



Mark Scheme (Results)

January 2026

Pearson Edexcel International

Advanced Level in History (WHI01/1C)

PAPER 1: Depth Study with Interpretations

Option 1C: Germany, 1918–45

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Generic Level Descriptors for Paper 1

Targets: AO1 (10 marks): Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.

A03 (15 marks): Analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, difference ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1-6	• Simple or generalised statements are made about the view presented in the question. • Some accurate and relevant knowledge is included, but it lacks range and depth and does not directly address the issue in the question. • Judgement on the view is assertive, with little supporting evidence.
2	7-12	• Some understanding of the issue raised by the question is shown and analysis is attempted by describing some points that are relevant. • Mostly accurate knowledge is included, but it lacks range or depth and only has implicit links to issues relevant to the question. • A judgement on the view is given, but with limited support and the criteria for judgement are left implicit.
3	13-18	• Understanding and some analysis of the issue raised by the question is shown by selecting and explaining some key points of view that are relevant. • Knowledge is included to demonstrate some understanding of the issues raised by the question, but material lacks range or depth • Attempts are made to establish criteria for judgement on the view and to relate the overall judgement to them, although with weak substantiation.
4	19-25	• Key issues relevant to the question are explored by analysing and explaining the issues of interpretation raised by the claim. • Sufficient knowledge is deployed to demonstrate understanding of the issues raised by the question and to meet most of its demands. • Valid criteria by which the view can be judged are established and applied in the process of coming to a judgement. Although some of the evaluations may only be partly substantiated, the overall judgement is supported.

Question	Indicative content
1	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether in the years 1919-24, the main reason why the Weimar Republic survived was because it dealt successfully with economic problems. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Weimar Republic resolved the reparations issue by agreeing the resumption of payments to France through the Dawes Plan and this helped stabilise the economy • The Weimar Republic secured the eventual withdrawal of the French from the Ruhr and restored the production of essential materials in a crucial industrial area • The Weimar Republic took measures to balance the budget, which included the sacking of 700,000 state employees • The Weimar Republic under Stresemann established the <i>Rentenmark</i>, to replace the old mark, as a means of solving hyperinflation • The Weimar Republic opened the <i>Rentenbank</i> (which became the Reichsbank) to oversee and maintain the value of Germany's currency. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The Weimar Republic dealt successfully with threats from the left, e.g. the Spartacists, which were dealt with by the use of the <i>Freikorps</i>, ensured it was not overthrown and this contributed to its survival • The Weimar Republic dealt successfully with threats from the right, e.g. the Kapp Putsch, by civil service refusal to cooperate and the Munich Putsch, by arrest and imprisonment, ensured its survival • The Weimar Constitution created a system of checks and balances, a long list of civil rights and allowed an element of regional authority, all of which aided the Weimar Republic's survival. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
2	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether, in the years 1924-28, Nazi Party re-organisation was the main reason for the survival of the Nazis. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • In 1925, the NSDAP was re-founded and the party was re-organised into a centralised bureaucratic entity; at the Bamberg Conference (1926), a new autocratic and centralised structure was accepted • Bouhler and Schwarz divided the Nazi Party into regions and this was crucial to the survival of the Nazi Party • In 1926, Goebbels began planning for the first time how propaganda could be used in the media to promote the Nazi Party and its programme • The Hitler Youth and Nazi Students' Association were founded, which added support for the party and aided survival. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The weakness of the Weimar Constitution meant that small parties, such as the NSDAP, could gain representation and, hence, support and survive • Hitler's trial and imprisonment were significant for the survival of the Nazi's as he gained publicity and it gave him time to rethink party organisation • The Nazi Party won its first Reichstag seats, 32, in the May 1924 election partly as a consequence of Hitler's trial and imprisonment • The ban on the Nazi Party was enforced weakly and lifted in 1925, and this enabled the Nazi Party to survive, develop and grow. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
3	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether, in the years 1933-39, Nazi policies improved the lives of women in Germany. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Women's lives were improved because women felt more valued as a result of the Nazi Party's portrayal of them as mothers of the next generation • Some women valued the opportunity interest-free loans gave them to stay at home and look after children and withdraw from the labour market • Women benefitted from the improved living standards resulting from falling unemployment and the recovery in the economy. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • Nazi ideology fundamentally opposed the social and economic emancipation of women • Professional women were forced to leave their well-paid jobs as doctors, teachers or lawyers • Women were excluded from all senior positions within the Nazi Party structure • The need for an expanded workforce in the later 1930s led to long hours in the factories and on the land, and coupled with the 'home' role made life for women arduous • The three 'Ks' simply reinforced the domestic role of the female within society. Other relevant material must be credited.

Question	Indicative content
4	Answers will be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the generic mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material that is indicated as relevant. Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on whether Germany's defeat in the Second World War was due more to the strategic mistakes made by Hitler and his high command than to the impact of Allied bombing in Germany. The evidence supporting the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The strategic mistake of invading the USSR while still trying to defeat Britain, and declaring war on the USA while still fighting the USSR, meant war on too many fronts, and this contributed to Germany losing the war • The strategic mistake of not trying to occupy the crucial British naval base of Malta, and the massive reinforcement of Tunisia, which, by 1943, proved to be a disaster • Hitler's strategic obsession with the offensive, e.g. focus on bombers and not fighter planes, and then development of 'wonder weapons' • During the Soviet counter-attack (November 1942), Hitler refused to allow the Sixth Army to retreat, which ultimately resulted in German soldiers surrendering at Stalingrad, marking a significant turning point in the war • The limited success of the switch to bombing Berlin from 1943. The evidence countering or modifying the given view should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include: • The bombing campaigns had a direct effect on industrial production, e.g. workers were redirected to rebuilding schemes and vital aircraft and tank production were decreased, which contributed to Germany losing the war • The bombing campaigns resulted in significant civilian death and injury and infrastructure destruction, which impacted on morale and support for the war, e.g. absenteeism and lack of confidence in an eventual victory • The bombing campaigns seriously damaged the German Airforce, which had a major impact on Germany's ability to fight on both eastern and western fronts • The bombing campaigns forced Germany, in 1943, to divert two million men away from war fronts into anti-aircraft service. Other relevant material must be credited.