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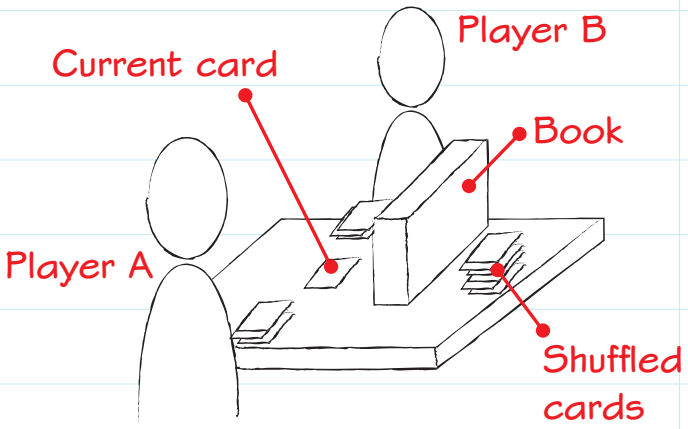
Revision game

Try playing this quick game to revise with a friend.

1. Choose some Revision Cards. You could use the whole pack or the cards from one section of your pack.
2. Shuffle those cards and place them in a pile face up. Stand up a book so neither of you can see the top card.
3. Take the top card from the pile and place it face up on the table between you.
4. The first player who thinks they know the answer to the question shouts it out.
5. Check the answer. If the player who answered got it right, they put the card in their pile. If they got it wrong, the card goes in their opponent's pile.
6. At the end of the game, the player with the most cards in their pile is the winner!

At the end of the game you could help each other revise using the cards in your pile. Go through your cards and explain how you worked out the answer to your opponent.



Key facts

The night before your exam, try flicking through **all the cards** and looking at this section of each card!

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Origins of the Weimar Republic

The First World War ended in 1918 with the defeat of Germany. Two millions troops and 750000 civilians had died, the German debt had increased to 150 billion marks and many groups were attempting to seize power. The German revolution forced the Kaiser from the throne, ended the war and made Germany a republic.

Timeline

- **9 November 1918** – The Kaiser is forced to abdicate.
- **10 November 1918** – Friedrich Ebert suspends the old Reichstag and forms the Council of People's Representatives.
- **11 November 1918** – Armistice signed, ending the war. It was the first major decision of the new Republic.
- **11 February 1919** – Ebert becomes the first president of the Weimar Republic.
- **28 June 1919** – The Treaty of Versailles is signed.
- **August 1919** – Weimar constitution is officially established. The Weimar government was a democracy.

Q What were the outcomes of the German revolution of 1918?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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The Kaiser was forced to abdicate and Germany became a republic.

Strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution

The new constitution was drawn up in the town of Weimar because there was still unrest in Berlin.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Democratic system where no one person or group held absolute power • Voting age reduced to 21 for men and women • Election for president every seven years	• Proportional representation led to unstable coalition governments • Article 48 enabled the president to pass laws without the Reichstag's approval

Key facts

- The First World War ended with Germany's surrender in 1918.
- The German Revolution eventually resulted in Germany becoming a democratic republic.
- The Weimar Constitution was established in August 1919.

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Why the Republic was unpopular

The Treaty of Versailles damaged Germany's economy, weakening the Weimar Republic from the start. People blamed the leaders of the new German republic for the damage caused by the Treaty.

The Versailles Treaty and reparations

- The war guilt clause made Germany accept the blame for the war. However, many Germans resented this.
- Germany was forced to pay the Allies £6600 million in reparations (compensation).

The Versailles Treaty and military forces

- Army limited to 100 000.
- Navy limited to 6 battleships, 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers, 12 torpedo boats and no submarines.
- No air force allowed.
- No military allowed in the land bordering France (the Rhineland).
- Germans believed that the army had been 'stabbed in the back' by politicians, forcing them to surrender. Many felt Germany could still have won the war.

Q Did the German people agree with the surrender at the end of the First World War?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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No, many Germans felt as if they could have won the war. They saw the politicians as traitors for surrendering.

