






History

GCSE Revision

booklet

Paper 1 - Section B:
Conflict and tension
1918-1939



Topics to revise			
The armistice: aims of the peacemakers; Wilson and the Fourteen Points; Clemenceau and Lloyd George; the extent to which they achieved their aims.			
The Versailles Settlement: Diktat; territorial changes; military restrictions; war guilt and reparations.			
Impact of the treaty and wider settlement: reactions of the Allies; German objections; strengths and weaknesses of the settlement, including the problems faced by new states.			
The League of Nations: its formation and covenant; organisation; membership and how it changed; the powers of the League; the work of the League's agencies; the contribution of the League to peace in the 1920s, including the successes and failures of the League, such as the Aaland Islands, Upper Silesia, Vilna, Corfu and Bulgaria.			
Diplomacy outside the League: Locarno treaties and the Kellogg-Briand Pact.			
The collapse of the League: the effects of the Depression; the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises and their consequences; the failure of the League to avert war in 1939.			
The development of tension: Hitler's aims and Allied reactions; the Dollfuss Affair; the Saar; German rearmament, including conscription; the Stresa Front; Anglo-German Naval Agreement.			
Escalation of tension: remilitarisation of the Rhineland; Mussolini, the Axis and the Anti Comintern Pact; Anschluss; reasons for and against the policy of appeasement; the Sudeten Crisis and Munich; the ending of appeasement.			
The outbreak of war: the occupation of Czechoslovakia; the role of the USSR and the Nazi Soviet Pact; the invasion of Poland and outbreak of war, September 1939; responsibility for the outbreak of war, including that of key individuals: Hitler, Stalin and Chamberlain.			

Questions - How to answer? – (1 hour to complete this section of paper 1)

Question 1 – eg. ‘Source D opposes Germany. How do you know?’ (4 marks)

Paragraph 1: Identify **one aspect of the source** and explain how it supports the claim in the question

Paragraph 2: Identify **a second aspect** from the source and explain how it supports the claim **OR** explain how the **provenance** supports the claim in the question

Question 2 – eg. ‘Study sources B and C. How useful are these two sources to a historian studying...’ (12 marks)

S - Source. 1 sentence. “The source suggests...”

P – Provenance. Who, When, Purpose. Does this make the source useful?

O – Own knowledge Accurate. Include all own knowledge about the event which matches the source

O – Own knowledge Missing. Include all knowledge about the event that is missing from the source

C – Conclusion. How useful is the source in studying the event?

X2 – SPOOC for each source, then judgement as to which is the most useful.

Question 3 – eg. ‘Write an account of the German reoccupation of the Rhineland and its significance in Hitler’s foreign policy. (8 marks)

Explain the **causes** and detail

Describe the events of the main days

Explain as many **affects/impacts/consequences** of the key event as you can

Question 4 – Example, ‘The main reason for the failure of the League of Nations was the rise of Hitler’. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.’ (16 marks)

Paragraph 1: **Factor named in the question.** Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Paragraph 2/3/4: **Different/other factors** of your choice. Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Conclusion: Explain that all factors were important. Then **Agree or Disagree** with the statement in the question and explain your **decision**.

The Armistice: aims of the peacemakers

The Big Three	Experiences in WWI	Aims after WWI
Woodrow Wilson (USA)	France lost 1.4 million soldiers and land was destroyed. French people wanted revenge.	Revenge on Germany, reparations and a severely weakened Germany to ensure no further attacks on France. Both Clemenceau and the French public wanted Germany to suffer and pay for the damage they had caused.
David Lloyd George (Britain)	Britain lost 1 million soldiers. British people wanted revenge. Little damage to British land.	Punishment for Germany to appease the British public. Punishment not too harsh to ensure it did not result in another war and Germany to remain strong enough to continue trade. Wanted Germany to receive punishments on their navy and empire to threaten Britain less.
Georges Clemenceau (France)	USA lost 100,000 soldiers and therefore did not feel the need to punish Germany as harshly.	Wilson's 14 points to be implemented. Which included end of secret treaties, freedom of the seas, reduction in armies and weapons, formation of the League of Nations and Belgium to be restored to independence.
Revision check – Why would the big three not be able to get everything they wanted?		

The Big Three struggle to make a decision: Why?

Punished enough already? - Germany signed the armistice in November 1918 and agreed to give the land of Alsace-Lorraine to France. This made some people think that was plenty of punishment for Germany.

Wartime promises - The Allies (Britain, France and the USA) had all made lots of promises to other countries during the war in return for their support. Now they disagreed over which promises they should keep and which they should break.

Disagreements - The Big Three all had different views on what should be done to Germany. Wilson wanted to be lenient, Clemenceau wanted to be extremely harsh, Lloyd-George wanted to be harsh but still allow Germany to trade.

