

Germany
1919-1939
Potential
Questions &
Writing
Frames Pack

Potential Question 1



A German woman in 1923 burning currency notes, which burn longer than the amount of firewood they could buy.

- Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the effects of hyperinflation on life in Germany in 1923.

5 marks

Potential Question 1



A photograph of SA members at a parade in Berlin, early 1932.

- Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the role of the SA.

5 marks

Potential Question 1



Photograph of Freikorps in front of the Vorwärts newspaper building, which they had captured from the Spartacists in January 1919. The Vorwärts newspaper was a Communist newspaper.

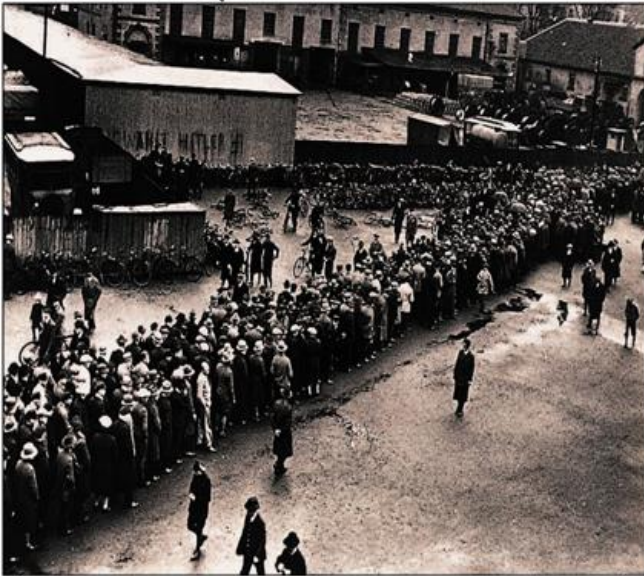
- Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the Spartacist Uprising of 1919.

5 marks

Source A shows "write the caption here". This tells me ... now answer the question, explaining what you can learn _____.

In addition from my own knowledge I know _____.

Potential Question 1



Unemployed workers in Hanover, queueing for their benefits in 1932. Note the writing on the wall of the building. Translated it reads 'Vote Hitler'.

- Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the situation in Germany by 1932.

5 marks

Potential Question 1



A recruiting poster for the Hitler Youth, 1933, which says in the poster 'Come to us!' and at the foot: 'Join the Hitler Youth'.

- Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the Hitler Youth Movement.

5 marks

Potential Question 1



Photograph showing the Reichstag (German Parliament) in flames on the night of 27th February 1933.

- Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the events of the Reichstag Fire.

5 marks

Potential Question 1



A photograph showing the arrival of prisoners at Orianienburg, concentration camp in 1933.

- Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the arrival of prisoners at a concentration camp.

5 marks



A cartoon entitled 'Clemenceau the Vampire' from the German right-wing satirical magazine, Kladderadatsch, July 1919. Clemenceau was the leader of France. The cartoon was commenting on the Treaty of Versailles.

Potential question 2

- *What was the purpose of Source B?*

- Source B shows ____ say what it is here _____. The main purpose of the source was to ____ say why you think it was made and why _____.
- Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____. In addition, Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____.
- Source B was produced because ____ now explain what was happening at the time in Germany (context) to make the source relevant to what was going on _____. Therefore the aim of the Source was to ____ explain _____.



A photograph showing women in a bar in Berlin. Photographs like this appeared in magazines about changing lifestyles during the Weimar period.

Potential question 2

- *What was the purpose of Source B?*

- Source B shows ____ say what it is here _____. The main purpose of the source was to ____ say why you think it was made and why _____.
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- Source B was produced because ____ now explain what was happening at the time in Germany (context) to make the source relevant to what was going on _____. Therefore the aim of the Source was to ____ explain _____.



A German Communist (KPD) election poster from 1932. Translated it reads 'Away with the system'.

Potential question 2

- What was the purpose of Source B?

- Source B shows _____ say what it is here _____. The main purpose of the source was to _____ say why you think it was made and why _____.
- Source B contains _____ describe part of the source _____ which is meant to represent _____ explain its meaning _____. In addition, Source B contains _____ describe part of the source _____ which is meant to represent _____ explain its meaning _____.
- Source B was produced because _____ now explain what was happening at the time in Germany (context) to make the source relevant to what was going on _____. Therefore the aim of the Source was to _____ explain _____.



They salute with both hands, now!

A cartoon by David Low, which appeared in the London Evening Standard, 3 July 1934. The caption reads: 'They salute with both hands now.' Goering is standing to Hitler's right, dressed as a Viking hero, and Goebbels is on his knees behind Hitler. The paper at the feet of the SA has the words 'Hitler's unkept promises', and the Swastika on Hitler's armband is between the words 'the double cross'.