The Versailles Treaty and land losses

Northern Schleswig lost to Denmark.

Eupen and Malmedy were lost to Belgium.

Alsace and Lorraine were lost to France.

Memel was lost to Lithuania.

Posen and West Prussia were lost to Poland.

Upper Silesia lost to Poland.

Germany lost 13% of its European territory.

Germany also lost 11 of its colonies.

Key facts

- The Treaty of Versailles forced huge reparations on Germany, limited its military forces and reduced its land.
- Many German people hated the treaty. They also thought the army had been 'stabbed in the back' by German politicians.

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Challenges from left and right

The new Weimar Republic government faced opposition from groups inside and outside the Reichstag, and from both the political left and right wings.

The Spartacist Revolt (January 1919)

- The Spartacists, led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, were from the left-wing Independent Socialist Party. They were based in Berlin and backed by the Soviet Union.
- They took over a government bureau and tried to organise a general strike in Berlin.
- Freikorp units were sent to put down the revolt.

Kapp Putsch (March 1920)

- The Freikorps was a right-wing group made up of 250 000 armed ex-soldiers.
- Led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp, the Freikorps marched on Berlin, causing Weimar ministers to flee.
- The government told trade unions to strike and cause chaos – it was impossible for Kapp to keep control.
- Kapp fled Berlin and the Weimar ministers returned.

Q How was the Spartacist Revolt put down?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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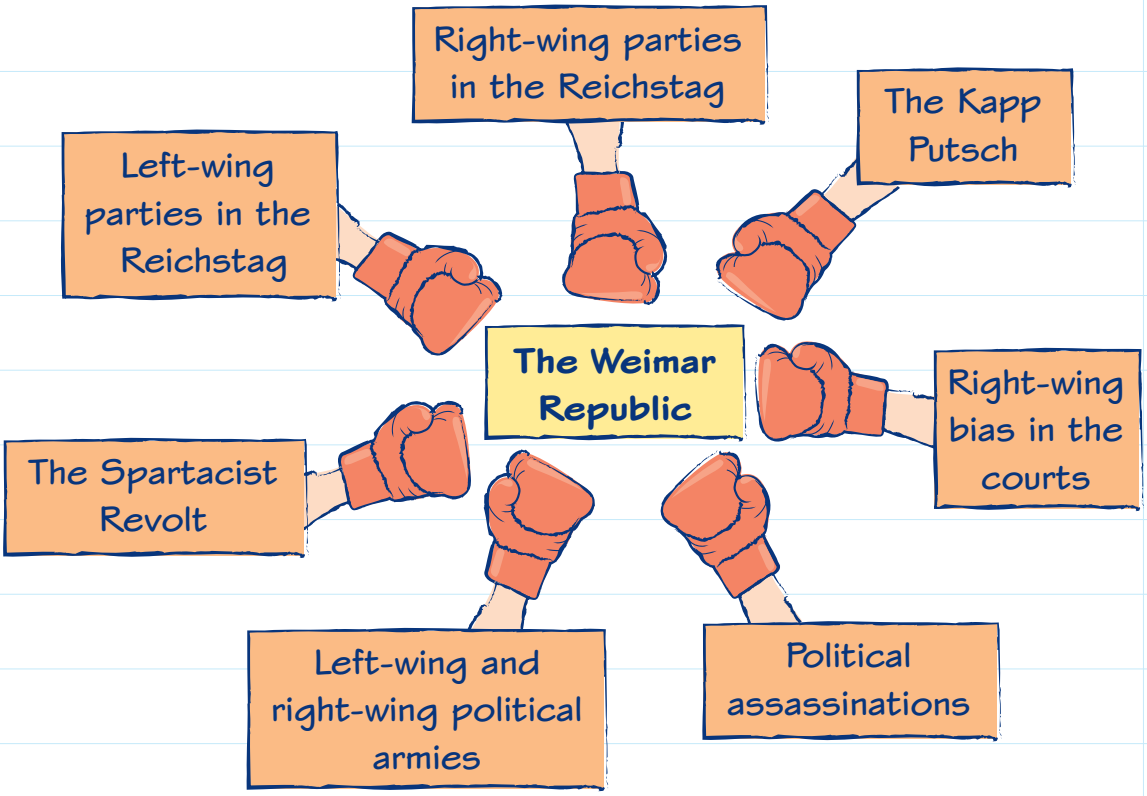
The Weimar government sent units of the right-wing Freikorps to put down the revolt.

