

Sample Questions - Germany, 1918-45

Germany - 1

- a) Study these events which occurred in Germany in the years 1918-23.

French invasion of the Ruhr	Kapp Putsch	Munich Putsch	German Revolution	Spartacist Rebellion
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

- b) Choose either Hitler becoming leader of the Nazis, 1920 or The Munich Putsch, 1923

Explain **one** effect on the development of the Nazi Party of the event you have chosen. (4)

- c) Why did the Nazis attempt the Munich Putsch? Explain your answer. (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

The Nazi Party began its existence in 1919 amidst the political chaos of the immediate post-war period. It was one of a broad range of new political parties which sprang up. The party's '25 Point Programme' laid out a range of policies, some of them very radical. In 1920 Adolf Hitler became leader and the party developed into a regional influence in Bavaria. However, after the Munich Putsch of 1923 the Nazi Party declined in influence and needed to be re-structured.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the development of the Nazi Party in the years 1919-28. (10)

Germany - 2

a) Study these events which occurred involving Germany in the years 1924-29.

French begin to pull out of the Ruhr	Young Plan agreed	Germany enters the League of Nations	Dawes Plan agreed	Locarno Pact
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence.

(3)

b) Choose either The Dawes Plan or French occupation of the Ruhr
Explain **one** effect on the Weimar Republic the event you have chosen.

(4)

c) Explain why there was so much social hardship in Germany between 1918 and 1923?

(8)

d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

The Social Democratic politicians into whose lap the German government fell in 1918 didn't have widespread support. Instead, they faced a bitter, suffering population, filled with unrealistic ideas about what peace could bring and divided about the road ahead.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain why there was widespread political unrest in Germany 1919-23.

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Germany - 3

- a) Study these events which occurred in Germany in the years 1918-24.

The Spartacist Rebellion	French Invasion of the Ruhr	The downfall of the Kaiser	Hyperinflation	The Kapp Putsch
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence.

(3)

- b) Choose either The Spartacist Rebellion or The Kapp Putsch

Explain **one** effect on Germany, in the period 1919-23, of the event you have chosen. (4)

- c) Why was the Weimar Republic able to survive the challenges it faced during 1923? (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

Following the 1923 crisis Germany stabilised somewhat. The economy was brought back on a more even keel partly because of the assistance of the Dawes Plan. As recovery occurred and Germany resumed paying reparations, relations with other countries improved. The Locarno Treaties paved the way for Germany's admission to the League of Nations. By 1929 Germany was able to further renegotiate the reparations schedule under the Young Plan.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the part played by Stresemann in Germany's recovery from 1923-29. (10)

Germany - 4

a) Study these events which occurred involving Germany in the years 1918-24.

The German Revolution (the Kaiser's downfall)	Locarno Treaties	The Dawes Plan	Treaty of Versailles	French invasion of the Ruhr
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence.

(3)

b) Choose either The Dawes Plan or The Locarno Treaties

Explain **one** effect on Germany of the event you have chosen.

(4)

c) Explain why hyperinflation occurred in Germany in 1923.

(8)

d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

The aftermath of the 1923 crisis produced the Dawes Plan. Consequently, the German economy began to recover somewhat. The negotiations for the Dawes Plan were assisted by the policies adopted by the Foreign Minister, Gustav Stresemann. Stresemann's influence on the German government in the period 1924-29 was great and he helped to create a more productive working relationship with Germany's former enemies.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain why the Weimar Republic was able to recover in the years 1924-29.

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Germany - 5

a) Study these events which occurred in Germany in the years 1918-23.

Kapp Putsch	The Kaiser's downfall	Formation of the Weimar Constitution	Hyperinflation	Spartacist Rebellion
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

b) Choose either The Kaiser's downfall (German Revolution) or The Weimar Constitution

Explain **one** effect on Germany, in the years 1918-23 of the event you have chosen. (4)

c) Why did the Weimar Republic face a number of challenges in the years 1919-22? Explain your answer. (8)

d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

The French invasion of the Ruhr was a major problem for Germany. German weakness was revealed by the government's response of 'passive resistance'. Yet the crisis helped to create the even greater problem of hyperinflation which was only brought under control following the issuing of the new, temporary currency the Rentenmark. The Nazi challenge in November to the Bavarian government was shot down in Munich when the police and army remained loyal to the Weimar Republic.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain why the Weimar Republic was able to survive the problems of 1923.

(10)

Germany - 6

a) Study these events which occurred in Germany in the years 1919-23.