Potential question 2

- What was the purpose of Source B?

- Source B shows _____ say what it is here _____. The main purpose of the source was to _____ say why you think it was made and why _____.
- Source B contains _____ describe part of the source _____ which is meant to represent _____ explain its meaning _____. In addition, Source B contains _____ describe part of the source _____ which is meant to represent _____ explain its meaning _____.
- Source B was produced because _____ now explain what was happening at the time in Germany (context) to make the source relevant to what was going on _____. Therefore the aim of the Source was to _____ explain _____.



An official photograph showing workers gathering to begin work on the first autobahn, 1933.

Potential question 2

- What was the purpose of Source B?

- Source B shows ____ say what it is here _____. The main purpose of the source was to ____ say why you think it was made and why _____.
- Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____. In addition, Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____.
- Source B was produced because ____ now explain what was happening at the time in Germany (context) to make the source relevant to what was going on _____. Therefore the aim of the Source was to ____ explain _____.



Hitler and Mussolini, during the state visit to Italy, May 1938.

Potential question 2

- What was the purpose of Source B?

- Source B shows ____ say what it is here _____. The main purpose of the source was to ____ say why you think it was made and why _____.
- Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____. In addition, Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____.
- Source B was produced because ____ now explain what was happening at the time in Germany (context) to make the source relevant to what was going on _____. Therefore the aim of the Source was to ____ explain _____.



Official Nazi photograph of Hitler visiting the Sudetenland, October 1938. The Nazi caption to go with the picture read 'The Führer in the liberated town of Asch. Today the Führer arrived among indescribable exultation of the liberated Sudeten-German population.'

Potential question 2

- What was the purpose of Source B?

- Source B shows ____ say what it is here _____. The main purpose of the source was to ____ say why you think it was made and why _____.
- Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____. In addition, Source B contains ____ describe part of the source ____ which is meant to represent ____ explain its meaning _____.
- Source B was produced because ____ now explain what was happening at the time in Germany (context) to make the source relevant to what was going on _____. Therefore the aim of the Source was to ____ explain _____.

Question 3 writing frame:

- Interpretation 1 **supports/contradicts** the focus of the question ___ **explain why briefly**__.
- Interpretation 1 discusses _____
_____.
- Furthermore, from my own knowledge I know _____
_____.
- The author of Interpretation 1 is _____. This book is **detailed/not detailed** on the topic of _____ therefore it **is/is not** reliable on this topic. Furthermore, this book was written for the audience of ____ **say who the book was intended for** _____.
- Interpretation 2 **supports/contradicts** the focus of the question ___ **explain why briefly**__.
- Interpretation 2 discusses _____
_____.
- Furthermore, from my own knowledge I know _____
_____.
- The author of Interpretation 2 is _____. This book is **detailed/not detailed** on the topic of _____ therefore it **is/is not** reliable on this topic. Furthermore, this book was written for the audience of ____ **say who the book was intended for** _____.
- Overall both interpretations give evidence, Interpretation 1 is helpful for ___ **briefly state**_____ and Interpretation 2 is helpful for ___ **briefly state**_____.

Potential question 3

Q3: Do the interpretations support the view that the Nazis came to power due to political weakness within the Weimar Republic?

In your answer you should refer to how and why the interpretations differ. Use your own knowledge and understanding of the wider historical debate over this issue to reach a well-supported judgement.

Interpretation 1: *The American historian William L. Shirer writing in his book **The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich**, published in 1959.*

The weaknesses of the Weimar regime were obvious. There were too many political parties, and they were unable to form a lasting majority in the Reichstag that could form a stable government. By 1932... political power was concentrated in the hands of a senile President and in those of a few shallow, ambitious men around him. Hitler saw this clearly, and it suited his purposes.

Interpretation 2: *C. L. Holtfrerich, a specialist historian on German history writing in a book **Weimar: Why Did German Democracy Fail?**, published in 1990.*

Conflict was going on throughout the lifetime of the Weimar Republic. Yet Nazism was not then successful. The Nazi rise to power was essentially linked to the Great Depression which was a world-wide phenomenon and had little to do with the domestic conflict.

Potential question 3

Q3: Do the interpretations support the view that the collapse of the Weimar Republic was inevitable?

In your answer you should refer to how and why the interpretations differ. Use your own knowledge and understanding of the wider historical debate over this issue to reach a well-supported judgement.

Interpretation 1: The German historian Detlev Peukert writing in his book *The Weimar Republic*, published in 1987.