The government had to employ right-wing extremists to fight left-wing extremists. They would later use the left-wing trade unions to tackle the right-wing Kapp Putsch.

Political attacks on the Weimar Republic



Key facts

- The Spartacist Revolt was a left-wing uprising that was put down by the right-wing Freikorps.
- The Kapp Putsch was a right-wing uprising that was ended by left-wing trade unions organising a national strike.

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The challenges of 1923

In 1923 the German people faced hyperinflation: the rapid devaluation of the German currency.

Origins of hyperinflation

1914–18
The government printed more money to pay for the First World War, but it didn't have more gold – it was bankrupt.

↓

1918–22
The Weimar government printed more money for post-war shortages and asked for longer to pay the first reparations instalment.

↓

January 1923
French troops invaded the Ruhr to take reparations payments in goods and raw materials. German workers went on strike. 80% of German coal, iron and steel reserves were in the Ruhr and many of its factories. The occupation was a disaster for Germany's economy.

↓

The Weimar government printed more money to pay strikers and make up for loss of coal, steel and iron production.

↓

November 1923
The German mark was worthless.

Q Why would someone with a fixed income have suffered under hyperinflation?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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A fixed income would not have increased with hyperinflation. An income that would have been sufficient before hyperinflation would likely not buy a loaf of bread during hyperinflation.

The effects of hyperinflation

Positive effects

- Farmers were paid more for food.
- Some people and businesses could pay off loans and mortgages.
- Fixed rents for rooms or shops became very cheap.
- Foreign visitors could buy more for their money.

Negative effects

- Some people could not afford essentials.
- Prices rose faster than wages.
- Some businesses went bankrupt.
- People with fixed or monthly incomes, such as pensioners, suffered most.
- Savings became worthless.
- People blamed the Weimar government, which made it even more unpopular.

Key facts

- The Weimar government printed more and more money, devaluing the German mark.
- Prices increased rapidly and people fell into poverty.

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Reasons for recovery

The Rentenmark, Dawes Plan and Young Plan all helped to pull Germany out of a financial crisis.

Rentenmark, 1923

- Chancellor Stresemann set up the Rentenbank and issued a new currency called the Rentenmark.
- Supply of banknotes was tightly controlled. Their value was tied to the price of gold.
- In August 1924 the Reichsbank was given control of this new currency. It was renamed the Reichsmark. Hyperinflation was over.

The Dawes Plan, 1924

- Reparation instalments were temporarily reduced to £50 million a year.
- US banks agreed to make loans to German industry.

Young Plan, 1929

- The Young Plan reduced the total reparations debt from £6.6 billion to £2 billion.
- The payments could be made over a longer period, up until 1988.

Q What were the two plans created to help Germany pay off reparations?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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The Dawes Plan of 1924 and the Young Plan of 1929

The Dawes Plan and the Young Plan helped Germany pay its reparations, whereas the Rentenmark helped Germany end hyperinflation.

Improvements in the economy

The Weimar Republic's economy improved because:

- industrial output doubled by 1928 and finally passed pre-First World War levels
- employment and trade increased
- lower reparations meant lower taxes, increasing spending money for German taxpayers.

However, there were still problems.

- The extreme political parties in Germany were completely against Germany paying the reparations at all.
- The economic recovery depended on American loans, so it remained fragile.

Key facts

- The Rentenmark, a currency tied to the value of gold, was introduced in 1923.
- The Dawes Plan of 1924 reduced reparations payments and gave loans to German industry.
- The Young Plan of 1929 reduced the total reparation debt and extended the payment period.

