

Practice essay questions

Section 1

1. 'The biggest threat to Weimar democracy in the years 1919 to 1922 was the extreme right'. Assess the validity of this view.
2. The main threats to the stability of the Weimar republic in the period 1919 to 1923 were economic rather than political'. How far do you agree with this opinion?
3. 'The impact of the Treaty of Versailles on the new Weimar Republic between 1919 and 1924 was more damaging economically than politically.' Assess the validity of this view.
4. How far do you agree that the main reason for the survival of the Weimar Republic in the 1919 to 1923 was the fact that it had a great deal of popular support?
5. 'The main reason why the Weimar Republic survived its difficult early years, 1919 to 1923, was the skilful leadership of Friedrich Ebert.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.
6. 'The Franco-Belgian invasion of the Ruhr was the main cause of the hyperinflation crisis in Germany in 1923.' Assess the validity of this view.
7. 'The instability of Weimar governments, in the years 1919 to 1923, stemmed primarily from the problems created by the Weimar Constitution.' Assess the validity of this view.

Section 2

1. To what extent was there a 'social revolution' in Weimar Germany?
2. 'German society was overwhelmingly conservative and traditional in the years 1924 to 1929.' Assess the validity of this view.
3. 'Germany was politically stable in the years 1924-1928' Assess the validity of this view.
4. 'The improvement of Germany's international position in the years 1924-29 could not have been achieved without the significant contribution of Gustav Stresemann.' Assess the validity of this view
5. 'By 1928, the Weimar Republic was both economically prosperous and politically stable.' Assess the validity of this view.
6. How far was the improved economic and political stability of the Weimar Republic, in the years 1923 to 1925, due to Gustav Stresemann?
7. 'Changes in German society in the years 1924-28 did much to heal post-war social divisions.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

Section 3

1. The Weimar Government's failure to deal with the effects of the depression was the reason for the growth of political extremism in Germany after 1929.' Assess the validity of this view.
2. It was Hitler's anti-Communist stance that won support for the NSDAP in 1932. Assess the Validity of this view.
3. The failure of the Weimar Republic by 1933 was due to the weaknesses of its constitution. Assess the validity of this view.
4. To what extent was Franz von Papen responsible for Hitler's rise to the Chancellorship of Germany in the years 1932/33?
5. 'Von Schleicher was primarily responsible for Hitler becoming German chancellor in January 1933.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view

6. How significant was Hindenburg's underestimation of Hitler in the establishment of Nazi rule in Germany by March 1933?
7. To what extent was the Nazi consolidation of power in the years 1933 and 1934 achieved by legal means?

Section 4

1. 'The Nazi consolidation of power between January 1933 and August 1934 was achieved through the use of terror'. Assess the validity of this view.
2. To what extent was Nazi rule genuinely popular in Germany between 1933 and 1939?
3. 'The Nazi economic miracle between 1933 and 1939 was merely a propaganda myth.' Assess the validity of this view
4. 'The lack of organised resistance to the Nazis in the years 1933 to 1939 was due to terror.' Assess the validity of this view
5. How significant was the Night of long Knives in Hitler's consolidation of power?

Section 5

1. 'By 1935 the Nazis had effectively excluded the Jews from German society'. Assess the validity of this view
2. 'The Nazis followed a clear and consistent plan for removing the Jews from the mainstream of German society in the years 1933-39'. Assess the validity of this view.
3. 'The radicalisation of Nazi policy towards the Jews in the years 1939 to 1941 was the result of the successes achieved by German forces in the war.' Assess the validity of this view.
4. To what extent were Jews affected by Nazi anti-Semitic laws in the years 1933 to 1937?
5. 'Jews were the main target of Nazi persecution in the years 1933 to 1937.' Assess the validity of this view.
6. To what extent did Nazi anti-Semitic policies and actions change in the years 1933-39?
7. 'The treatment of Jews in the early years of the war (1939-1941) was entirely different from that of the years 1933-1938.' Assess the validity of this view.

Section 6

1. 'The Nazi regime succeeded in maintaining the morale of the German people throughout the war.' Assess the validity of this view.
2. 'Without the appointment of Speer as Armaments Minister in February 1942, Germany would have collapsed economically.' Assess the validity of this view.
3. 'The German economy was adapted successfully to meet the demands of war before 1945.' Assess the validity of this view.
4. 'Military defeats and increasing war casualties were the major reasons for declining morale amongst Germans during the Second World War.' Assess the validity of this view.
5. 'The main impact of allied bombing raids on German cities was to reduce industrial production significantly.' Assess the validity of this view
6. 'There was more continuity than change in Hitler's policies towards the Jews in the years 1938 to 1945.' Assess the validity of this view.
7. 'Hitler's policies towards both Jews and other minority groups, in the years 1933 to 1941, were consistent.' Assess the validity of this view.