The Munich Putsch	Hitler becomes leader of the German Workers' Party	Formation of the German Workers' Party	The adoption of the 'Twenty-Five Point Programme'	Hitler's imprisonment
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence.

(3)

b) Choose either Hitler becoming leader of the Nazis or The Munich Putsch

Explain **one** effect on the development of the Nazi Party of the event you have chosen (4)

c) Why did the Weimar Republic face a year of crisis in 1923? Explain your answer. (8)

d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From the obituary of Gustav Stresemann in the British newspaper, The Times, on 4th October 1929.

Germany has lost her ablest politician. Gustav Stresemann lived and worked without stint for the internal reconstruction of his shattered country. As for peace and co-operation abroad, he laboured with immense energy. The task he took up when he was Chancellor in 1923 would have frightened a lesser man. The domestic recovery of Germany and her standing in Europe give measure to his achievements as Foreign Minister.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain Stresemann's role in the recovery of Germany in the years 1924-29.

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Germany - 7

a) Study these events which occurred in Germany in the years 1933-1934.

The passing of the Enabling Law	Death of President Hindenburg	Hitler sworn in as Chancellor of Germany	The Night of the Long Knives	The Reichstag Fire
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence.

(3)

b) Choose either Hyperinflation or The French Invasion of the Ruhr
Explain **one** effect on Germany of the event you have chosen.

(4)

c) Why was there great resentment from German people towards the Treaty of Versailles?

(8)

d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

In the aftermath of the First World War German politics was chaotic. Many small, radical political parties emerged in the struggle for influence after the collapse of the Kaiser's government. The Nazis were one such small, fringe group. Their influence did not extend beyond Bavaria. But they did grow in membership, so much so that their leader, Adolf Hitler, decided to press for a takeover of the Bavarian government prior to a march on Berlin. The November 1923 Munich Putsch ended in failure as the police and army stayed loyal to the Weimar Republic.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain why the Nazis achieved little success as a political party in the years 1919-23.

(10)

Germany - 8

- a) Study these events which occurred in Germany in the years 1919-29.

Hitler released from gaol	Great Depression	Foundation of the German Workers' Party	Munich Putsch	Hitler becomes leader of the German Workers' Party
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

- b) Choose either Hitler becoming leader of the German Workers' Party or The Munich Putsch

Explain **one** effect on the Nazi Party of the event you have chosen. (4)

- c) Why was the Nazi Party so unsuccessful in elections in 1928? Explain your answer. (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

In 1921 Hitler became party leader and in the same year founded the Sturm Abteilung ('Stormtroopers', or 'Brownshirts'). The SA was a paramilitary organisation that paraded in full uniform, wearing the Nazi 'swastika'. Its main task was to protect Nazi meetings and 'disrupt' those of its opponents.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the part played by Hitler in the early development of the Nazi Party 1919-23.

(10)

Germany - 9

a) Study these events which occurred in the years 1928-33.

Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany	Nazis poll 2.6% of the vote in a Reichstag Election	The Wall Street Crash	Collapse of von Papen's government	Hitler stands as a candidate for the Presidency of Germany
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

b) Choose either The Wall Street Crash or Nazi propaganda

Explain **one** effect on Germany in the years 1929-32 of the event you have chosen. (4)

c) Why were the Weimar Republic governments between 1929-32 unable to deal with Germany's problems? Explain your answer. (8)

d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: Extract from the Franz von Papen's Memoirs, published in 1952.

One thing must be understood. Hitler's government in 1933 had been brought into power by the rules of the democratic and parliamentary processes. His party was the largest single political force in the Reichstag after 1932. It must be realised that at that time neither he nor the Nazis had acquired the character or undertaken actions which we later came to associate with them. Us politicians believed Hitler when he said that once he was in power he would become more ordered and responsible.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain why Hitler was appointed Chancellor in January 1933. (10)

Germany - 10

- a) Study these events which occurred in the years 1933-34.

Reichstag Fire	Hitler sworn in as Chancellor	Germany declared a one-party state	Enabling Law	Night of the Long Knives
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

- b) Choose either The Reichstag Fire or The Night of the Long Knives

Explain **one** effect on Germany of the event you have chosen. (4)

- c) Why was Hitler able to become the dictator of Germany in the period 1933-34?
Explain your answer. (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: Extract from a book by D. Evans & J. Jenkins, 'Years of Weimar and the Third Reich', 1999.

