

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



## HISTORY

HS1G

### Unit 1

**Alternative G: Imperial and Weimar Germany, 1871–1925**

Monday 2 June 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS1G.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

### Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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- 1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** Adapted from an article in the SPD newspaper *Vorwärts*, December 1918

- We want no more bloodshed. We want to achieve peace through work. We do not want fighting and violence. We do not want any military activity from the right or the left. Do not follow the Spartacists, the German Bolsheviks, unless you want to ruin our economy and trade. The collapse of German industry and trade means the  
5 downfall of the German people. So, no to terror and no to armed force. Not fighting, but *freedom!*

**Source B** In early 1919, the struggling SPD government drifted further to the right. It grew dependent on the civil service and the army to maintain effective government. In January 1919, the government used not only army troops but also the *Freikorps*. The Spartacists were defeated relatively easily and their leaders were brutally  
5 murdered. This event set the tone for the next few months. The street disorders in Berlin and the short-lived Soviet Republic in Bavaria were brought under control, though in each case at the cost of several hundred lives.

Adapted from G LAYTON, *From Bismarck to Hitler*, 1995

**Source C** The Soviet Republic in Bavaria was by no means the only instance of revolutionary disturbance in 1919. The spectacle of army and *Freikorps* units marching into German cities to suppress working-class unrest became almost commonplace. However, the Communist organisation was feeble and its  
5 numbers insignificant. Furthermore, the leaders of the USPD (Independent Social Democrat Party) rejected the concept of soviet dictatorship, so the left was divided on the extent to which they should carry the battle out into the streets.

Adapted from A J NICHOLLS, *Weimar and the Rise of Hitler*, 2000

- (a) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

Explain briefly the importance of 'the *Freikorps*' (line 3) in the context of Germany in the years 1919 to 1920. (3 marks)

- (b) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how **Source B** challenges the views put forward in **Source A** about the SPD's attitude to the use of violence and armed force in Germany in the years 1918 to 1919. (7 marks)

- (c) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

Explain the importance of left wing extremism, in relation to other factors, in explaining the weakness of the Weimar Republic in the years 1919 to 1923. (15 marks)

**EITHER**

- 2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

A brief text extract adapted from S LEE, *Imperial Germany 1871-1918*, 1999. It discusses the passing of Falk's May Laws in 1873 and 1874 after Bismarck's collaboration with the National Liberals, supporting the undermining of the Catholic Church. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'Falk's May Laws' (line 2) in the context of Bismarck's *Kulturkampf*. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Bismarck attacked the Catholic Church in the years 1873 to 1878. (7 marks)
- (c) 'Bismarck's political twists and turns enabled him to maintain personal control of domestic affairs in the years 1871 to 1890.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

**OR**

- 3 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

The political structure of the Second Reich seemed to make opposition almost pointless. The Emperor, served by eager-to-please Chancellors, was in a powerful position. Yet he never felt totally secure. Forces of the left were seen as the major threat to the established order.

Adapted from F STAPLETON, *The Kaiserreich*, 2002

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'eager-to-please Chancellors' (line 2) in the context of the *Kaiserreich* between 1890 and 1914. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why Wilhelm II feared the 'forces of the left'. (7 marks)
- (c) 'The Kaiser was in full control of German domestic policy in the years 1890 to 1914.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source B: G LAYTON, *From Bismarck to Hitler*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1995. Reproduced by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.

Question 1 Source C: A J NICHOLLS, *Weimar and the Rise of Hitler*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2000. Reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan.

Question 2: S LEE, *Imperial Germany 1871–1918*, Routledge, 1999

Question 3: F STAPLETON, *The Kaiserreich*, First and Best in Education, 2002