



General Certificate of Education

AS History 1041

Unit 1: HIS1J

The Development of Germany, 1871–1925

Mark Scheme

2009 examination - June series

This mark scheme uses the [new numbering system](#) which is being introduced for examinations from June 2010

The specimen assessment materials are provided to give centres a reasonable idea of the general shape and character of the planned question papers and mark schemes in advance of the operational exams.

Further copies of this Mark Scheme are available to download from the AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk

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Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

Generic Introduction for AS

The AS History specification is based on the assessment objectives laid down in QCA's GCE History subject criteria and published in the AQA specification booklet. These cover the skills, knowledge and understanding which are expected of A Level candidates. Most questions address more than one objective since historical skills, which include knowledge and understanding, are usually deployed together. Consequently, the marking scheme which follows is a 'levels of response' scheme and assesses candidates' historical skills in the context of their knowledge and understanding of History.

The levels of response are a graduated recognition of how candidates have demonstrated their abilities in the Assessment Objectives. Candidates who predominantly address AO1(a) by writing narrative or description will perform at Level 1 or Level 2 depending on its relevance. Candidates who provide more explanation – (AO1(b), supported by the relevant selection of material, AO1(a)) – will perform at high Level 2 or low-mid Level 3 depending on how explicit they are in their response to the question. Candidates who provide explanation with evaluation, judgement and an awareness of historical interpretations will be addressing all 3 AOs (AO1(a); AO1(b); AO2(a) and (b) and will have access to the higher mark ranges. AO2(a) which requires the evaluation of source material is assessed in Unit 2.

Differentiation between Levels 3, 4 and 5 is judged according to the extent to which candidates meet this range of assessment objectives. At Level 3 the answers will show more characteristics of the AO1 objectives, although there should be elements of AO2. At Level 4, AO2 criteria, particularly an understanding of how the past has been interpreted, will be more in evidence and this will be even more dominant at Level 5. The demands on written communication, particularly the organisation of ideas and the use of specialist vocabulary also increase through the various levels so that a candidate performing at the highest AS level is already well prepared for the demands of A2.

CRITERIA FOR MARKING GCE HISTORY:

AS EXAMINATION PAPERS

General Guidance for Examiners (to accompany Level Descriptors)

Deciding on a level and the award of marks within a level

It is of vital importance that examiners familiarise themselves with the generic mark scheme and apply it consistently, as directed by the Principal Examiner, in order to facilitate comparability across options.

The indicative mark scheme for each paper is designed to illustrate some of the material that candidates might refer to (knowledge) and some of the approaches and ideas they might develop (skills). It is not, however, prescriptive and should only be used to exemplify the generic mark scheme.

When applying the generic mark scheme, examiners will constantly need to exercise judgement to decide which level fits an answer best. Few essays will display all the characteristics of a level, so deciding the most appropriate will always be the first task.

Each level has a range of marks and for an essay which has a strong correlation with the level descriptors the middle mark should be given. However, when an answer has some of the characteristics of the level above or below, or seems stronger or weaker on comparison with many other candidates' responses to the same question, the mark will need to be adjusted up or down.

When deciding on the mark within a level, the following criteria should be considered *in relation to the level descriptors*. Candidates should never be doubly penalised. If a candidate with poor communication skills has been placed in Level 2, he or she should not be moved to the bottom of the level on the basis of the poor quality of written communication. On the other hand, a candidate with similarly poor skills, whose work otherwise matched the criteria for Level 4 should be adjusted downwards within the level.

Criteria for deciding marks within a level:

- The accuracy of factual information
- The level of detail
- The depth and precision displayed
- The quality of links and arguments
- The quality of written communication (grammar, spelling, punctuation and legibility; an appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of ideas, including the use of specialist vocabulary)
- Appropriate references to historical interpretation and debate
- The conclusion

Specimen Mark Scheme for examinations in June 2010 onwards

GCE AS History Unit 1: Change and Consolidation

HIS1J: The Development of Germany, 1871–1925

Question 1

01 Explain why the Anti-Socialist Law was introduced in Germany in 1878. (12 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b)

Generic Mark Scheme

Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**

L1: Answers will contain either some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-2**

L2: Answers will demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they will provide some explanations backed by evidence that is limited in range and/or depth. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **3-6**

L3: Answers will demonstrate good understanding of the demands of the question providing relevant explanations backed by appropriately selected information, although this may not be full or comprehensive. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **7-9**

L4: Answers will be well-focused, identifying a range of specific explanations, backed by precise evidence and demonstrating good understanding of the connections and links between events/issues. Answers will, for the most part, be well-written and organised. **10-12**