A reign of terror underpinned Hitler's rule. He used a combination of persuasion and deception in an organised form for the masses. This was combined with terror through the SA and the SS. The latter became a particularly effective instrument of power with a range of elements which made up the police apparatus of the state. People were successfully intimidated by a range of approaches, but above all by the use of concentration camps.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain why the Nazi police state was so effective.

(10)

Germany - 11

- a) Study these events which occurred in the years 1933-34.

Emergency Powers granted to Hitler	Reichstag Fire	Hitler appointed as Chancellor	Night of the Long Knives	Enabling Act
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

- b) Choose either The Reichstag Fire or The Enabling Act

Explain **one** effect on democracy in the Weimar Republic of the event you have chosen.

(4)

- c) Explain why Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany in January 1933. (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: Extract from a modern text book.

The Enabling Law gave Hitler the power to pass any law he liked. At once the Nazis set about bringing the whole of Germany under their control and, in July 1933, Germany became a one-party state.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the changes in Hitler's power, 1933-34. (10)

Germany - 12

a) Study these events which occurred in the years 1933-38.

Hitler publically declares Germany to be re-arming	Communist Party banned in Germany	Formation of the German Labour Front (Nazi trade union)	Berlin Olympics	Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

b) Choose either of these two Nazi policies, The National Labour Service or rearmament

Explain **one** effect on German unemployment after 1933 of the Nazi policy you have chosen.

(4)

c) Why was there increased opposition to Hitler after 1939? (8)

d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: Extract from a modern text book.

The SS was supported by the Gestapo (or secret police). The Gestapo used any method they could to find opponents of the regime, including phone tapping and spying on people. The use of information from informers was also widespread; from the workplace to blocks of flats, and even in the classroom, people could not escape the risk of being informed on.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the development of the Nazi police state. (10)

Germany - 13

- a) Study these events which occurred in Germany during the years 1933-38.

Introduction of conscription to the German military	Kristallnacht	Berlin Olympics	Law on Marriage Loans	Hitler declared 'Der Fuhrer'
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

- b) Choose either The Law on Marriage Loans or Kristallnacht

Explain **one** effect on Germany of the event you have chosen. (4)

- c) Once in power, why were the Nazis able to dramatically reduce unemployment in Germany? Explain your answer. (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: Extract from a modern history textbook.

The Nazis organised all youth groups into one organisation under their control. The Hitler Youth was then split into different groups for boys and girls, each with its own goals; boys were to be prepared for military roles and girls for motherhood. In school, children had to undertake a curriculum carefully monitored by the Nazis and after 1935 Jews were excluded from state-funded schools.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the changes in the policies towards young people in Germany, 1933-39.

(10)

Germany - 14

- a) Study these events which occurred in the years 1933-42.

The Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht)	The Wannsee Conference	The Enabling Law	The Nuremberg Laws	Euthanasia Programme of the mentally ill and physically handicapped
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

- b) Choose either The Nuremberg Laws or The Enabling Law

Explain **one** effect on Germany of the event you have chosen. (4)

- c) Why did the Nazis persecute different groups in German society? (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

At first the war went well, there was no need for the Nazis to fundamentally change the way Germany was run. But as the war progressed the situation worsened. Allied bombing of cities and retreat in the East were direct results of the worsening military situation, but they both clearly affected people back home. Living standards grew worse. Moreover, the Nazi regime grew tighter and even more ruthless, especially when faced with growing anti-Nazi expressions from some groups.

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the main effects the Second World War had on Germany, 1939-45. (10)

Germany - 15

- a) Study these events which occurred in the years 1939-45.

German invasion of Poland	The July Bomb Plot (Stauffenberg Plot)	The introduction of the Final Solution	German invasion of the Soviet Union	Adolf Hitler's death
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Write these events in the correct chronological sequence. (3)

- b) Choose either The Allied bombing of Germany or The Final Solution

Explain **one** effect on Germany of the event you have chosen. (4)

- c) Why was there so little opposition to Nazi rule in Germany between 1933-39? (8)

- d) Study the source below and then answer the question that follows.

Source: From a modern History textbook.

German citizens faced a complex relationship with Nazi rule. Some benefitted overall, others did not. For some it is easy to assess the impact; Jews were seriously disadvantaged by Nazi rule. But for many it was not as straightforward as simple gain and loss. How can lost political freedoms be balanced against possible benefits from Nazi economic programmes? How far did the concept of 'Peoples' Community' (*Volksgemeinschaft*) have a positive effect on people?

Use the source, and your own knowledge, to explain the effects of Nazi rule on ordinary German people.

(10)