Time constraints - The Paris Peace Conference began in January 1919 and ended in June 1919. There were leaders from more than 30 countries there. It was very hard to make quick decisions.

The changing map of Europe - Before WW1, Europe had been made up of big powerful empires. After WW1, some of those empires had been destroyed and now there were lots of new independent countries arguing over where borders should be. This made Europe a very insecure place.

Revision check –

Which reason do you think was the main reason it was difficult for the big three to make a decision?

Can you understand why the big three had such different views?

Can you list the big three and their aims from the harshest to the least? And explain why.

Treaty of Versailles: key terms

- Germany lost 10% of its land
- Alsace and Lorraine were restored to France
- The Saar Coalfield was put under control of the League for 15 years.
- Independent Poland was restored
- The union of Germany and Austria was forbidden
- Army limited to 100,000 men
- Conscription was not allowed
- Tanks and military aircraft were forbidden
- Navy was limited to 15,000 men and only 6 battleships were allowed.
- Rhineland was demilitarised.
- Germany had to accept full blame for causing the war (War Guilt Clause 231)
- Germany had to pay £6.6 billion in reparations
- Germany not allowed to join the league of nations

Some of Wilson's fourteen points:

- No secret agreements
 - Freedom of the seas
 - The removal of all economic barriers
 - The reduction of armaments to the lowest point
 - The restoration of Belgium
 - Alsace Lorraine returns to France
 - Austria-Hungarian independence
 - Independence of Romania, Serbia and Montenegro
 - An independent Poland
 - League of nations to be formed
 - Freedom of colonies from empires
- (GERMANY THOUGHT THE TREATY WOULD BE BASED ON THESE POINTS)**

Germany's objections to the Treaty of Versailles

- The lack of negotiation led to the Germans referring to the Treaty as a 'Diktat' – a dictated peace.
- The huge loss of land and separation of German speaking people annoyed Germany.
- The Polish corridor given back to Poland left Germany with no access to its province of East Prussia.
- Germany said they believed the Treaty was going to be based on the fourteen points and was annoyed it was not.
- Germans believed the army reduction was not enough to defend itself or keep control within Germany.
- The German people disagreed with the war guilt claiming they were being punished for the Kaisers actions.
- Germans believed reparations were set too high to destroy them and allowed them no chance of recovery.

Revision check –

Can you remember 10 different terms of the treaty of Versailles?

Why might Germany be shocked by the treaty of Versailles?

How do you think the following terms made the German people feel? (angry, weak, worried, upset, concerned)

- Paying £6.6 billion reparations?
- Army limited to 100,000 men?
- Losing 10% of their land?

Why might some people think the treaty was fair?

Why might some people think the treaty was unfair?

Did the big three get what they wanted?

	Leader's opinion	Public opinion
France	Georges Clemenceau was angry that Germany was allowed an army, and disappointed that the Rhineland remained part of Germany, he wanted it to become independent rather than just be demilitarised. He also thought reparations were too small. He was happy that Germany had to accept blame for the war and that France gained coal from the Saar land for 15 years.	The French people were pleased about the demilitarisation of the Rhineland but had hoped it might gain independence. They did not want Germany to have an army at all and believed the money would not make up for their losses. They voted Clemenceau out, blaming him for the treaty not being harsh enough.
Britain	David Lloyd-George was pleased that the British Empire was increased and the German navy reduced. However, he was concerned that putting German-speaking people outside Germany would lead to a backlash and those harsh reparations would stop Germany from trading. Lloyd George worried the treaty was too harsh and that Germany would seek revenge possibly through another war. The German economy was crippled and they could not trade. The treaty would cause another war in 25 years that Lloyd George believed would be double the cost.	Most British people had lost relatives or friends in the war and hated Germany. Most people believed the Treaty of Versailles was fair enough. War guilt pleased the British public, they received reparations to help rebuild.
USA	Woodrow Wilson was disappointed and voted against the Treaty he thought it was too harsh, He was pleased that small nations were given independence, the league of nations created, 42 countries joined the league and agreed to work for peace. However he was unhappy that the American senate refused to join league, Wilson felt the treaty was too harsh and they would want revenge.	American people believed the treaty was too harsh. They also now believed in 'isolationism' – that the USA should not get involved in other countries.

Revision check - Which of the big three was most satisfied with the treaty of Versailles do you think? And why?

Who might be the least satisfied and why?

What is the difference between the treaty of Versailles and Wilson's fourteen points?

Can you see why Germany were shocked at the treaty thinking it would be based upon those points?

How far was the treaty of Versailles fair or not fair?

