

# Examiners' Report

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
in History (WHI01) Paper 1C

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## **Principal Examiner Report 2016**

### **iA Level History**

#### **WHI01 1A/1B/1C/1D: International Advanced Subsidiary**

##### **WHI01 1C Germany 1918-45**

WHI01 is a new International Advanced Subsidiary examination that is part of the new iA Level History qualification, and was examined for the first time this summer. WHI01 (unit 1) is a Depth Study with Interpretations, and comprises four options; 1A France in Revolution 1774-99, 1B Russia in Revolution 1881-1917, 1C Germany 1918-45, and 1D Britain 1964-90. The assessment criteria for all the options, and questions are AO1 and AO3, and all the options, and questions are covered by a generic mark scheme, based on Level descriptors.

Although, at this early stage in the life of the qualification, the entry for this unit was quite low, it was encouraging to see that there were entries for all of the four options. Paper 1A had 21 candidates, Paper 1B had 39 candidates, Paper 1C had 85 candidates and Paper 1D had 23 candidates.

This report will have comments on all of the four options and questions, but it is important that centres take on board some generic comments which are based on the marking of this summer's cohort, and consider and apply these when preparing candidates for future examinations in these options.

- WHI01 is both a study in depth and a study of interpretations, and it is necessary for candidates to do both, at all levels in the mark scheme, in order to score marks. Ignoring the stated view in the question, and merely writing information that may be relevant to the general focus of the question does not fully meet the criteria for Level 1, and consequently none of the other levels. Even at Level 1 the mark scheme expects simple or generalised consideration of the stated view in the question. Some candidates paid very little attention to the stated view (ignoring it completely or sometimes only referring to it in the conclusion) and narrated or described other information that was either relevant or not to the actual question.
- Across all of the options, in candidate responses, there was very little evidence seen of planning. As the examination is two hours long, implying that candidates might divide that time equally between the two essays they choose, it would seem sensible to devote some time (possibly no more than 10 minutes per question) to planning each question. That would hopefully ensure that when the answer is written the stated view is considered (Level 2, 3 and 4 all require to varying degrees understanding, analysis and exploration of the given view) and then other factors/views can follow, which will then allow the candidate to establish some criteria with which they are able to consider the importance, or not, of the given view and make some judgements. Those candidates who planned (this appeared on their examination script before they answered the question) invariably scored better than candidates who had not planned. Planned answers tended to score at the top of Level 3 and into, and including the top, of Level 4, whereas unplanned answers meandered and judgements tended to be stated, rather than supported by valid criteria, and often achieved marks at the Level 2 and Level 3 boundary or below.
- The need to stress to candidates that in examination situations they must read the question carefully, and not take the question as an opportunity to write all they know about the topic, or answer a question they would have preferred that is near to the actual question, but not the actual question. This was particularly evident in the Germany paper, and particularly the question about the role of Hitler.

- It was noted that a few candidates did not indicate which question they had answered first and which question they had answered second. While this did not mean that their responses were not marked, candidates are expected to indicate which questions they answer.
- There was some evidence of candidates running out of time, but they were very few. Impressing the need to plan essays in the examination is surely the remedy to this problem given the amount of time candidates actually have.

### **Option 1C Germany 1918-45**

- This paper had the largest number of candidate entries: 85.
- Question 1 proved to be the most popular, followed by question 2, question 3 and question 4.
- In question 1 those candidates who stuck to the focus of the question, particularly the years 1924 to 1929 scored the best marks. Many candidates wrote about the earlier period 1919-24, and some were very descriptive of issues like reparations and the Dawes Plan, and, as a consequence never really got into the focus of the question. Some candidates did cover a range of issues that they used in order to judge if the period was in fact a period of 'Golden Years' for Germany eg. economic, political and social. Many candidates discussed the work done by Stresemann to improve Germany's international standing, a while these factors were not specifically stated in the specification, candidates were rewarded for their knowledge if they linked it to the question, as many did.
- The example below scored a mark in the middle of Level 3. There was some understanding of the stated view, some knowledge in depth of economic issues but a lack of range of other issues, and there were some attempts to make judgements.

Put a cross in the box  indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer. If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2   
Question 3  Question 4

(This page is for your first answer)

Historians say that the years 1924-29 were the 'Golden Years' for Germany. In fact, there are several occasions that happened which support this statement, which were led by Gustav Stresemann as Chancellor in 1924 and Foreign Minister from 1924-29. For example the Dawes Plan (1924), Locarno Pact (1925), entrance into the League of Nations (1926), Treaty of Berlin (1926), Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) and the Young Plan (1929) led to the impression of the 'Golden Years'.

In 1924, a US Banker, Charles Dawes, introduced the Dawes Plan to help Germany and pull them out of their misery and economic plight after the Great Inflation in 1923 and the harsh treatment from the allies after the Treaty of Versailles in 1918, because Germany had to pay reparations of 6.6 billion in a strong currency to the allies. As a result, the Dawes Plan gave Germany loans (1000 million for four years, then 2500 million), so they could pay back their reparations more easily and get the economy back on track. There were much better conditions for the Germans and they felt hope and interpreted it as 'good'.

(This page is for your first answer) time. In reality, it made them totally dependent on America and as Gustav Stresemann said: "It looks good on the surface, but Germany is dancing on a volcano." (see Wall Street Crash 1929).

Secondly, historians say that after the Locarno Pact in 1925, the relationship with other countries improved and they were not seen anymore as an outcast or pariah. Due to the Locarno Pact, Germany had an agreement between France and Belgium, that the border would not be changed by force. So after the Great War from 1914-18, the Germans felt safe on the Western border. Interestingly, there was no pact for the Eastern borders.