Indicative content

Responses should include a range of reasons to explain why the anti-socialist laws were introduced. Bismarck's key aim in domestic policy in the years to 1878 was to unify and consolidate the new Reich. The socialist party and the spread of socialist beliefs threatened the unity of the new Reich in a number of ways:

- Socialism had an international appeal workers of the world unite, through the First Socialist International. Bismarck distrusted any group whose first loyalty was not to the German Empire
- in 1875 the two wings of the socialist party in Germany were united under the SPD (Social Democratic Party), increasing Bismarck's perception of the threat of socialism
- as a member of the Prussian Conservative Junker class Bismarck had an inherent fear of the threat socialism posed to the established social, political and economic order. This fear had been intensified by the events of the Paris Commune in 1870–1871 and

the support shown for the Parisian Communards from the Socialist Parties within Germany

- the key events which gave Bismarck the opportunity to introduce the anti-socialist laws were the two unsuccessful assassination attempts on the Kaiser's life in mid-1878. Although neither of the assassins had any clear link with the SPD, the mood of the electorate was patriotic and conservative
- Bismarck took great advantage of the political mood following the assassination attempts by dissolving the Reichstag, fighting the election on an anti-socialist platform and ensuring that the conservatives dominated. Therefore it can be argued that the introduction of the anti-socialist legislation was a two pronged attack and the primary targets were not the socialists but the left-wing of the National Liberals and the Progressives who had rejected his protectionist economic policies.

Question 1

- 02** How successful was Bismarck in maintaining his political dominance of Germany in the years 1878 to 1890? (24 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Generic Mark Scheme

Nothing written worthy of credit.

0

- L1:** Answers may either contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or they may address only a part of the question. Alternatively, there may be some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**

- L2:** Answers will show some understanding of the focus of the question. They will either be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question or they may contain some explicit comment with relevant but limited support. They will display limited understanding of differing historical interpretations. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **7-11**

- L3:** Answers will show a developed understanding of the demands of the question. They will provide some assessment, backed by relevant and appropriately selected evidence, but they will lack depth and/or balance. There will be some understanding of varying historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **12-16**

- L4:** Answers will show explicit understanding of the demands of the question. They will develop a balanced argument backed by a good range of appropriately selected evidence and a good understanding of historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, show organisation and good skills of written communication. **17-21**

L5: Answers will be well-focused and closely argued. The arguments will be supported by precisely selected evidence leading to a relevant conclusion/judgement, incorporating well-developed understanding of historical interpretations and debate. Answers will, for the most part, be carefully organised and fluently written, using appropriate vocabulary.

22-24

Indicative content

Up until 1878 Bismarck's political dominance had depended upon an uneasy alliance with the liberals. Following the break with the liberals in 1878 and until 1887, Bismarck did not have a clear majority in the Reichstag, therefore making political dominance of the Reichstag difficult.

Evidence that he was successful:

- the alliance of 'steel and rye' successfully upheld conservative authority
- the Anti-Socialist Law introduced in 1878 prevented the Socialists from adopting an extreme position as did the introduction of State Socialism
- the Liberals were split and unable threaten his dominance
- the parties in the Reichstag were too divided to form a united front against him
- by manufacturing an artificial political crisis in the wake of the Boulanger Affair in France. Bismarck managed to tame the Reichstag. In the 1887 elections, the Kartell (German Conservatives, Free Conservatives and National Liberals) won 220 seats, allowing him to push through a new seven year military budget
- he retained the support of Kaiser Wilhelm I which enabled him to override most of the opposition that he faced in the Reichstag.

Evidence that he was not successful:

- until 1887 Bismarck had no clear majority in the Reichstag, e.g. following the 1881 elections over three-quarters of the Reichstag deputies opposed Bismarck's policies. Bismarck could only rely upon the support of the German Conservatives and Free Conservatives who only controlled 85 seats in the Reichstag. It was only with the support of the centre that he could scrape by
- in 1881 Bismarck's plans for a tobacco monopoly and a proposed increase in indirect taxation were defeated in the Reichstag. It is said that Bismarck often thought of arranging a coup to abolish the Reichstag
- the socialist party grew in numbers despite the Anti-Socialist Law; almost twice as many people voted for them in 1887 as in 1878. 'State Socialism' backfired on Bismarck (indeed it was only passed by the Reichstag in a modified form due to Radical opposition to state subsidies) and by 1890 there were 35 SPD deputies in the Reichstag elected by over 500 000 votes
- the Centre Party used every opportunity to oppose Bismarck in revenge for the Kulturkampf, and Windthorst often encouraged his party to voted with the Radicals
- Bismarck's failure to control the Reichstag brought him into conflict with the new Kaiser, Wilhelm II, who used his power to dismiss Bismarck in 1890.