<u>Fair</u>	<u>Not fair</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was signed at the end of the most devastating war the world had ever seen (at that point) so it was right that the losing country should pay the costs. • It was normal for the losers to have to pay the costs at the end of a war. For example, when Russia withdrew from WW1 in 1917, Germany had given Russia a very harsh treaty. • The Big Three had to agree something quickly as Europe was crumbling at the end of WW1. This was the fairest deal they could come up with quickly. • Ordinary people in France and Britain were desperate for Germany to be harshly punished so the leaders had to punish Germany or risk being voted out at home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six million Germans found themselves living outside Germany because of border changes. • Germans were left feeling vulnerable because everyone else had big armies and theirs was tiny. • Germany was no more to blame than several other countries for causing the war. • The Treaty was a 'Diktat' – Germany had not been allowed a say. • The reparations seemed like they would make Germany very poor for nearly a century. • Many people thought it would lead to another war.

The treaty had strengths and weaknesses but some of these were only clear with hindsight

<u>Strengths (seen at the time by victorious countries)</u>	<u>Weaknesses (seen initially by defeated countries and later by all)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The treaty bought peace to Europe after 4 years of terrible fighting • An international peace keeping organisation, the league of nations, was set up to prevent future conflict • The terms of the treaty were not as harsh as they might have been. For example, not as harsh as Germany had imposed on Russia at the treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1918 • Some had wanted German split into separate countries but Germany was preserved as a large democratic country of 60 million people as a barrier against possible Communist expansion from Russia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germans felt bitter about unfair treatment – which extremist parties exploited. • Reparations payments crippled the German economy • The treaty punished Germany enough to want revenge but not enough to stop it from recovering and acting against the allies in the future. • Woodrow Wilson placed too much faith in the league of nations

Example exam question (16 mark)

'The main weakness of the Treaty of Versailles was the decision to impose reparations on Germany.'
How far do you agree with this statement?

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE FORMULA FOR THIS QUESTION TYPE.

Try to plan out an answer below:

How were Germany's allies treated at the end of the war?

Austria – Treaty of St Germain – Sep 1919

Austria lost land to Italy and Romania, they had to pay reparations, their army was limited to 30,000 men and no conscription. Austria was also not allowed to unite with Germany or have a navy. Austria was annoyed as some of their industrial land was given to make up new Czechoslovakia and Italy didn't feel they received enough land as a reward for helping the allies.

Bulgaria – Treaty of Neuilly – Nov 1919

Bulgaria lost land to Yugoslavia, Greece and Romania. They had to pay £100 million in reparations and the army was limited to 20,000 with no air force, conscription and 4 battleships.

Hungary – Treaty of Trianon – June 1920

Land was given to Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria. Reparations were due but economy collapsed. 30,000 limit on army.

Turkey – Treaty of Sevres – Aug 1920

Turkey lost land to Greece and lost all land in Europe. Army restricted to 50,000 and 7 sail boats and 6 torpedo boats. Waterways connecting the black sea to Mediterranean had to be opened up to other countries. The allies could keep troops in Turkey. The Turkish people were furious and revolted overthrowing the government – the new leader threatened war against the allies. The allies did not want war so agreed to agree a new treaty.

NEW TURKEY - TREATY OF LAUSANNE – 1923

Gained back some land from Greece and no limit on armed forces and reparations cancelled. Allied troops withdrew from Turkey as well.

Revision check - Explain overall how Germany's allies were treated?

How did the new treaty for Turkey make other allies feel do you think?

The League of Nations:

Key aims:

Keep world peace

Enhance living and working conditions

Encourage disarmament

Prevent the spread of deadly diseases

How did it plan to keep peace and deal with aggressive nations:

Step 1 – Moral condemnation (telling off)

Step 2 – Trade/economic sanctions

Step 3 – Military sanctions/use of army

Problems? – *because not all countries were part of the League – trade sanctions could be useless as they could just begin trading with non-members such as the USA. Military sanctions were also difficult as the League did not have its own army so had to rely on using members armed forces.*

How was the League of Nations structured?

Assembly – an international parliament with each member country sending a representative to discuss and vote on matters. Only met once a year and decision-making had to be unanimous.

The council – a smaller group that met several times a year. Four permanent members of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan and four other members would be chosen for 3 year terms, later increased to 9 other members. They had the power of VETO on anything the assembly had passed.

The Permanent Court of Justice – court to settle international disputes, the court had 11 judges who would rule but the ruling was only advisory as the League had no way of enforcing this.

Secretariat – administration and finance experts of league, kept records and sent reports. Understaffed.

Special commissions - groups created to tackle certain issues. Often their aims were very ambitious.

Outline the weaknesses in the structure of the League of Nations?

