



AS HISTORY

The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991
Component 1L Empire to democracy, 1871–1929

Wednesday 14 May 2025 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 7041/1L.
- 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.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

Bismarck would have found it impossible to rule without the consent of the people via their representatives in the Reichstag. In his role as chancellor, it was Bismarck's task to control the Reichstag. Constitutionally unable to initiate legislation, the Reichstag nevertheless had the right to block the draft laws it was presented with and did so often. Therefore, Bismarck had to work hard to convince the 394 representatives to go along with his plans. Bismarck had created a system where laws could only be passed with the approval of the representatives of the German people. The period was, therefore, dominated as much by liberalism and democratic thought as it was by nationalism and authoritarianism. 5

Adapted from K Hoyer, *Blood and Iron: The Rise and Fall of the German Empire 1871–1918*, 2021

Extract B

Imperial Germany could not be classed as a democratic state. The elected majority did not have the last word in the government. The contrast between the appearance of democracy and the reality of autocracy arose from the dominance of Prussia within the Empire. The position of Prussia in the constitution gave its rulers an effective veto on change in the federal structure. The appearance of constitutional government was a false impression because social and political life were based on institutions and attitudes suited to an autocratic government. For example, the chancellor and ministers were not responsible to the Reichstag but to the emperor. True parliamentary government was impossible. 5

Adapted from JM Roberts, *Europe 1880–1945*, 1970

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of political authority in Germany in the years 1871 to 1890?

[25 marks]

Section B

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

Either

0	2
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'The traditional, aristocratic elites retained their social and political dominance in the years 1890 to 1914.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
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'In the years 1919 to 1929, left-wing and right-wing extremists did not pose a significant threat to Weimar democracy.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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