Question 2

- 03** Explain why German industry expanded so rapidly in the years c1890 to c1910.
(12 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b)

Generic Mark Scheme

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers will contain either some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-2**
- L2:** Answers will demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the demands of the question. They will **either** be almost entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question **or** they will provide some explanations backed by evidence that is limited in range and/or depth. Answers will be coherent but weakly expressed and/or poorly structured. **3-6**
- L3:** Answers will demonstrate good understanding of the demands of the question providing relevant explanations backed by appropriately selected information, although this may not be full or comprehensive. Answers will, for the most part, be clearly expressed and show some organisation in the presentation of material. **7-9**
- L4:** Answers will be well-focused, identifying a range of specific explanations, backed by precise evidence and demonstrating good understanding of the connections and links between events/issues. Answers will, for the most part, be well-written and organised. **10-12**

Indicative content

Between 1890 and 1910 Germany witnessed another period of economic expansion. Despite the occasional economic downturn in 1891 and 1901 the German economy grew on average by 7–8% per year. German exports rose to over £500 million by 1914. The reasons for the economic growth are varied:

- the economy took full advantage of its Bismarckian foundations of economic protectionism and exploitation of abundant raw materials which enabled the iron and steel industry to continue to prosper beyond the 1890s
- the steady growth in the railway system from almost 42 000km in 1890 to almost 60 000km by 1910 allowed for the rapid transportation of coal which was required to provide energy for industry
- in 1890 the population stood at almost 50 million, in the next two decades the population rose to 65 million. The rapid growth in population provided industry with a greater workforce and more consumers who had larger incomes to spend on consumer products
- the development of the German merchant navy was spectacular in this period and stimulated the growth of the economy in a number of ways. Firstly, raw materials were needed to build the fleet. Secondly, the building of the ships provided vital work for the shipbuilding yards based in ports like Hamburg. Thirdly, it provided employment for men as sailors. Fourthly, and perhaps most importantly, the merchant navy exported German

manufactured goods and imported raw material from the rest of the world – thus fuelling economic growth

- new ventures such as chemical and electrical industries were invested in by banks, further stimulating economic growth. The chemical industry produced 75% of the world output of chemical dyes by 1914. Agriculture was stimulated by the production of chemical fertilisers. By 1913 half of the world electro-technical trade was in Germany
- the German education system, especially technical schools, provided a skilled workforce for the new and traditional industries.

Question 2

- 04** How far was the growth of socialism a threat to the political stability of Germany in the years 1890 to 1914? (24 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Generic Mark Scheme

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers may either contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or they may address only a part of the question. Alternatively, there may be some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
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- L4:** Answers will show explicit understanding of the demands of the question. They will develop a balanced argument backed by a good range of appropriately selected evidence and a good understanding of historical interpretations. Answers will, for the most part, show organisation and good skills of written communication. **17-21**
- L5:** Answers will be well-focused and closely argued. The arguments will be supported by precisely selected evidence leading to a relevant conclusion/judgement, incorporating well-developed understanding of historical interpretations and debate. Answers will, for the most part, be carefully organised and fluently written, using appropriate vocabulary. **22-24**

Indicative content

Evidence to support the view that socialism was a threat – German Socialism's strengths:

- strengthened by the years of Bismarckian persecution, but liberated by the lapse in the Anti-Socialist Laws in 1890, the SPD organised itself into a nationwide mass party. In 1890 the SPD won 35 seats in the German Reichstag; by 1912 they were by far the largest political party in the Reichstag with a staggering 110 seats
- the party appealed to rapidly growing urban working classes who often lived in abject poverty and were increasingly frustrated by the lack of social mobility. In 1890 47% of Germans were city dwellers, by 1910 this figure had grown to 60%
- at the Erfurt Congress of 1891 the SPD adopted an uncompromising Marxist programme to overthrow the Wilhelmine class system. Therefore the socialists were ideologically committed to the idea of revolution – a fact which frightened the ruling German elites
- according to the historian Berghan the perceived threat of socialism forced the ruling elite to look at war as a solution to rising social tensions within Germany.

