

Transition materials for A-Level History



Topic: Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918-1945

Welcome to A-Level History! Firstly, well done for choosing History! History is a challenging A-Level which involves lots of content and so you will need to take some time to read and prepare.

In this pack you will find plenty of materials to prepare you for studying the Germany section of your course. It is aimed for you to use once you have completed your GCSE's before starting you're A Levels in September. Consider this your summer work to get you ready and up to scratch! A-Levels are tricky qualifications to achieve and you need to ensure that you are fully prepared for them. The more work you do now, the easier you will find it when you start your course.

Key things to do before starting the course:

- Get yourself a folder and dividers - there is a lot to learn so it is best to be organised from the very start.
- Ensure that you know what exam board you are studying. Germany is a topic that appears on many exam boards but it is always helpful to know what your specific board requires. You can download this from the exam board website. We are studying AQA.
- Read this booklet carefully and work through the activities as instructed by your teacher. This will give you the foundation knowledge needed to start your course.

Contents list

1. Reading list - These are some key things that you should look at in order to prepare for your Germany module. These are only suggested, some of the films you can access on Netflix, youtube or Amazon.

2. Independent Research - A-Levels are independent course and you will be expected to study independently as well as undertake your lessons. These tasks will give you a starting point in what and how to research independently.

3. Required Knowledge and Skills - You will have to have some basic knowledge and historical skills before undertaking your A-Level. There are 3 activities for you to complete which will prepare you for this.

1. Reading List

Recommended Non Fiction:

David Evans and Jane Jenkins, *Years of Weimar and the Third Reich*, Hodder and Stoughton, (2004)

Fulbrook, Williamson, Fellows and Wells, *Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963*, Heinemann, (2008)

Dick Geary, *Hitler and Nazism*, Routledge (2000)

Ian Kershaw, *Making Friends with Hitler*, Penguin, (2005)

Geoff Layton, *Germany: The Third Reich 1933-1945*, Hodder Murray, (2010)

Geoff Layton, *Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963*, Hodder, (2015)

S Lee, *Hitler and Nazi*, Routledge (1998)

William L Shirer, *The rise and fall of the Third Reich*, Mandarin, (1991)

Recommended Films

Cabaret (1972) - Oscar winning musical set in Weimar Germany

The Harmonists (1997) - A musical group's story in Weimar Germany

Hitler, the Rise of Evil (2003) - Dramatized story of Hitler's career

Triumph of the Will (1935) - Propaganda film on Hitler

The Pianist (2002) - Life of Jewish musician during Nazi reign

Schindler's list (1996) - showing how people attempted to escape the Holocaust

Anne Frank The Whole Story (2006) - two part mini-series based on the Diary of Anne Frank.

2. Independent Research

Independent research is a key part of studying at A-Levels. Below are some research activities for you to undertake in order to prepare you for starting your History A-Level unit in German history.

Research Activity 1: Research the views of the following historians on German History. Find out about their life and work. Summarise their views and why they have been influential in the history of Germany. Ian Kershaw

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hitler-Ian-Kershaw/dp/0141035889?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2045979.stm>
[9812&sr=1-12](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2045979.stm)

Research Activity 2: Search for 4 Nazi propaganda posters. Annotate them in as much detail as you can and explain how they would have won support for the Nazi party.

http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/his/CoreArt/prop/propmain.htm

Research Activity 3: Create a list of the key stages that led to Germany being divided after the Second World War.

http://www.johndclare.net/cold_war1_Germany.htm

3. Required Knowledge and Skills

Before you start studying *Germany* for your History A-Level, you need to build up some background knowledge and skills so that you can start the course in the strongest position. Complete the following tasks to prepare you:

Knowledge Tasks

Task 1: Create a detailed timeline of *German* history from 1918-1945 . Be sure to include how the country was ruled, who ruled the country, revolutions and wars.

Task 2: Create a fact file on these 2 important figures in *Weimar Germany*. You must include details of their role and their impact

- Friedrich Ebert (1871-1925)
- Gustav Stresemann (1879-1929)

TASK 3: Create a glossary of key terms that you will need to know. Use the sheet below to add the definitions to the key terms listed.

Glossary

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Anti Semitism | Concordat |
| Aryan | DAF |
| Asocials | Einsatzgruppen |
| Auxiliaries | Elites |
| Black Market | Enabling Act |
| Boycott | Euthanasia |
| Cabinet | Final Solution |
| Capitalism | First Past the Post |
| Chancellor | Fuhrerprinzip |
| Democracy | Gauleiters |
| Dictatorship | Genocide |
| Coalition | Gestapo |

Ghettos

Gleichaltung

Hitler Youth

Ideology

Indoctrinate

Judiciary

Kristallnacht

Lander

Lebensraum

People's Community

Plebiscite

President

Propaganda

Proportional Representation

Putsch

Racial Genetics

Reichstag

Ruhr

SA

Saar

SD

SS

Untermenschen

Volk

Volkisch

Volksgemeinschaft

Skills Tasks

Task 1: Forming your opinion. Part of history is all about having your own opinions and arguments. Do you think it was inevitable that Hitler would come to power in Germany?

Task 2: Source Analysis. Look at this source on the events of November 1918 in Germany. What can we learn from this source? How useful is this as evidence to historians studying Germany?

In 1922 Kaiser Wilhelm II wrote his memoirs, in which he gave his version of the events in November 1918.

I went through a fearful internal struggle. On the one hand I, as a soldier, was outraged by the idea of abandoning my still faithful- troops. On the other hand, our foes had declared that they were unwilling to work with me to conclude any peace endurable to Germany, and there was my own governments statement that civil war was to be prevented only by my departure for foreign lands. In this struggle I set aside all that was personal. I consciously sacrificed myself and my throne in the belief that, by doing so, I was best serving the interests of my beloved Fatherland. The sacrifice was in vain. My departure brought us neither better armistice conditions, nor better peace terms, nor did it prevent civil war, on the country, it hastened an intensified the disintegration of the army and the nation.