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Stresemann's achievements

Stresemann was instrumental in making sure Germany was a member of three important international pacts and agreements: The Locarno Pact, the League of Nations and the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

Locarno Pact, 1925

This was an agreement between Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Belgium.

- Germany agreed to its new border with France.
- The Allies and Germany agreed to the permanent demilitarisation of the Rhineland.

League of Nations

This was a new international body that hoped to discuss world problems in order to avoid war. It was set up in 1920 but Germany was initially excluded. In 1926, they were invited to join and they became a member of the council.

Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928

The Kellogg-Briand pact was an agreement between 62 nations, including Germany, to avoid the use of war to achieve foreign policy objectives.

Q What were the two main agreements of the Locarno Pact?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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Germany and France agreed their new border, and Germany and the Allies agreed to the demilitarisation of the Rhineland.

The Locarno Pact improved relations with the Allies, especially France.

Successes and failures of these pacts and agreements

- 👍 Strengthened the confidence of the German people in the Weimar Republic.
- 👍 Reduced the support for extremist political parties like the Nazis and the communists.
- 👍 Improved relations with other countries and reduced the economic hardships of the German people.
- 👍 Made Germany an international power once again.
- 👎 The hated terms of the Treaty of Versailles were still in place.
- 👎 The League of Nations was, for some, a symbol of the unpopular Treaty of Versailles.
- 👎 Some were against the new border with France.
- 👎 Extremist parties still gathered support.

Key facts

- The Locarno Pact (1925) and Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) helped mend relations with the Allies and put Germany back on the world stage.
- Germany was allowed into the League of Nations in 1926.

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Changes in society

The period 1924–29 saw changes in living standards, women's lives and the arts.

Living standards

- Working hours reduced whilst wages and working conditions improved.
- Housing associations built 101 000 homes between 1925 and 1929.
- Unemployment insurance made sure workers had basic benefits if they became unemployed or sick.

Women

- Women in full-time work dropped from 75% in 1918 to 36% in 1925, but there was an increase in part-time work.
- Women were encouraged to go to university and take up professions like teaching and medicine, however few women secured high status roles.
- Greater earning power led to more independence and freedom for younger, single women.
- Women earned the vote in 1918 and could stand for elections.
- Women were granted equal rights in work and marriage.

Q Give one example of progress and one example of lack of progress for women in Germany.

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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Women were encouraged to go to university and study. However, few women were able to achieve high-status roles.

There is more than one answer to this question. Try looking through the list on the front of the card and seeing how many more you can find.

The arts

- Fewer restrictions on artistic expression led to greater experimentation in the arts, notably at the Bauhaus art school.
- Expressionism dominated art and cinema, exploring the seedier side of everyday day life and the disaster of the First World War.
- Examples of influential expressionists include Otto Dix, Paul Klee and George Grosz.
- The Bauhaus school challenged traditional ideas and practices in architecture and design.

Key facts

- Treatment of workers generally improved throughout the period and more homes were built for workers and their families.
- Women gained more freedom but were still held back by traditional values and few were able to achieve high-status jobs.
- Expressionism and experimentation were encouraged in the arts due to fewer restrictions on artistic expression.

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Early growth of the Nazi Party

Adolf Hitler was born in Austria in 1889 and moved to Munich in 1913. He fought in the First World War and was angry at Germany's defeat and the outcome of the Treaty of Versailles.

Hitler's early political career

1. The German Worker's Party (DAP) was set up by Anton Drexler in February 1919, in Munich. Hitler joined in September 1919.
2. The DAP set up permanent headquarters, and Hitler became second in command.
3. Hitler suggested a new name for the party – the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) or NAZI Party for short.
4. In July 1921, Hitler became leader of the Nazi Party.
5. Hess, Goering, Streicher and Röhm were selected as some of his party supporters.

The 25-point programme

The Nazi programme was written by Hitler and Drexler in 1920. It included abolishing the Treaty of Versailles, expanding German borders and removing all Jews from Germany. It also included many socialist policies.

Q What was the 25-point programme?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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The 25-point programme was a manifesto written by Hitler and Drexler in 1920 outlining the policies of the NSDAP (Nazi Party).

