Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

Paper 3: Modern depth study
Option 31: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Tuesday 12 June 2018 – Afternoon
Sources/Interpretations Booklet

Paper Reference
1HI0/31

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Sources/interpretations for use with Section B.

Source B: A photograph published in a German newspaper in March 1920. It shows Freikorps soldiers taking part in the Kapp Putsch. The soldiers are occupying an area in Berlin near to the Reichstag building.



Source C: From an interview with a German woman in 1974. She was a factory worker during the early years of the Weimar Republic. Here she is recalling the hyperinflation of 1923.

> You got paid at the end of every day. You had to spend it straight away because the next day your wages would only be worth half as much as the day before. Money was literally not worth the paper it was printed on.
>
> Many people who had their savings in bank accounts lost all the money they had managed to scrape together. We asked ourselves, 'How can that happen? How is it that the government can't control this inflation which wipes out the life savings of most people?' We never got an answer that meant anything.
>
> After the hyperinflation, people didn't trust the government anymore.

Interpretation 1: From *The Weimar Republic, 1918-24* by M. Rathbone, published in 2013.

> Some democratic parties did support the Weimar Republic. However, powerful political groups on both the Left and the Right refused to accept the existence of the Weimar Republic. They were prepared to destroy it by force and replace it with their own form of government. They took action against the Republic very soon after it was created. This made it difficult for the new government to maintain order and govern Germany.

Interpretation 2: From *Alpha History,* a history website.

> The hyperinflation which happened in 1923 forced the Weimar government to fear for its own existence.
>
> After the French had occupied the Ruhr, the industrial workers had gone on strike. The Weimar government supported the strikers by printing more paper money in order to pay them. As the strike continued, the government could not find a solution and simply printed even more money. This ruined the economy. People talked openly about removing the government by a popular revolution or a military putsch.

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