



GCSE History 8145
Specimen Paper 1 Section A
(1B Germany, 1890-1945)
Student 1 Questions 01–06
Specimen answer and commentary
V1.0

Specimen answer plus commentary

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process. It is rather intended to illustrate how the mark scheme can be interpreted and how it is likely that students will respond to the questions, allowing the student and teacher to explore and reflect upon the mark scheme and how answers can be improved

Paper 1B Section A (Germany): Specimen Questions 01–06

01 How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about Hitler's appeal to the people of Germany? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B.

[4 marks]

Student response

Interpretation B is different to interpretation A because they talk about Hitler appealing to different groups. A talks about Hitler using his 'hypnotic and persuasive' methods to appeal to different social groups by redesigning the uniform and making himself look responsible. Whereas interpretation B talks about Hitler appealing to certain desperate social groups after the economic crisis, such as 'unemployed workers..... young people with no future..... middle class businessman and craftsman heading for bankruptcy..... and farmers.'

Commentary – Level 2

Developed analysis and differences explained. Good on Interpretation B, weaker on A. Answer achieves bottom of a Level 2.

02 Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about Hitler's appeal to the people of Germany? Explain your answer using interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.

[4 marks]

Student response

Interpretation A is written by Albert Speer who went to Berlin University, because of this he supported Hitler and became the Nazi minister for weapons, however at the time Speer was in prison and trying to get the blame off of himself so he said Hitler was "hypnotic" to give the sense that he was controlling people to save himself.

Interpretation B is written by Victor Schiff who was left wing, you could argue that because he was the Paris correspondent that he would be against Hitler and could also add to the fact that it was in an American newspaper making the article negative and biased. However because he was a journalist and needed to get a widespread view it's not all bad, although he takes more of a negative view when talking about the workers because of his left wing commitment.

Commentary – Level 2

A developed analysis of the provenance of both interpretations and therefore reaches the top of a

Level 2.

03 Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Hitler’s appeal to the people of Germany? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.

[8 marks]

Student response

Firstly, interpretation A is quite convincing due to the way it talks of Hitler being “hypnotic and persuasive” as Hitler was a very good public speaker which was the reason he joined the Nazis in the first place. This convinces me as the reason Hitler became so popular was due to his public speeches, therefore it is easy to believe how he would appeal to the German public through his talent that brought him to fame. Also, the fact that it talks about stopping communism – “the peril of communism could be stopped”, shows how they wanted to remain capitalist and stop communism. This is convincing as Hitler was a strong right wing meaning he was against equality. For this reason I can believe that one of his appeals to the German public was to stop communism.

On the other hand, interpretation B is more convincing than interpretation A. He states that “Hitler owes his rise and ultimate victory to the World Economic Crisis” makes this interpretation convincing as people only listened/turned to Hitler at times of crisis such as the Wall Street Crash. This is convincing as 6 million people were unemployed, meaning many would turn to Hitler for support which convinces me that Hitler appealed to unemployed and young people as it would gain him more overall support. Overall, I find interpretation B more convincing as it states the changes in Hitler’s support and relates to events during his rise to power to support what it says about Hitler’s appeal to the people of Germany.

Commentary – Level 3

A developed application of knowledge to both interpretations, but the judgment is not explained, merely asserted. Answer reaches the top of a Level 3.

04 Describe two problems faced by Kaiser Wilhelm II’s governments in ruling Germany up to 1914.

[4 marks]

Student response

One of the Kaisers biggest problems was the trade union because they felt they were not being treated very fairly and they were getting angry with the Kaiser, this is a problem because if they were to go on strike Germany would fall apart because they would have no money or resources as there was 3.3 million of them. Another less threatening problem was the agrarian league they wanted protection measures put in place to protect them from foreign competition, however it had mixed results when it tried to attract peasants they did well in the north, but the south had its own peasant leagues so they didn’t get many members.

Commentary – Level 2

Knowledge and understanding of two problems are exemplified and the answer therefore reaches the top of a Level 2.

05 In what ways were the lives of women in Germany affected by Nazi social policies? Explain your answer.

[8 marks]

Student response

The women were affected by the Nazis between the years 1933 and 1939. The Nazis encouraged women to have more children and larger families so that the population would grow. They nearly made a law that families should have at least four children. So that the women would have more children the Nazis encouraged women to not work, to stay at home. The Nazis went to desperate measures giving out loans to the 800,000 who signed up, they even gave out medals. Bronze = 4 children. Silver = 6 children. Gold = 8 children. Women were also deprived of their jobs, 15% of all teachers, all women doctors and civil servants were sacked. This was very bad for women as they were treated far from equal to men. Women would normally get the jobs that no one else wanted to do, men always got the first pick of jobs no matter how overqualified the women were.