Perhaps the miracle of Weimar is that the Republic survived as long as it did. The Republic had already been heading for the crossroads before the immediate crisis of 1929-30 occurred. Everything had been pointing towards a possible crash.

Interpretation 2: The German historian Edgar Feuchtwanger writing in his book *From Weimar to Hitler: Germany 1918-33*, which was published in 1993.

The personality of the Fuhrer became a significant historical factor. He had a combination of good public speaking skills and political instinct... Luck was also with him, mainly because all other players in the field turned out to be so inadequate and mistaken in their judgements.

Potential question 3

Q3: Do the interpretations support the view that Hitler's main foreign policy aim was to conquer land to the east of Germany?

In your answer you should refer to how and why the interpretations differ. Use your own knowledge and understanding of the wider historical debate over this issue to reach a well-supported judgement.

Interpretation 1: The historian Hugh Trevor-Roper, writing in an article for an academic magazine in 1960. The article was called *Hitler's War Aims*.

To the end Hitler maintained clear war aims. To him, from 1920 to 1945, the purpose of Nazism was always the same: it was to create an empire, to take the great area of Russia from the Russians. Even after defeat he did not try to deny it. The day before his death his last message said 'the aim must still be to win territory in the East for the German people.'

Interpretation 2 The historian Alan Taylor writing in his book *The Origins of the Second World War*, published in 1961.

Hitler wanted to free Germany from the restrictions of the Versailles Peace Treaty; to restore the German army and then to make Germany the greatest power in Europe which she naturally was. Maybe his ambitions were only to take land in the East. Maybe he would have taken Western Europe after that. However, no one can tell.

Question 4 writing frame:

- In my opinion both sources C and D are useful to an extent for an historian enquiring into _____
(write the focus of the question)
- Source C is useful to an historian because it discusses "take a quote" _____ which means
"explain quote" _____. From my own knowledge I also know _____
- In addition, Source C is/is not useful because it was created in _____ which means _____ explain
why it could/could not be accurate based on the year it was created _____
CONNECTIVE, Source C is/is not useful because it was created by _____ which means
_____ explain why it could/could not be accurate based on the person it comes from _____
CONNECTIVE, Source C is/is not useful because it is a _____ which means _____ explain
why it could/could not be accurate based on the type of source it is _____
- Source D is useful to an historian because it discusses "take a quote" _____ which means
"explain quote" _____. From my own knowledge I also know _____
- In addition, Source D is/is not useful because it was created in _____ which means _____ explain
why it could/could not be accurate based on the year it was created _____
CONNECTIVE, Source D is/is not useful because it was created by _____ which means
_____ explain why it could/could not be accurate based on the person it comes from _____
CONNECTIVE, Source D is/is not useful because it is a _____ which means _____ explain
why it could/could not be accurate based on the type of source it is _____
- Overall, both sources C and D are useful to an extent for an historian enquiring into _____
_____ explain the viewpoint briefly of both sources.

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the threat posed by the SA in June 1934?

Source C: An announcement made by Ernst Rohm, leader of the SA, on 7 June 1934, following a long interview with Hitler.

I have decided to follow the advice of my doctors and take a cure (go to a health spa) to restore my energies which have been severely strained by a painful nervous complaint. 1934 will require all the energies of every SA fighter. I recommend, therefore, to all SA leaders to begin organising leave now in June. Therefore, for some SA leaders and men, June, and for the majority of the SA, July, will be a period of complete relaxation in which they can recover their strength. I expect the SA to return on 1 August completely rested and refreshed.

Source D: Part of a press conference given by Hermann Goering to justify the Night of the Long Knives. It was reported in The Times newspaper on 2 July 1934.

General Goering explained that he and Herr Himmler, who were responsible for security, had been watching for weeks, even months, and had been aware that preparations for a 'second revolution' were being made by certain ambitious SA leaders, headed by Rohm. Hitler had decided to suppress the movement with a firm hand at a suitable moment.

TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the German reaction to the Treaty of Versailles?

Source C: From a German newspaper, *Deutsche Zeitung*, 28 June 1919.

Vengeance! German nation! Today in the Hall of Mirrors (Versailles) the disgraceful treaty is being signed. Do not forget it. The German people will, with unceasing work, press forward to reconquer the place among nations to which it is entitled. Then will come vengeance for the shame of 1919.

Source D: A cartoon entitled 'Clemenceau the Vampire' from the German right-wing satirical magazine, *Kladderadatsch*, July 1919. Clemenceau was the leader of France. The cartoon was commenting on the Treaty of Versailles.



TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the economic condition of Germany in 1930?

Source C: From a German journalist, written in 1930.

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 would never have thought possible. So that today after ten years we may say with certainty 'Even so, it might have been worse'. The stage of convalescence from Versailles is a very long road to go and we have travelled it surprisingly quickly.

Source D: From a speech by Stresemann, 1929.

The economic position is only flourishing on the surface. Germany is in fact dancing on a volcano. If the short-term loans are called in by America, a large section of our economy would collapse.

TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the reasons why many Germans voted for Hitler?

Source C: Part of a speech made by Hitler in Munich, August 1923.

The day must come when a German government will summon up the courage to say to the foreign powers: 'the Treaty of Versailles is founded on a monstrous lie. We refuse to carry out its terms any longer. Do what you will! If you want to go to war, go and get it! Then we shall see if you can turn 70 million Germans into slaves! Either Germany sinks... or else we dare to enter on the fight against death and the devil...'

Source D: Colourised photograph of Hitler at a rally in 1939. Taken by one of Hitler's personal photographers, Hugo Jaeger.



TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying who was responsible for the Reichstag Fire in February 1933?

Source C: Part of Marinus van der Lubbe's statement to the police, 3 March 1933.

I was a member of the Communist Party until 1929... In Holland, I read that the Nazis had come to power in Germany. In my opinion, something had to be done in protest against this system... Since the workers would do nothing, I had to do something myself. I thought arson a suitable method. I did not wish to harm ordinary people, but something belonging to the system itself. I decided on the Reichstag. As to the question whether I acted alone, I declare emphatically that this was the case. No one at all helped me.

Source D: General Halder, Chief of the German General Staff, speaking at the Nuremberg War Crimes trials in 1945.

At a luncheon on the birthday of the Fuhrer in 1942 the conversation turned to the topic of the Reichstag building. I heard with my own ears when Goering interrupted the conversation and shouted: 'The only one who really knows about the building is I, because I set it on fire.'

TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the threat posed by the SA in June 1934?

Source C: An announcement made by Ernst Rohm, leader of the SA, on 7 June 1934, following a long interview with Hitler.

I have decided to follow the advice of my doctors and take a cure (go to a health spa) to restore my energies which have been severely strained by a painful nervous complaint. 1934 will require all the energies of every SA fighter. I recommend, therefore, to all SA leaders to begin organising leave now in June. Therefore, for some SA leaders and men, June, and for the majority of the SA, July, will be a period of complete relaxation in which they can recover their strength. I expect the SA to return on 1 August completely rested and refreshed.

Source D: Part of a press conference given by Hermann Goering to justify the Night of the Long Knives. It was reported in The Times newspaper on 2 July 1934.

General Goering explained that he and Herr Himmler, who were responsible for security, had been watching for weeks, even months, and had been aware that preparations for a 'second revolution' were being made by certain ambitious SA leaders, headed by Rohm. Hitler had decided to suppress the movement with a firm hand at a suitable moment.

TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the reasons for the Night of the Long Knives?

Source C: From Hitler Speaks by H. Rauschning, 1940. Rauschning was a Nazi official who left Germany in 1934 to live in the USA. Here he is describing a conversation with Ernst Rohm in 1934 - Rohm was drunk.

'Adolf's a swine... He only associates with those on the right... His old friends aren't good enough for him, Adolf is turning into a gentleman. What he wants is to sit on the hill top and pretend he is God. He knows exactly what I want... The generals are a lot of old fogeys... I'm the nucleus of the new army.'

Source D: From Hitler's speech to the Reichstag on 13 July 1934, justifying his actions concerning the SA.

In the circumstances I had to make but one decision. If disaster was to be prevented at all, action had to be taken with lightening speed. Only a ruthless and bloody intervention might still perhaps stifle the spread of revolt. If anyone reproaches me and asks why I did not resort to regular courts of justice for conviction of the offenders, then all I can say is - 'In this hour I was responsible for the fate of the German people and therefore I became the supreme judge of the German people.'

TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the events of Kristallnacht?

Source C: An account of Kristallnacht published in the Daily Telegraph, a British newspaper, on 12 November 1938.

Mob law ruled in Berlin throughout the afternoon and evening as hordes of hooligans took part in an orgy of destruction. I have never seen an anti-Jewish outbreak as sickening as this. I saw fashionably dressed women clapping their hands and screaming with glee while respectable mothers held up their babies to see the 'fun'. No attempt was made by the police to stop the rioters.

Source D: An account of Kristallnacht published in Der Stürmer, an anti-Semitic (Jewish) German newspaper, on 10 November 1938.

