5.3 Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1924-1929: The Recovery of the Republic: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Question 2 refers to Source A. Questions 3, 4 and 5 refer to Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

Source A, and Interpretations 1 and 2

Source A was written for Revision Library. It is an original text representative of a magazine advertisement from the culturally lively Berlin of the mid-to-late 1920s. It is not a reproduction, translation or paraphrase of any surviving advertisement, and no genuine publication or business is named. Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 were also written for Revision Library, in the style of history textbook extracts discussing how far Germany genuinely recovered between 1924 and 1929; they are not the work of any real, named historian.

SOURCE A: a magazine advertisement written for Revision Library, representative of the kind of entertainment and consumer advertising found in Berlin magazines during the mid-to-late 1920s.

Berlin by night! Join the crowds at the city's newest cabaret theatre, now open every evening with music, dancing and the finest jazz band this side of the Atlantic. Ladies, ask about our new season of shorter fashions, fresh from the great department stores. Gentlemen, your wireless set awaits: tune in to the latest radio broadcasts direct from Berlin. Trains run late for theatregoers, and the trams are running better than ever. Germany is working again, and Berlin has never felt more alive. Advance booking recommended, as tables are filling fast for the new season.

INTERPRETATION 1: from a history textbook written for Revision Library, discussing how far Germany genuinely recovered between 1924 and 1929.

The years 1924 to 1929 represented a genuine and substantial recovery for Germany. Gustav Stresemann's foreign policy transformed the country's international standing: the Dawes Plan of 1924 reorganised reparations and brought in vital American loans, the Locarno Treaties of 1925 normalised relations with France and Belgium, and Germany's admission to the League of Nations in 1926 marked its return as a respected power. At home, industrial production recovered to above pre-war levels by 1928, and the flourishing of cinema, art and cabaret culture in cities such as Berlin reflected a society that was, for the first time since the war, confident and prosperous.

INTERPRETATION 2: from a history textbook written for Revision Library, discussing how far Germany genuinely recovered between 1924 and 1929.

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The recovery of these years was real but shallow, resting on foundations that were never secure. Industrial growth depended heavily on short-term loans from the United States under the Dawes Plan, which could be recalled at any time, and Germany's own farmers did not share in the prosperity, remaining in a slump throughout the decade. Support for extremist parties fell during this period, but it never disappeared, and unemployment was already rising again by 1929 even before the Wall Street Crash. The recovery therefore masked, rather than solved, Germany's underlying economic weaknesses.

1 Give two weaknesses in Germany's economic recovery between 1924 and 1929 that made it vulnerable to future crisis.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Give two things you can infer from Source A about life in Germany during the recovery years of the mid-to-late 1920s. Support each inference with a detail from the source.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 What is the main difference between Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 about how far Germany genuinely recovered between 1924 and 1929? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Suggest two reasons why the authors of Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 might have different views about how far Germany's recovery was genuine.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Which interpretation do you find more convincing about how far Germany genuinely recovered between 1924 and 1929? Explain your answer, using Interpretation 1, Interpretation 2 and your own knowledge.

(Total for Question 5 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.3 Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1924-1929: The Recovery of the Republic: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

the recovery depended heavily on short-term American loans under the Dawes Plan, which could be recalled at short notice, leaving the economy exposed	**B2**
German agriculture remained in depression throughout the period, and unemployment was already beginning to rise again by 1929, even before the Wall Street Crash	**B2**

Answer: Dependence on short-term, recallable American loans, and a continuing agricultural depression alongside rising unemployment by 1929.

Question 2

inference 1, e.g. entertainment and consumer culture were thriving, with money to spend on leisure	**B1**
supporting detail for inference 1 from the source, e.g. the advert promotes a 'cabaret theatre', 'jazz band' and 'new season' with 'tables are filling fast'	**B1**
inference 2, e.g. modern technology and transport were becoming more widely available, improving everyday life	**B1**
supporting detail for inference 2 from the source, e.g. it mentions a 'wireless set' for radio broadcasts and that 'trains run late' and 'trams are running better than ever'	**B1**

Answer: Entertainment and consumer culture were thriving (cabaret, jazz, booking demand); and modern technology/transport were improving daily life (radio, trains, trams).

Question 3

Interpretation 1 argues the recovery was genuine and substantial, citing Stresemann's diplomatic successes, industrial production above pre-war levels, and flourishing culture	**B2**
Interpretation 2 argues the recovery was shallow, resting on recallable American loans, a continuing farming slump, persistent extremist support and rising unemployment by 1929	**B2**

Answer: Interpretation 1 sees the recovery as genuine and substantial; Interpretation 2 sees it as shallow and built on unstable foundations.

Question 4

the authors may focus on different measures of recovery: Interpretation 1 emphasises headline achievements such as diplomacy and overall industrial output, while Interpretation 2 emphasises the underlying structure of the economy, such as loan dependency and unequal prosperity	**B2**
the authors may write with knowledge of what followed, so Interpretation 2 may be more influenced by hindsight of the Wall Street Crash of October 1929 and its devastating impact on a loan-dependent economy	**B2**

Answer: They may focus on different measures of recovery (headline achievements vs underlying structural weaknesses), and Interpretation 2 may be more shaped by hindsight of the Wall Street Crash.

Question 5

Level 1 States a simple preference for one interpretation, with little or no supporting reasoning or own knowledge.	**1-4**
Level 2 Describes the content of one or both interpretations and gives a limited reason for a preference, with some own knowledge.	**5-8**
Level 3 Explains reasons for a preference between the interpretations, using relevant own knowledge to support or challenge each one.	**9-12**
Level 4 Evaluates both interpretations critically, using precise own knowledge to reach a sustained and well-supported judgement about which is more convincing, or how far each is convincing.	**13-16**

Indicative content:

- Evidence supporting Interpretation 1: industrial production exceeded its 1913 level by around 1928, the Locarno Treaties (1925) and League of Nations membership (1926) genuinely transformed Germany's international standing, and cultural life, cinema, the Bauhaus and Berlin's nightlife, flourished visibly.
- Evidence supporting Interpretation 2: the Dawes Plan loans were short-term and could be recalled, which is exactly what happened after the Wall Street Crash of October 1929, triggering rapid economic collapse; German farmers never shared in the recovery, and unemployment was already rising before the Crash.
- A convincing answer might note the two views are not fully contradictory: the recovery was real in the sense that production, diplomacy and culture all genuinely improved, but Interpretation 2 is right that this improvement rested on foundations, especially American loans, that proved unable to withstand a shock.
- Own knowledge of what followed, the almost immediate and severe collapse of the German economy after the Wall Street Crash, could be used to argue that the speed and scale of that collapse supports Interpretation 2's view that the recovery was shallow rather than secure.
- A full answer reaches a supported judgement, using the fragility exposed by 1929 to argue for one interpretation over the other, or for a combined view that the recovery was genuine but unsustainable.

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