You don't need to know every point in the programme, but it's worth knowing that it included:

- moderate and socialist policies, such as increased pensions
- extreme policies, such as removing Jewish people from Germany.

The Sturmabteilung (SA)

The Sturmabteilung (or stormtroopers) were a paramilitary force, made up of unemployed ex-soldiers and under the command of Ernst Röhm. They were used to disrupt opposition meetings and to control crowds and any opposition to Hitler – often violently. They wore brown uniforms and were nicknamed 'Brownshirts'.

Key facts

- Hitler joined the DAP (later NSDAP/Nazi Party) in 1919 and became leader in 1921.
- The Nazis outlined their plans for Germany in the 25-point programme.
- The SA were a paramilitary force employed by the Nazi Party.

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The Munich Putsch

Resentment about the crippling terms of the Treaty of Versailles and the weakness of the Weimar government (made worse by the Ruhr invasion and hyperinflation) had convinced the Nazis they needed to overthrow the government. Hitler attempted this overthrow in the Munich Putsch of November 1923.

Timeline

- **8 November 1923** Hitler, with 600 SA, entered a beer hall in Munich where the Bavarian government were meeting. At gunpoint, Hitler forced government leaders to support him. Röhm took over local police and army headquarters. However, General Ludendorff let the government leaders go behind Hitler's back.
- **9 November 1923** Hitler marched with 3000 supporters on Munich town centre to declare himself President of Germany. The group was met by, and fought with, the state police. Ludendorff, Röhm and Streicher were arrested.
- **11 November 1923** Hitler was found hiding at a friend's house and was arrested.

Q What was the purpose of the Munich Putsch?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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The Nazis aimed to overthrow the Weimar government.

Consequences of the Putsch

Short term	Long term
• The Putsch had failed. • Hitler was imprisoned. • The NSDAP was temporarily banned. • The Nazis had lost support.	• Hitler used his trial to publicise his views. • Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) from prison. It became a bestseller. • Hitler restructured the Nazi Party around legitimate means of seizing power.

In 1926, Hitler organised the Bamberg Conference to heal tensions that had arisen within the party during his time in prison. His position as leader was secured and his vision of Nazism taken forward.

Key facts

- The Nazis launched a failed attempt to overthrow the Weimar government in November 1923.
- Hitler restructured the Nazi Party from prison and released *Mein Kampf*, which outlined his political ideas.

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Growth in support, 1929–32

The Nazi Party exploited the economic depression to gain popular support.

Wall Street Crash

In October 1929, the US stock market crashed. German government and businesses couldn't borrow any more money from the USA and had to start repaying loans. The Weimar government refused to print more money and instead increased taxes, and cut unemployment benefits and government wages. Millions of workers lost their jobs and could not rely on benefits. People turned toward extremist parties, such as the communists and the Nazis, to help pull them out of poverty.

Growing support for the Nazis

- The Nazis exploited the economic depression to gain party members. They used the weakness of the Weimar government to present themselves as strong in contrast.
- Hitler had the presence of a strong leader and gave many speeches around the country and on the radio.
- Propaganda was used to gain support.
- The SA intimidated political opponents.

Q Give two reasons why the Weimar government lost support between 1929 and 1932.

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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The government increased taxes and cut unemployment benefits to afford the loan repayments to the US. Increasing taxes affected those who still had jobs, and cutting unemployment benefits meant those who had lost their jobs didn't have anything to live on. This caused dissatisfaction among both the middle and working classes.

Nazi propaganda

The Nazis used propaganda to persuade:

- businesses that they could solve the economic crisis
- the working class that they could give them work and food
- the middle class that they could protect them from the communists, solve the economic crisis and return Germany to traditional values
- rural communities that they could protect them from the communists, who might seize their land
- the young that they could join something exciting
- women that they were the best party to save the nation and their families.

Key facts

- The US stopped lending money and forced loan repayments following the Wall Street Crash, causing a worldwide economic depression.
- Germans turned to the Nazis to help them out of the economic crisis.