

Event/issue	Comment
1 Setting up of the Weimar Republic	<p>a) The fact that many of the old elite were prepared to support the new regime was promising.</p> <p>b) The initial support from the elite for the new regime was purely tactical and might be ominous for the prospects for secure democracy.</p>
2 Nature of the German Revolution	<p>a) The events of 1918-19 can be seen as a series of complex revolutions: initially one from above, then a limited, unrevolutionary revolution from below, followed by the defeat of the real revolutionaries.</p> <p>b) The creation of a democratic republic must be considered as a real revolution.</p>
3 Ebert's role	<p>a) Ebert must be considered a traitor to the cause of the working class for his deal with the army and the crushing of the Spartacist rising.</p> <p>b) Ebert correctly judged the mood of the majority of the German people and was justified in using the army to maintain the new government.</p>
4 The Armistice	<p>a) An armistice was sought by the generals and cannot be blamed on the new civilian politicians.</p> <p>b) The new republican government was unwise to accept the Armistice as the peace terms were bound to be harsh and unpopular.</p>
5 Versailles Treaty	<p>a) Considering the context, the terms of the Versailles Treaty were understandable, though the Allied diplomats could have shown greater wisdom.</p> <p>b) The Treaty of Versailles was an act of criminal irresponsibility by short-sighted, vengeful politicians.</p>
6 The Weimar constitution	<p>a) The constitution was far too democratic for the situation facing Germany in 1919.</p> <p>b) The Weimar constitution was a well-considered mix of democracy and protective measures against anarchy; the regime's greatest weaknesses lay elsewhere.</p>
7 Kapp Putsch	<p>a) Although a failure, the Kapp Putsch suggests how it might be only a matter of time before the Weimar Republic was overthrown.</p> <p>b) The defeat of the Kapp Putsch illustrates the strength of democratic forces in Germany.</p>
8 Communist threat	<p>a) The Communists posed a major threat in 1919-23 to the infant democratic regime.</p> <p>b) The Communists aroused the fears of moderate Socialists and conservatives but were far too weak to gain power.</p>
9 Causes of the inflationary crisis	<p>a) The Allies bear sole responsibility for the German inflationary crisis.</p> <p>b) German governments were partly to blame for the inflationary crisis of 1923.</p>
10 Significance of the inflationary crisis	<p>a) The fact that the Weimar regime overcame the crisis of hyperinflation means it cannot be considered a factor in the Republic's later collapse.</p> <p>b) The 1923 inflationary crisis might have caused the regime's collapse and its aftermath was to contribute to the Republic's eventual disintegration.</p>
11 Hitler's Munich Putsch	<p>a) Hitler's putsch was a minor event. Its importance lies in the lessons Hitler learned from it.</p> <p>b) The Munich Putsch was important in causing the eventual collapse of the Weimar Republic.</p>
12 Overall judgement	<p>a) The fact that the Weimar Republic survived so many crises in its first four years suggests it had considerable strengths.</p> <p>b) Although the Weimar Republic survived its turbulent first four years, it was permanently scarred by the experience, and the prospects for democracy were poor.</p>

**REVIEW ACTIVITY 2**

This task allows you to think about your own views on the first four years of the Weimar Republic. The table on the right gives contrasting viewpoints on various aspects of the Weimar Republic, 1919-23. Identify the statement in each pair with which you most agree. (Are there any where you feel both alternatives have considerable merit?) Discuss your views, then write a brief summary of your assessment of each issue.

**REVIEW ACTIVITY 3**

Essay: What problems faced the new republic in Germany from 1918 to 1923? Why did it survive?

In an exam, you are likely to be asked for a two-stage essay on this topic. The first part is easier. You have to describe the problems (the left-wing revolts, the right-wing revolts, the economic crisis, etc.). As well as displaying your knowledge of the problems, you would gain extra marks for making judgements about the comparative seriousness of the problems.

The second part is more complex. You could go through each problem in turn, analysing how it was overcome. Alternatively, you could make general points about why the Weimar regime survived, such as the weakness and divisions of its opponents as well as its own actions, and substantiate (back up) your opinions with relevant examples from the various problems. The second approach is probably best if you are going for the highest grade. What matters is that you approach the essay in a structured way.