(Try and look at each section/department)

The membership of the League of Nations

- The league started with 42 members. These were all countries that had fought for or supported the Allies in the war.
- The USA did not join, despite it being Woodrow Wilson's idea. The congress voted not to join as they did not want to be dragged into European affairs. This was a big miss for the league as they were the most powerful country in the world at this point.

- At first defeated countries were not allowed to join, although Germany was admitted in 1926.
- The USSR was not let in until 1934 because of fear of Communism.
- Some members later withdrew such as Japan and Germany in 1933.

Why would the membership cause problems for the League if not everyone was included?

The League in the 1920's – did it successfully sort out international disputes?

Yes –

- In 1921, the League solved a dispute between Poland and Germany over part of Upper Silesia. The League asked the people to vote which country they would like to be part of and they divided it in line with the peoples vote.
- In 1920, the League solved a dispute over the Aaland islands between Sweden and Finland. The league decided Finland should have it but could not build forts and Sweden accepted this.
- Bulgaria was invaded by Greece in 1925 after border disputes. The League ordered Greece to withdraw, and it obeyed.
- It can be argued the League was successful in these disputes as they did not involve the most powerful countries.

No –

- Countries sometimes ignored the League. As early as 1920 Poland invaded Vilna, the capital of Lithuania and the League was ignored.
- Italian investigators were killed in Greece; Mussolini wanted compensation and invaded Corfu in 1923. Greece appealed to the league who asked Mussolini to leave and they would get compensation when the killers were found. Mussolini was not happy and used members of the league to persuade them to demand compensation straight away from Greece, the league showed they could be bullied by large countries.
- This showed the League was not prepared to stand up to a powerful country even when they were a powerful member of the League.

What effect does this have on the League's reputation?

The League's special commissions – were they successful?

Special commission	Yes	No
International labour organisation	Recommended the banning of white lead in paint due to poison. 77 countries agreed to a minimum wage.	Tried to stop children under 14 working and tried to limit working day but countries disagreed due to increased cost.
Commission for refugees	set 427,000 out of 500,000 prisoners of war free after WWI, helped fleeing Russians find	league failed to set up help for refugees fleeing Germany in 1933

	new homes, sent doctors to refugee camps in Greece to help with smallpox outbreak.	
Permanent central opium board	Introduced a certificate for companies to purchase opium for medicinal purposes, blacklisted companies involved in illegal drugs.	Didn't manage to ban sale fully due to countries making money from it.
The Health Committee	Campaigned to kill mosquitos to stop malaria. Eventually became what is now the World Health Organisation.	None.
The Slavery Commission	Raided camps of slave traders in Sierra Leone, freeing 200,000 people.	None.

The League had help in the 1920s in its peace-making role by other international agreements

- The Locarno treaty (1925) was an agreement between France and Germany initially, promising not to invade one another and promising to keep troops out of the Rhineland. After this agreement, Germany was allowed to join the League in 1926.
- The Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 was signed by 61 countries who all promised not to go to war to solve disputes.
- The Washington Arms Conference (1921-22) A meeting organised by the USA in Washington. It was attended by most countries, who agreed to limit the size of their navies.
- The Rapallo Treaty (1922) A meeting between Germany and Russia in Rapallo. Germany had forced Russia to sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1917, taking lots of money and land from Russia. The Rapallo Treaty reversed that and returned all that money and land to Russia. Both countries also agreed to co-operate and work together.
- These agreements were not the work of the League but they helped its work because they showed that countries were prepared to work peacefully with former enemies.
- That situation changed quickly with the onset of the Great Depression.

How does it look for the League that they didn't have a role in making some of the most important agreements in the 1920s?

The Wall Street Crash/The Great depression causes problems for the League in the 1930s

- The USA recalled its loans and wanted less to do with Europe.
- The British economy suffered heavily meaning less enthusiasm for spending money on the League.
- Italy faced huge economic problems. Mussolini was keen to improve the Italian economy and cared little about the League.
- Japan also had less money to buy food and raw materials and this became their priority.
- Germany was in turmoil leading to Hitler becoming Chancellor. He began to criticise the League and challenge them.
- The Wall street crash made countries become selfish and only care about improving their own countries.

How could this cause the League of Nations a problem?

Key Event – The Manchurian Crisis (1931-33)

September 1931: Japan invades Manchuria:

- Japan wanted Manchuria for raw materials. Japan knew that Chinese control was weak.
- Japan already had mining rights and controlled railways in the area.
- An incident on the railway line at Mukden was used as an excuse for a Japanese invasion. They suggested that China had blown up their (Japan's) South Manchurian Railway. (It is believed Japan did it themselves to find an excuse to invade)

1931 -2: The league investigates

- China appealed to the League for help
- Lord Lytton was sent on a fact finding mission
- Meanwhile Japan completed its invasion.