The death of a loyal party member by the Jewish murderer has aroused spontaneous anti-Jewish demonstrations through the Reich. In many places Jewish shops have been smashed. The synagogues, from which teachings hostile to the state are spread, have been set on fire. Well done to those Germans who have ensured revenge for the murder of an innocent German.

TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying Hitler's foreign policy aims?

Source C: From Hitler's Mein Kampf, 1924.

We turn our eyes towards lands of the east... When we speak of new territory in Europe today, we must principally think of Russia and the border states subject to her. Destiny itself seems to wish to point out the way for us here. Colonisation of the eastern frontiers is of extreme importance. It will be the duty of Germany's foreign policy to provide large living spaces for the nourishment and settlement of the growing population of Germany.

Source D: From a speech by Hitler to the Reichstag, May 1933.

Germany is at any time willing to undertake further disarmament... if all other nations are ready ... to do the same. Germany would also be perfectly ready to disband her entire military forces and destroy the small amount of arms remaining to her if the other countries will do the same thing with equal thoroughness.

TASK: Plan your answer to this question:

Q4: Study Sources C & D. Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the German re-occupation of the Rhineland in 1936?

Source C: From an account written by Hitler's interpreter in 1951.

More than once, during the war, I heard Hitler say: 'The 48 hours after the march into the Rhineland were the most nerve-racking of my life.' He always added: 'If the French had then marched into the Rhineland, we would have had to withdraw with our tails between our legs, for the military resources at our disposal would have been wholly inadequate for even a moderate resistance.'

Source D: An entry from Berlin Diary 1934-41, by William Shirer, an American journalist living in Berlin in the 1930s, dated 8 March 1936. Published in 1941.

Hitler had got away with it. France has done nothing. No wonder the faces of Hitler and Goering were all smiles this noon. Oh the stupidity of the French! I learned today that the German troops who marched into the Rhineland yesterday were under strict orders to beat a hasty retreat if the French army opposed them in any way.

Question 5 writing frame:

- I agree with Interpretation 1 to a certain extent __explain why briefly__
- I agree with Interpretation 1 to a certain extent because it discusses_____

- I also believe this because from my own knowledge I know_____

- I also agree with Interpretation 1 to a certain extent because the author/s is/are ____
(explain who they are & why this makes the interpretation reliable)_____
Furthermore, Interpretation 1 is a **long/short** source which therefore makes it **reliable/not reliable** because ____explain_____
Finally, Interpretation 1 comes from a ____say what type of source it is____ so therefore it is reliable because ____explain_____

- However, I do not full agree with Interpretation 1 as it does not consider all aspects of the focus of the question. For instance the Interpretation fails to discuss certain relevant information which I know from my own knowledge such as _____

- Overall, I agree with Interpretation 1 to a certain extent __explain why briefly____.

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'The Nazi's brought prosperity and improved living conditions after the harsh years of the depression. The German people benefited from these changes.'

G. Lacey & K. Shephard, two historians, writing in a school history textbook, *Germany 1918-1945*, published in 1999.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'Visitors to Germany in the 1930s saw a happy, friendly people united under Hitler.'

William Shirer, an American journalist who worked in Germany between 1934 and 1940, writing in his book *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, published in 1960.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'During the early 1920s hyperinflation damaged the Weimar Republic more than any other problem.'

D. Banham & C. Culpin, writing in a GCSE history school textbook, *Germany 1918-45*, published in 2004.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'By 1929 the Weimar Republic had overcome its early problems and become firmly established in Germany.'

Eric Wilmot, writing in a GCSE history school textbook, *Weimar and Nazi Germany*, published in 1997.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'The success of the Nazi Party during the years 1928-32 was due to the economic and political problems which Germany experienced at this time.'

Robert Whitfield, writing in an A-Level history school textbook, *Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45*, published in 2009.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'Between 1933 and 1934 Hitler converted Germany into a dictatorship through a legal revolution.'

Stephen Lee, an historian, writing in a school history textbook, *Weimar and Nazi Germany*, published in 1996.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'Hitler's main aim in foreign policy was to unite all German speaking people in a single country.'

Josh Brooman, an historian, writing in a school history textbook, *Hitler's Germany, 1933-1945*, published in 1987.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG

Potential Question 5

Read the interpretation provided below and answer the question which follows.

'The Weimar Republic was successful in dealing with its problems. By 1929 prosperity and stability had been restored to Germany.'

P. Grey & R. Little, two historians, writing in a school history textbook, *Germany 1918-1945*, published in 2003.

To what extent do you agree with this interpretation?

16 marks + 3 for SPaG