop clocks’.
Activities

Read the part about Control – Economic Change
1. Give one way that workers were better off and 1 example of how they were worse off
2. Which plan was more successful at achieving its aims – The New Plan or the 4-year Plan?
3. The Nazis sacrificed living standards in order to prepare for war? – Do you agree?
4. How successful were Nazi economic policies? Consider the achievements and shortcomings of
   - The policies of Schact and Goring
   - Things done to reduce unemployment
   - Standard of living

Read the part about Control – Social Effects of Nazi Rule - The Young
1. Describe how the Nazis used youth groups in the 1930s

Read the part about Control – Social Effects of Nazi Rule – Women
1. Women in Nazi Germany were different, not inferior – Do you agree? Explain
2. Nazi policies toward women were a failure? Do you agree? Think about the policy/aims of the Nazis toward women, and what women actually ended up doing. Use the SOT model to explain Nazi policy failures, successes and your judgement

Read the part about Control – Opposition – other groups
1. Which groups provided the most effective opposition to the Nazi Government
   - The youth groups
   - The Army
   - The religious leaders
2. Opposition groups in Germany failed to achieve anything? Do you agree. Explain with reference to 3 specific opposition groups

Read the part about Control – Propaganda and Censorship and Control - Terror
1. Which propaganda method do you think had the greatest impact on the German people? On the line, put the method and explain why you have put it there

Least Effective  Most Effective
2. Propaganda was more effective than terror in controlling the German people. Do you agree? Explain (16 mark question)
3. Explain the role of the concentration camps in the police state
4. What was the role of the SS from 1933 – 1939

Read the part about Consolidation 1929 - 1934
1. The SA posed the greatest threat to the Hitler in the years 1933 – 1934. Do you agree? Explain using the SA and one other reason. Use the SOT model
2. The Enabling Act was the most significant feature which allowed Hitler to become dictator. Do you agree? Explain using the Enabling Act and one other reason. Use the SOT model
3. Long Term resentment of the Treaty of Versailles was the main reason why Hitler gained more support after 1929. Do you agree? Explain using the Treaty of Versailles and one other reason. Use the SOT model

Read the part about Crash – 1929
1. Why was the Dawes Plan significant in the crash?
2. What were the economic effects of the crash?
3. What were the political effects of the crash?
4. Read the part about LIMP PAPER. Which do you think was the most significant for Hitler increasing in power? Explain

Read the part about Calm – 1924 – 1929
1. Why was Stresemann important in the recovery of Germany? Explain at least 2 reasons
2. What was the most important reason for German recovery
   a. Dawes Plan
   b. Rentenmark
   c. Young Plan
3. Germany was very politically stable in the years 1924 – 1929. How far do you agree? Explain your answer. You should explain both how it was politically stable and not stable, or potentially not stable, using the SOT model

Read the part about Chaos – 1918 – 1923
1. Describe the political threats to the Weimar Government
2. Describe why 1923 was such a difficult year for the Weimar Republic?
3. Explain why the Munich Putsch was a success and a failure

Read the part about Creation – Germany before WWI
1. How did Germany become a country?
2. What was life like for the workers?
3. In terms of the military, what was particularly important for Germany at this time?
4. Why might the Kaiser be keen to ban socialism?
5. Describe how Germany had become an internationally powerful nation by 1914

Read the information on Germany and WWI
1. What did Britain do at the beginning of WWI that really harmed the German civilians?
2. Explain why Germany was virtually bankrupt by the end of WWI
3. Explain why there was such political instability by the end of 1918. In your answer, use the words Kaiser, abdicate, Ebert, Weimer Government, armistice, November criminals, stab in the back
4. What was the first uprising against the Weimar Government - when and what were their beliefs?

Read Calm Cash and Culture 1924 – 1929 – Germany’s Golden Age
1. In what ways did Germany’s culture change in the 1920s? Explain your answer
2. Read the section on Control – Culture. Explain how the Nazis changed culture, and how this helped them keep control. Be sure to use the word Goebbels in your answer.

Other revision activities you can do using this booklet
1. Go through and highlight all of the key people and make a glossary of the key people and what they did. Then ask a family member to quiz you
2. Go through and highlight the key dates and make a timeline of the key dates. When doing this divide up the timeline into the 6 sections of Creation, Chaos, Calm (Cash and Culture), Crash, Consolidation, Control. Then ask a family member to quiz you
3. For each of the sections of Creations, Chaos, Calm (Cash and Culture), Crash and Consolidation, make a list of the key people and dates and then write a description using all of the key dates and the key people.
Exam Questions –
These are the exam question types you will have

The first 3 questions will be about 2 interpretations and will be as follows

1. **How does Interpretation A differ from Interpretation B about Weimar Art?**
   Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B. **4 marks** *(For this, use the content of the source only, that means what the source says, and make inference to say what it means)*

2. **Why do Interpretation A and B have different views about Weimar Art?**
   Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge. **4 marks** *(For this, use the provenance of the source to say why they are different –your knowledge will be connected to this provenance)*

3. **Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Weimar Art?** Explain your answer using Interpretation A and B and your contextual knowledge. **8 marks** *(For this, use both interpretations, you can say that they are both convincing, as you are linking knowledge to both of them. A way to decide of which is more convincing, is to say which one is the more typical view). Do not dismiss one as being not convincing. The examiner doesn’t want this, and doing this is a cop out.*

Examples of Interpretations

**Interpretation A**
*Written by a German poet who lived in Berlin in the 1920s*

Theatres, opera and concert houses were filled to capacity. European artists from Paris, London and Rome who came to Berlin were excited by it and didn’t want to leave. The atmosphere was electric.

**Interpretation B**
*Adapted by a letter written by Professor Willy Mailard of the Berlin School of Art, to the Nozi Minister of Science and Art in 1933, about the changes to German Art in the 1920s*

In recent years, developments in art have led to chaos. The experimental ideas that have been foisted on German art must be taken care of; everything that encourages subversion must be thrown out, just as the new government has already done in the political and economic life.
This will be followed by 3 knowledge questions

4. Describe two ways in which Hitler reduced unemployment in Germany 4 marks

5. In what ways did the Weimar government face difficulties between the years 1918 – 1923. Explain your answer 8 marks (2 paragraphs explaining 2 points)

6. Which of the following was the more important reason why resistance and opposition to Hitler was not effective:
   - The strength of the Nazi police state
   - The weaknesses of the protest groups

   Explain your answer with reference to both reasons 12 marks (Use SOT for this)