March 1933: Japan ignores the League

- The Lytton Commission produced a report one year later stating Japan should leave Manchuria
- The Japanese ignored this and left the league
- Japan invaded more of China.

Revision check - What are the causes of the Manchuria crisis?

What are the key events? Try to keep it brief

What are the consequences? Or effects? How does it make the League look?

Key Event - The Abyssinian Crisis (1935-36)

Why?

- Mussolini invaded Abyssinia because of its mineral wealth.
- Mussolini wanted revenge for a previous invasion in 1896 that had failed
- Success would divert the Italian people's attention away from the depression in Italy
- Mussolini wanted a great empire like the Romans.

October 1935

- Mussolini sent troops with heavy artillery and tanks to invade Abyssinia.
- The Abyssinian leader, Haile Selassie, appealed to the League of Nations.
- The League condemned Italy and imposed economic sanctions but they did not stop trading Oil.
- Britain and France did not close the Suez canal which would have made Italian supplies more difficult as they did not want to upset Mussolini and drive him closer to Hitler.
- Britain and France then proposed the Hoare-Laval Pact which was a secret deal with Italy to agree to give them some of Abyssinia. This was leaked to the public and caused outrage at Britain and France.
- Italy continued with his invasion, then left the league.

Aftermath

- Britain and France had been shown to look out only for their own interests and not the Leagues.
- Italy grew in confidence and their actions went unpunished
- Hitler watched on as another country got away with an act of aggression
- The League's reputation was ruined. Members were supposed to unite together but they did not want to. The league had fallen apart.

Revision check - Try and retell the story of the Abyssinia crisis without looking at the information.

Write a revision card on the Manchuria and Abyssinian crisis, make sure you know the difference between the two and the causes, events and consequences of each.

What was the impact of both crisis's on the League's reputation?

Why did the League of Nations fail?

WEAK – the league was weak in its dealings with aggression it had NO ARMY and therefore relied on member countries to volunteer their forces. The used three types of action: moral condemnation, economic sanctions and military sanctions (less likely due to lack of army).

AMERICA – did not join, this weakened the league immediately as it was the most powerful country at the time.

STRUCTURE – each member nation was represented on the assembly but they only met once a year. All decisions had to be unanimous (agreed by all members). Each member of the council had a right to VETO.

DEPRESSION – during the 1930s, countries became less focused on keeping peace and focused on self-interest and recovery. This led to empire building and invasions such as Manchuria and Abyssinia.

UNSUCCESSFUL – the more the League failed with events like Manchuria, the more people ignored it and were encouraged to rebel.

MEMBERSHIP – Germany was not allowed to join so it regarded it as a 'League of Victors' and Russia was also not allowed to join. This got the League off to a bad start.

BIG BULLIES – The council had four permanent members – Britain, France, Italy and Japan. The League was dominated by these key members. Italy and Japan defied the League during their conflicts and were treated leniently due to their membership. Britain and France also abused their powers through agreements such as the Hoare-Laval Pact.

Revision check -

Can you explain the aims of the League of Nations? (KEEP)

What happened in Upper Silesia?

Can you remember the different parts of the League?

What happened in the Aland Islands in 1921?

Can you name the different commissions of the League?

What happened in Corfu in 1923?

Can you explain the work those commissions did?

What happened after the Wall Street Crash in 1929?

Revision check - Complete below the reasons the League failed without looking back at the notes:

W

A

S

D

U

M

B

The Origins and outbreak of the Second World War

Hitler's main aims:

- Unite all German speaking people under one rule
- Gain territory in the East to provide Lebensraum (living space)
- Destroy the Treaty of Versailles
- Destroy Communism
- make Germany a great power again.

Key Point – from the start, Hitler made his aims clear. He wanted to expand Germany and restore German pride. When he acted in these first years (1933-35), he saw clearly that Britain and France would in reality do very little to stop him – just as they had not stopped Japan in Manchuria.

Hitler began to re-arm:

- In 1933, Hitler began rearming Germany in secret, ignoring the terms of the Treaty of Versailles
- In 1933, Hitler withdrew from the League of Nation's disarmament conference. He then withdrew from the League of Nations itself.
- From March 1935, he openly started a policy of conscription (that is forcing young men to join the armed forces for a number of years)
- He held massive rearmament rallies in Germany in 1935 to show off his power to European countries.
- In June 1935, Hitler reached a naval agreement with Britain. It allowed Germany to build up 35% of British naval strength and 45% of their submarine strength. This was known as the Anglo-German naval agreement.

All of these actions break the Treaty of Versailles. So did anyone react?

