



Topic Overview

History

GCSE

Paper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany

1918-1939

What **BIG IDEAS** will you cover in this topic?

This unit examines how Germany moved from democracy to dictatorship in just over a decade. It covers the fragile beginnings of the Weimar Republic after World War One, the challenges it faced, and how the Nazi Party gained and consolidated power. The topic investigates the use of terror, propaganda, and censorship in Nazi Germany, and how different groups – including women, youth, minorities, and 'Aryan' Germans – experienced life under Hitler's rule. It also considers the development of Nazi economic and social policies and the persecution of Jews that led towards the Holocaust.

What other **key concepts, knowledge and skills** will you learn in this topic?

Key Concepts: Democracy vs dictatorship; Terror and propaganda; Social control and resistance; Propaganda and Censorship; Anti-Semitism and racism; Economic crisis and political extremism; Change and continuity

Key Skills: Source analysis and evaluation; Explanation of causation and consequence; Evaluation of interpretations; Judgement and structured written argument; Understanding how and why historical interpretations differ

What important **prior knowledge** will you use from your prior learning?

In Year 9 students will have done an overview of life in Nazi Germany and been introduced to key concepts like democracy, socialism, communism, anti-semitism, persecution, discrimination, dictatorship.

Where does this topic fit into the **curriculum plan** for this subject?

This is Paper 3 in the Edexcel GCSE History course. It is worth 30% of the overall GCSE grade. It builds on prior knowledge of World War I and provides an in-depth modern world study of Germany's political and social transformation. It helps students understand how totalitarian regimes rise and maintain control, linking to broader themes of power, ideology, and resistance in the 20th century.

Assessment:

How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

At the start of each lesson, there will be a **quick quiz** or to test knowledge recall from previous lesson

There will be regular practice of **exam-style questions** including source, interpretation and explanation questions (Q1–Q4)

There will be a **formal assessment** at the end of the unit based on past Paper 3 GCSE questions

What will the success criteria be? To attain a Grade 4 in GCSE History you need to achieve between 45% and 50% when the marks for each unit have been combined. is awarded when you consistently achieve **50% or above** on Paper 3 style questions

What is the key **vocabulary** that you will need to know in this topic?

- Weimar Republic
- Treaty of Versailles
- Spartacists
- Freikorps
- Hyperinflation
- Stresemann
- Munich Putsch
- Mein Kampf
- Reichstag Fire
- Enabling Act
- Gestapo
- SS (Schutzstaffel)
- Propaganda
- Censorship
- Indoctrination
- Hitler Youth
- League of German Maidens
- Aryan
- Anti-Semitism
- Nuremberg Laws
- Kristallnacht
- Ghettos
- Economy
- Labour Front
- RAD (Reich Labour Service)
- Autarky

What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?

L1 – What were the key features of the Weimar Constitution?

L2 – What challenges did the Weimar Republic face, 1919–23?

L3 – What was the impact of hyperinflation and the Munich Putsch?

L4 – How did Stresemann help stabilise Weimar Germany?

L5 – How did Hitler and the Nazis gain support up to 1929?

L6 – What was the impact of the Great Depression on Germany?

L7 – How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?

L8 – How did Hitler establish a dictatorship (1933–34)?

L9 – What was the role of the SS, Gestapo, and police state?

L10 – How did the Nazis control information and culture?

L11 – How were young people and education affected by Nazi policies?

L12 – What were Nazi expectations of women and family?

L13 – How did Nazi economic policies affect workers and businesses?

L14 – How were Jews and other minorities treated under the Nazis?

L15 – What was the significance of the Nuremberg Laws and Kristallnacht?

L16 – Interpretation Practice: How do historians view life in Nazi Germany?