Counter argument – German Socialism's weaknesses

- there existed divisions within the rank and file of the SPD about the methods to achieve its aims. For example, the trade unionists believed in a more gradual evolutionary way to create a socialist society. Therefore, despite its Marxist origins, the German socialist movement by 1912 was broadly committed to the revisionism proposed by Eduard Bernstein in his 1898 work 'The Presuppositions of Socialism and the Tasks of Social Democracy'
- whilst in theory the SPD remained committed to a revolutionary programme, in practice the socialist deputies in the Reichstag worked for social and political change through the existing system. From 1906 onwards, leading Social Democrats were willing to make electoral pacts with the Liberals to forward favourable social policies
- the SPD did not oppose imperial foreign policy which they interpreted as primarily opposed to reactionary Tsardom. When war was declared in August 1914, the SPD along with all the parties in the Reichstag agreed to a political truce, the *Burgfriede*, for the duration of the conflict
- the SPD also supported the financial provisions of the Army Bill in 1913 because of the included property tax.

Other factors which posed more of a threat to the political stability of Germany, e.g.:

- Kaiser's personal rule; scandals, e.g. Eulenberg Affair, Daily Telegraph Affair, impact of Weltpolitik
- growth of right-wing pressure groups and influence of the Army.

Better answers will argue it was the elite's perceived, rather than the real, threat of socialism which caused political instability in Germany.

Question 3

05 Explain why the Kaiser abdicated in November 1918. (12 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b)

Generic Mark Scheme

Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**

L1: Answers will contain either some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-2**

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Indicative content

To explain why the Kaiser was forced to abdicate on 9 November 1918 an understanding of the reasons for the German Revolution must be demonstrated:

- the devastating impact of Britain's blockade and war on the German economy combined with poor harvests in 1917 and 1918 meant that the German population were existing on only 1000 calories a day. As many as 750 000 people died of starvation. The desperate plight of many German's led them to loose faith in the Kaiser's leadership
- the failure of 'revolution from above' (i.e. Ludendorff's creation of the constitutional monarchy sanctioned by the Kaiser and Prince Max von Baden's constitutional reforms) to provide a practical political solution to the radical internal disturbances within Germany
- the military defeat of Germany was a certainty by late September 1918, forcing the new government to negotiate an armistice with the allies. One of the conditions of the armistice made by the US President, Wilson, was that those who were responsible for German policy resigned.
- the sailor's revolt at Kiel illustrated the lack of political control of Prince Max's government. The Kiel Mutiny fanned the flames of discontent throughout Germany and by 8 November numerous workers' and soldiers' councils had been established in the major cities

- by 9 November, the 'revolution from below' reached Berlin and Prince Max persuaded the Kaiser to step down.

Question 3

- 06** How important was the Weimar constitution in contributing to the political instability of Germany in the years 1919 to 1925? (24 marks)

Target: AO1(a), AO1(b), AO2(b)

Generic Mark Scheme

- Nothing written worthy of credit. **0**
- L1:** Answers may either contain some descriptive material which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question or they may address only a part of the question. Alternatively, there may be some explicit comment with little, if any, appropriate support. Answers are likely to be generalised and assertive. There will be little, if any, awareness of differing historical interpretations. The response will be limited in development and skills of written communication will be weak. **1-6**
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Indicative content

Evidence that the Weimar Constitution was an importance factor in the political weaknesses of the Republic in the years 1919–1925:

- it can be argued that the Weimar Constitution was fundamentally flawed and created a weak political system in the new Republic

- by creating a system of proportional representation the Weimar Constitution resulted in small extremist parties gaining political representation
- some historians argue that the relationship between the two directly elected institutions the Reichstag and the President resulted in the destabilisation of the political system. This was because the President had the power to appoint and dismiss Chancellors and other ministers, dissolve the Reichstag and implement emergency law under Article 48. Therefore, there was a political dualism which according to Layton was 'fundamentally ambiguous'.

Evidence that the Weimar Constitution was an important factor in the political strengths of the Republic to the years 1919–1925:

- the flaws in the Constitution only became apparent following the Great Depression
- the growth of extremist parties within the Reichstag occurred post-1925
- the so-called political dualism under President Ebert proved to be a stabilising force during the immediate post-war crisis. Ebert made full use of the emergency powers available to him through Article 48 of the constitution to deal with the Kapp and Munich Putsches on the right and the Spartacist, Ruhr and Saxony uprising on the left
- the power of the President only became a destabilising political issue under Hindenburg post-1929
- it is largely a myth that Proportional Representation was destabilising for the Republic; the results of the 1919 election were not greatly different from that held in 1912 under the old electoral system.

Other factors contributing to the political instability of Germany may include:

- impact of the Treaty of Versailles
- outside factors such as the French occupation of the Rühr
- political extremist groups and attempted Putsches and Revolutions from the Left and Right.