Reaction of allies:

- Britain, France and Italy met at the Stresa Conference in April 1935. They condemned German rearmament and agreed to work together to keep peace.
- Britain then undermined this by making their Anglo-German naval agreement.
- Italy only made the agreement to continue the invasion of Abyssinia.
- It was a very weak reaction to breaking the Treaty of Versailles.

The Dollfuss affair:

- In this case Italy had reacted when in 1934 Hitler ordered the Austrian Nazis to cause havoc and kill leader Dollfuss in Austria.
- The plan was to take over to create the forbidden Anschluss.
- However the plan failed as the army were loyal to Austria and Mussolini moved troops to stop invasion.

The return of the Saar land (1935)

- a plebiscite was held in the Saar to decide whether it should remain with the League or return to Germany or France.
- The Saar was inhabited by many Germans - 90% voted to re-join Germany.
- Victory was used in Nazi Propaganda.
- This was not against the Treaty of Versailles as it was agreed that the Saar would be controlled for 15 years by the League.
- This was good for Hitler's confidence in his future ambitions.

How did Germany reoccupy the Rhineland? (March 1936)

- German soldiers marched into the Rhineland, against the Treaty of Versailles.
- The League condemned Germany but didn't act.

Why was there no action taken?

- Britain and France were concerned with Abyssinia.
- The French government were divided and needed support to act but Britain were in no position to go to war due to depression.
- Britain felt they were only going into their own back yard. Hitler also promised to sign a 25-yr non-aggression pact after.

Could Hitler have been stopped in 1936?

- Yes, Hitler believed his army were not strong enough and ordered his troops to withdraw if they met opposition.
- The French army were stronger in 1936.

Effects

- Hitler reversed some of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Hitler had increased confidence and support.
- Marked the end of the League of Nations.
- Led to the Rome-Berlin axis.

Rome-Berlin Axis (1936)

- Hitler invited Mussolini to visit Germany and showed of Germany's military strength
- Mussolini decided to side with Hitler.
- Mussolini and Hitler agreed the Rome-Berlin Axis in 1936 (which officially linked the two countries).
- In **1937** Italy joined Japan and Germany in the **Anti-Comintern pact** against communism.

Anshluss with Austria (March 1938)

How?

- In 1934, the Austrian Nazis had tried to seize power after the murder of the Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss but had been stopped by Mussolini.
- Now Mussolini was allied with Germany due to the Rome-Berlin axis it was unlikely he would stop the invasion again.
- There were many rumours of plots by the Nazis to overthrow the Austrian government.
- Schuschnigg (Austrian Chancellor) asked Hitler to stop plotting but instead he forced him to appoint Seyss-Inquart (Nazi) as a minister of Interior.
- Hitler then encouraged riots by Nazis in Austria.
- Schuschnigg called a plebiscite vote in an attempt to end the disturbances.
- Hitler was concerned that the vote would not go his way and moved his troops to the border forcing Schuschnigg to resign and call off the vote.
- Seyss-Inquart became Chancellor and invited the Germans into Austria to restore order.
- The Army entered on 12 March 1938, 80,000 opponents of Hitler were placed in concentration camps.
- In April Hitler held a plebiscite in which 99.75% of voters agreed with Anschluss.

Reaction?

- Britain and France did nothing even though it was against the Treaty of Versailles terms.
- Britain had sympathy for Germany due to the many Austrian German speakers.

Effect?

- Hitler saw Anschluss as a triumph, uniting German speakers, breaking the treaty of Versailles and gaining greater support.
- Uniting with Austria gave Hitler a lot of strength, more support, resources and a bigger army.

Why were Britain and France not stopping Hitler breaking the Treaty?

- **Appeasement** – was the name given to British and French Foreign policy in the 1930s. The policy was to keep peace, they would give in or concede to acts of aggression to avoid war with Germany.

Britain and France followed the policy of appeasement for logical reasons but it played into Hitler's hands and allowed him to get stronger.

Reasons for appeasement	Reasons against appeasement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Britain thought Germany had been treated too harshly with the Treaty.• the people of Britain wanted to avoid another war, remembering the loss of life in WWI.• Britain was still suffering from the depression and could not afford another war• the fear of Communist Russia was seen as a bigger threat and Hitler was helping to challenge that.• Britain could not be sure they could rely on support from the USA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appeasement made Britain look weak and gave Hitler too much confidence and power.• Other countries were betrayed and sacrificed due to appeasement such as Rhineland, Austria and the Sudetenland.• Hitler could not be trusted to stick to his promises.• Hitler only grew stronger and then became much harder to defeat than he would have been initially.

The Sudetenland (September 1938)

Why?

- It was inhabited by over 3 million German speaking people
- It had strong, well-fortified frontiers to protect Czechoslovakia.
- It would be easy to build an attack on the rest of Czechoslovakia
- It was rich in natural resources.

How?