Thirdly, historians say that the entrance into the League of Nations in 1926 and the Treaty of Berlin in 1926 led to the impression of the 'Golden Years'. In fact, after the entrance into the League of Nations, Germany was given great power and the right to veto. Germany was not longer seen as a pariah and it ended the isolation. There was hope for German people to be treated as an accepted member of society. Also the Treaty of Berlin helped the German people. It was an expenditure of the Treaty of Rapallo in 1922 and gave Germany an ally with great power (USSR). But it also arose suspicion because the USSR (after their revolution in 1917) was a communist state and German people were afraid of a communist takeover (the red threat).

(This page is for your first answer) Fourthly, the Kellogg-Briand Pact in 1928 gave German people the impression to be an accepted member of society again and that there was hope that Germany would be great again. The Kellogg-Briand Pact was a clause, signed by 68 countries, that war is an unacceptable instrument of ~~aggression~~ and that they should talk to each other first and negotiate.

Fifthly, the Young Plan in 1929 also gave the impression to German people that Germany is ascending again from their weak position, according to historians. The Young Plan replaced the Dawes Plan and cut the reparation sum from 6.6 billion to 1.85 billion, to be paid <sup>in</sup> 58 years. The life of German people has become better and they were earning more money and property now, due to the ~~increased~~ decreased reparations sum they had to pay. But obviously they were afraid of another inflation and they spent their money instead of saving it. (during twenties)

Furthermore, historians ~~say~~ also consider the Wall Street Crash in 1929 as an important factor, which shows that those years were not as golden as expected. In 1929, the American shares fell down very low and the people were afraid of losing their money. As a result, people rushed to the banks and have taken their money out of it. The result was that many banks collapsed and ~~Germany~~, ~~which was~~ for example the Darmstädterbank. And Germany,





(This page is for your first answer) which was heavily dependent on America due to the Dawes Plan, fell into misery and a economic plight. Afterwards, the Great Depression started and very low living standards were all over Germany.

In conclusion, there were factors which gave the impression that the years 1924-29 were golden, but only to an extent. In fact, there were other factors, such as the Wall Street crash, which <sup>can</sup> ~~denied~~ this statement.

- The example below scored a mark in the middle of Level 1. Some of the answer is about issues before 1924 and there is little focus or understanding of the question.

Put a cross in the box  indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer. If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2   
 Question 3  Question 4

(This page is for your first answer) Golden years of Germany was the peak of success for Germany. They were coming from a war and about to lose everything also the depression and the hyper-inflation. Also the change of the government was big in Germany they were coming from monarchy and moving to democratic system Kaiser was change in Germany 1818-1920 They just came back from the war.

When the first world war was done Germany was in depth the soldiers were coming to nothing because they lost a lot during the war. They wanted to start revolution in Germany. Soldiers started taking over their job and protest was everywhere, because they wanted change of government. Ebert came in and changed everything the parliament gave what the people wanted so not cause civil war in Germany they promised job to them when they came back from the war (SPD) The Democracy party was in charge of Weimar parliament it was decided by right wing and left wing. Ebert made sure everything went smoothly for the country even though there would cause a lot of fights, they decided to come together.



(This page is for your first answer) Work for the goods in Germany also make sure they have allies to support them, they made sure so they don't cut any ties with ~~them~~ them. This was before Germany's golden years they had to go through hard time before reach there.

↳ The great depression and hyper-inflation was a ~~big~~ big part for Germany before the golden years. Hyper-inflation 1922-23 just a year was problem people were getting the flu in Germany and that caused a lot of problems because a lot of people were dying, also the great depression played a key part before golden years. The great depression was when the soldiers were coming home from the war where Germany was at all their money during world war I that affected the economic issues that brought in Germany with the people because all they were hearing is that they were winning in war but from ~~the~~ no where they hear they lost the war that would cause huge problem for Hitler. They tried to keep everything under rap so no one would know what's happening 600 million workers were unemployed the government said would help them cover their debts that when the golden year starts for Germany. The goods would start coming in for them ~~so~~ basically they all ~~were~~ weren't through tough years until they reach their golden years. It was something that they thought wouldn't ~~be~~ achieve it.

(This page is for your first answer) Golden years was the success of Germany with help of government and their allies. Germany grew in economic and socially they grew very strong it was an outbreak from them and a boom for Germany. The ~~import~~ inputs and the output was the key for their economy to rise with them exchanging with the foreign country gave them a lot of strength. Also factories was the key too because they were building cars so they could sell in Germany and foreign countries. Theater and cinema were the rise for Germany they started to make more theater so the public could come out enjoy. They brought celebrities to Germany cinema something that the public could enjoy. Socially that was Golden years for Germany. In economic Germany was in their peak moments. With the help of government Weimer and changes that was the golden years in Germany. They build a strong allies to the foreign country who were their buyers also. They were helping with the incomes in Germany there were a lot of pros in that.

In conclusion before the golden years they had to go through a hard time to reach where they were. cinema industry brought all the goods in Germany also also with the cars it was very ~~successful~~ successful for them. The cars industry was an eye opening for them.

(This page is for your first answer) With that more income came for them

This was the golden years for them.

- In question 2 many candidates took the question as an opportunity to describe or narrate aspects of Hitler's life or rise to power. Also, some candidates read the question as 1925-34, or 1929-34, and as a consequence did not meet the demands of the question nor the criteria in the mark scheme.
- In question 3 some candidates used knowledge from the 1920s hyperinflation period as their evidence of how the Nazi's had improved living conditions in the 1930s, and many candidates wrote extensively about the Nazi's economic policies but not about how they improved, or not, the standard of living for Germans.
- In question 4 while many focused on the genocide of Jews and Himmler's responsibility, or not, in the years 1939-45, many candidates wrote extensively about how Jews had been treated in the period 1933-39, which was not a requirement of the focus of the question.

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