There was also the aftermath of telling the women to do controversial things with their life. Many women and their families were confused on what Nazi Germany actually wanted from them. At the start of the time period women were basically forced to stay at home, not to work and have many kids whereas at the end of the time period they were insisting that all women go back to work because at the time Germany was in desperate need of employees. This led to lots of women not knowing whether to stay at home and raise their children to be the perfect German citizen or to leave for work and help Germany function without as many men.

Commentary – Level 4

The complexities of the changes to women's lives are developed and explained – time is used as part of the change concept. Answer achieves bottom of a Level 4.

06 Which of the following was the more important reason why the Weimar Republic was in danger in the years 1919–1923:

- **economic problems**
- **political unrest?**

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

[12 marks]

Student response

Economic problems such as the treaty of Versailles signed in 1919 may have caused a danger for Weimar. Germany had to pay £6,600 million to allies for damage caused by the war. This would have created a danger for Weimar and Germany as they would become more vulnerable to attack from other countries due to the restrictions that had been put on them. Reparations also lead to hyperinflation. This was due to Germany being unable to pay the Term of reparations which therefore resulted in the French invading the Ruhr. Weimar then had to print more money to pay workers causing the business men to higher their prices, which resulted in the prices of things increasing and the value decreasing. This hyperinflation was a danger for Weimar as people became angry with them as they could not afford to

buy things. This meant that extremist parties would threaten Weimar's control over Germany due to the increasing support these parties were getting at such desperate times. Also, people became angry with Weimar as they could not get their savings back after Hyperinflation which would ruin their reputation even more. This is a more significant threat as they had the danger of powerful parties overtaking Weimar's power.

On the other hand, one example of political unrest that caused a threat/danger to Weimar was the Kapp Putsch. Kapp was annoyed with the signing of the treaty as Germany had been proud of having a powerful army when Wilhelm was the Kaiser. In March 1920 Kapp led 5,000 Freikorps (ex-military after WW1) into Berlin in rebellion. The army would not fire at their own people so Weimar fled and the German people declared a general strike. In the long term this would show that Weimar could not hold their ground without help from the army, this could show that Weimar were weak. However, in the short term it only lasted 5 days so may have proved that Weimar had power to control their people by causing the strike that caused Kapp to leave. This was not a very significant danger as it did not harm Weimar, although it could have shown people that Weimar were weak and therefore cause them loss of support. Another political unrest was the Spartacists. They were a left-wing communist party who disagreed with Ebert's plan for a democratic Germany. In 1919 the Spartacists launched their bid for power through a rebellion. Weimar and Ebert made an agreement with the Freikorps to put down the rebellion and this was a success. This could have regained some respect for Weimar as they did not back down from the situation. The revolution had failed and Liebknecht and Luxemburg were murdered. Overall, the Spartacists were not a great danger as Weimar easily defeated them by taking away their source of direction: their leaders, which left them powerless.

In conclusion, Economic problems were the more important reason why Weimar was in danger in the years 1919-1923. Events such as hyperinflation and the Treaty of Versailles included many other countries which could pose more of a danger as they could become more vulnerable to attacks and invasions. Also, failing to provide other countries with necessary money (such as the Treaty of Versailles reparations term) could lead to Weimar creating enemies which could destroy their reputation and make other countries not want to trade or help Germany as they fear Weimar's capability. By creating their own problems (hyperinflation) Weimar would have the danger of being taken over by extremist parties which would cause a big danger as without a capable leader, Germany would suffer and possibly become vulnerable and weak. On the other hand, Political unrest did not cause as much danger to Weimar. This is due to the containment of the unrest/uprisings which meant that other countries were not usually involved and events such as the Kapp Putsch and the Spartacists only affected Weimar. This would have caused a threat to Germany due to the conflict inside the country. However, despite a loss of support, it would not have caused such a big danger for Weimar as small unrests could easily be defeated by Weimar and only lasted a short amount of time.

Commentary – Level 4

A developed explanation of both bullets and some explanation of the judgement, but not sustained and therefore sits at the bottom of a Level 4. It is worth noting that this essay was not completed under exam conditions, and it therefore longer than could be expected in an examination.