- Hitler encouraged riots from the Nazis in the Sudetenland.
- Hitler met with Chamberlain on 15th Sept asking for the German speaking parts of the Sudetenland.
- Chamberlain got France and Czechoslovakia to agree.
- He flew back to meet Hitler on 22nd Sept but Hitler pushed for more – he demanded all of the Sudetenland.
- Chamberlain returned to Britain disappointed and began to prepare for war, giving out gas masks and digging trenches.

The Munich conference/agreement- 30th September 1938

- Chamberlain, Hitler, Mussolini and Daladier (France) met in Munich and agreed that the Sudetenland would become German. The Czechs were forced to accept this.
- Hitler had to agree not to invade Czechoslovakia to gain the Sudetenland; Peace had been maintained by Chamberlain.

KEY EXAMPLE OF APPEASEMENT!

Importance of the Munich agreement - 30th September 1938

- Hitler had gained the Sudetenland without fighting.
- Czechoslovakia had been betrayed.
- Peace was maintained by Chamberlain.

Invasion of Czechoslovakia – March 1939

- Czechoslovakia lost 70% of industry in the Sudetenland.
- Encouraged by Hitler the Slovaks began to press for independence and riot.
- Hacha (Czech president) was forced to hand over control to Hitler and he marched in claiming to be restoring order.
- Britain and France protested but did not oppose directly.

Effect of collapse of Czechoslovakia – March 1939

Marks the end of appeasement, Hitler had proved to Chamberlain he could not be trusted as he had broken the Munich agreement. Britain signed an agreement, supported by France promising to help Poland if they were invaded.

Nazi-Soviet Pact (23 August 1939)

Strange?

- Nazi's were anti-communist. Hitler had said he intended to take Lebensraum in Eastern Europe and the USSR.
- Communism was anti-Nazi and the USSR aimed to conquer Europe as part of its policy of exporting Communism.
- Despite their differences they signed a pact agreeing not to go to war with each other and secretly agreeing to divide Poland between them

Why?

- Germany could now go to war with Western Europe without having to worry about being invaded from the East. Avoiding war on two fronts.

- Russia was secure from invasion by Germany. It also gained part of Poland as well as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Effect?

- The pact meant war was certain as they had agreed to invade Poland and Britain had promised to protect Poland from invasion.
- Preparations for war began and Britain started to begin evacuation planning.

Invasion of Poland (1 September 1939)

German troops entered Poland and Britain and France said they would declare war on Germany if they did not withdraw their troops. On 3rd September, Britain and France declared war on Germany.

What are the main causes of WWII?

- **Hitler's own aggression?**
- **Weak response of Britain and France through appeasement?**
- **Treaty of Versailles being too harsh?**
- **Fear of Communism?**
- **Nazi-Soviet Pact gave Hitler final confidence to act?**
- **The League of Nations failing?**
- **The USA pursuing a policy of isolationism throughout the 1930s?**

Conflict and Tension 1918-1945: Exam Help Sheet

4 mark Source: 'How do you know.'

"Source A suggests... How do you know?"

TIP: Identify two different aspect in two paragraphs.

Paragraph 1: Identify **one aspect of the source** and explain how it supports the claim in the question

Paragraph 2: Identify **a second aspect** from the source and explain how it supports the claim **OR** explain how the **provenance** supports the claim in the question

12 Mark Source: SPOOC

"How useful are sources B and C in studying..."

TIP: SPOOC for source B then C.

S - Source. 1 sentence. "The source suggests..."

P – Provenance. Who, When, Purpose. Does this make the source useful?

O – Own knowledge Accurate. Include all own knowledge about the event which matches the source

O – Own knowledge Missing. Include all knowledge about the event that is missing from the source

C – Conclusion. How useful is the source in studying the event?

8 Mark Write an Account

"Write an account of..."

TIP: Cause Events Consequence. **Remember: Causes and Consequences are more important** than Events.

Explain the **causes** and detail

Describe the events of the main days

Explain as many **affects/impacts/consequences** of the key event as you can

16 Mark Essay.

"..... was the most important in....." How far do you agree with the statement?

TIP: Factor detailed paragraph, plus other factor paragraphs and a conclusion.

Paragraph 1: **Factor named in the question.** Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Paragraph 2/3/4: **Different/other factors** of your choice. Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Conclusion: Explain that all factors were important. Then **Agree or Disagree** with the statement in the question and explain your **decision**.

Example exam questions

Question 1 examples – 4 marks – source

1. Source B dislikes Germany. How do you know?

Source B – Cartoon from the British Magazine Punch, 23 April 1919. ‘The Reckoning’. ‘German: monstrous, I call it, Why its fully a quarter of what we should have made them pay, if we’d won.’



