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# AS HISTORY

Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918–1945  
Component 20 The Weimar Republic, 1918–1933

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Tuesday 22 May 2018      Afternoon      Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

## Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/20.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

## Information

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

## Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
  - 50 minutes on Section A
  - 40 minutes on Section B.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From 'Memoirs of a Social Democrat', 1929, by Philipp Scheidemann. Scheidemann was Chancellor in 1919 but resigned when the Versailles Treaty was accepted.

The Treaty handed to our delegates was the most wicked piece of work ever produced by blind hatred and senseless fury. The German government took fully the points formulated by Wilson and solemn assurances that the Entente was not waging war against the German people, but against the Kaiser and his regime. Despite the fact that the Kaiser had fled and although a Parliament had been elected by the people and a government with a Social Democrat President and Chancellor represented Germany, here was this mad, dictated Treaty, by which a nation of seventy millions was to be enslaved and stripped of its honour and defences for many years. What regime would not wither when shackled in these chains?

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**Source B**

From an article by the German journalist, Victor Schiff, for the SDP newspaper Vorwärts (Forwards), 1929. Schiff had been present at the signing of the Versailles Treaty in 1919.

And yet! In comparison with what we expected after Versailles, Germany has raised herself up to shoulder the terrific burden of this peace in a way we should never have thought possible. So that today, after ten years, we may say with certainty, as we reflect on the opinions and prophecies at the time, that it might have been worse. Those who claimed that to reject the Treaty would be the lesser of two evils must admit that despite every setback, the spirit of Versailles has been conquered. The stages of recovery from Versailles were the French leaving the Ruhr, Locarno and Geneva. There is still a very long road indeed to go, but we have travelled it surprisingly quickly.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the response of Germany to the Versailles Treaty?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

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**Either**

**0 2** 'There was economic stability in Germany in the years 1924 to 1928.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**or**

**0 3** 'The key reason for Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933 was Brüning's failures in the years 1930 to 1932.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

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