2. Source C suggests the League is weak. How do you know?

Source C – A cartoon from Punch magazine, Dec 1919. The figure represents the USA



Question 2 examples – 12 marks

1. Study Sources B and C below. How useful are Sources B and C to an historian studying the causes of the Second World War? Explain your answer using Sources B and C and your contextual knowledge.

Source B Winston Churchill speaking in the House of Commons in October 1938 after the Munich Conference. Churchill was a leading British politician.

Appeasement has been totally defeated. The Munich agreement has abandoned Czechoslovakia. This is a disaster for Great Britain and France. There can never be friendship between British democracy and an aggressive, pitiless and murderous Nazi government. The danger still exists and now we will pay the price for pursuing good intentions, avoiding a fight and neglecting our air defences.

Source C A British cartoon published in September 1939 commenting on the Nazi-Soviet Pact. The standing figures represent Hitler and Stalin. The figure on the ground represents Poland.



2. Study Sources B and C below. How useful are Sources B and C to a historian studying opinions about the Treaty of Versailles? Explain your answer using Sources B and C and your contextual knowledge.

Source B

A German newspaper cartoon published in July 1919, entitled 'Clemenceau the Vampire'. The figure on the bed represents Germany.



Source C

From JM Keynes' book 'The Economic Consequences of the Peace' published in 1919. Keynes was a leading economist who worked for the British government but resigned in protest three weeks before the Treaty of Versailles was signed.

Nations should not morally visit on the children of their enemies the wrongdoings of parents or of rulers. The Treaty includes no provisions for the economic recovery of Europe – nothing to make the defeated Central Empires into good neighbours. The Big Three were preoccupied with other issues - Clemenceau to crush the economic life of his enemy, Lloyd George to bring home something that would be acceptable for a week, the President to do nothing that was not just and right.

3. Study Sources B and C below. How useful are Sources B and C to a historian studying the Abyssinian Crisis? Explain your answer using Sources B and C and your contextual knowledge.

Source B

From a cartoon published in a British magazine, August 1935.
(A memorandum is a type of note).



THE AWFUL WARNING.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND
(together).

“WE DON'T WANT YOU TO FIGHT,
BUT, BY JINGO, IF YOU DO,
WE SHALL PROBABLY ISSUE A JOINT MEMORANDUM
SUGGESTING A MILD DISAPPROVAL OF YOU.”

Source C

From a speech by Sir Samuel Hoare, the British Foreign Secretary, to the House of Commons, December 1935.

Mussolini made it clear that if he had to go to war, his aim would be to wipe the name of Abyssinia from the map.

I have been terrified by the thought that we might make Abyssinia think that the League could do more than it can. In the end there would be a terrible moment of disappointment when Abyssinia would be destroyed altogether.

Question 3 examples – 8 marks – write an account

1. Write an account of how the Armistice of November 1918 led to disagreements among the allied leaders during the Paris Peace Conference.

2. Write an account of how Hitler's policies made Germany stronger by the end of 1935.

3. Write an account of how the membership of the League of Nations affected its ability to achieve its aims.

4. Write an account of how the depression affected the work of the League of Nations in the 1930s.

5. Write an account of how the events in Austria in 1934 demonstrated some of the Hitler's early weaknesses.

6. Write an account of how Italy invaded Abyssinia and its effect on the League of Nations.

Question 4 examples – 16 marks + 4 SPAG – essay question

1. 'When history asks who or what caused the Second World War, the finger must surely be pointed at Neville Chamberlain.' How far do you agree with this statement?

2. 'The outbreak of war in September 1939 was due to the actions of Hitler'. How far do you agree with this statement?

3. 'The main weakness of the Treaty of Versailles was the decision to impose reparations on Germany'. How far do you agree with this statement?

4. 'The military terms were the most hated part of the Treaty of Versailles for Germany'. How far do you agree with this statement?

5. 'Georges Clemenceau was the most satisfied of the big three with the final outcome of the treaty of Versailles.' How far do you agree with this statement?

6. 'The main reason for the League of Nations being seen as weak in the 1920s was the absence of the USA'. How far do you agree with this statement? CAREFUL WITH DATES

7. 'The depression was main reason the League of nations failed.' How far do you agree with this statement?

8. 'Appeasement was the best way to deal with Hitler's Germany during the 1930s.' How far do you agree with this statement?

9. The main reason for the outbreak of war in September 1939 was Hitler's aggression.' How far do you agree with this statement?

10. The invasion of the Rhineland was Hitler's greatest achievement in his foreign policy. How far do you agree with this statement?

11. Germany was treated harshly in comparison to the other treaties imposed on its allies. How far do you agree with this statement?



**KEEP
CALM
AND
ACE YOUR
FINAL EXAMS**