

Weimar Newspaper: Teachers notes

Learning outcomes: -

All pupils will understand:

- How WW1 ended
- Why Germany needed a new Government in 1919
- Why and how the Weimar Republic was set up
- The problems faced by the Weimar Republic in 1919
- How the Weimar System worked
- Who supported and who opposed the Weimar Republic

Most pupils will understand:

- The strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar system of Government

Some pupils will have progressed further and will understand

- Whether the Weimar Republic was in a position to deal with its problems in 1919

Lesson structure: -

Lesson 1: Explanation of task and distribution of resources (10)/time to read press conference questions and develop more (5)/press conference (teacher is Government representative) (20)/pupils answer worksheet questions to clarify understanding (15)/whole class recap (10)/homework additional research (optional)

Lesson 2: Recap task (10)/pupils plan article (30)/pupils begin to write up article (20)/homework to improve or type up or decorate article

Resources: -

textbooks/worksheets/paper

Weimar Republic Newspaper

It is 1919 and you are a newspaper journalist. You have been sent by your editor to a small town in Germany where a whole new system of Government for Germany is being set up. This new government is called the Weimar Republic and it is the biggest news story of the year so far. You have to come home with a great story to go on the front page of your newspaper.



Your editor wants you to cover these 3 issues:

- Why the Weimar Republic is being set up
- How the new government is to be structured
- How successfully will it be able to deal with Germany's problems?

How the journalistic process will work:

- 1) Plan questions to ask at a Press Conference with the new Government
- 2) Attend the Press Conference, make notes and ask questions
- 3) Use the resources given to you at the press conference to make notes on the key issues
- 4) Plan your newspaper article
- 5) Write your newspaper article

You will have 2 hours 'in the office' plus as much of your own time as you wish to complete the article, but the article must be with the editor on time.

The best articles will get published and the authors will be rewarded.



Press Conference



Remember to take notes during the Press Conference.

You may wish to ask questions like these:

Why does Germany need a new Government in 1919?

What has happened to Germany's old leaders?

Why is the new Government called the Weimar Republic?

Why has the new Government been set up in Weimar not Berlin?

Who is now allowed to vote in elections in Germany?

What can the people vote for?

How is the Chancellor (Prime Minister) going to be chosen?

Can we see a diagram showing the organisation of the Weimar Republic?

Name at least 3 strengths of the Weimar Republic?

Name at least 2 weaknesses of the Weimar Republic?

What is Article 48?

Does everybody support the new system of Government?

Why is the new system very unpopular with some people?

What problems is the Government most worried about in Germany today?

Will the laws of the Weimar Republic help or hinder its ability to deal with its problems?

Your own questions?



Weimar newspaper: The key information



Check your understanding to make sure that your article will contain no errors.

- *Answer these questions*

- 1) Why did Germany need a new Government in 1919?
- 2) Why was the new Government called the Weimar Republic?
- 3) Why was the new Government set up in Weimar not Berlin?

- *Answer these questions using your textbook*

- 4) Who was now allowed to vote in elections in Germany?
- 5) Which two bodies did the people vote for?
- 6) How was the Chancellor (Prime Minister) chosen?
- 7) Name at least 3 strengths of the Weimar Republic
- 8) Name at least 2 weaknesses of the Weimar Republic (you must mention Article 48)

- 9) Draw or copy a diagram showing the organisation of the Weimar Republic

- *Extension question:*

- 10) Did the laws of the Weimar Republic help or hinder its ability to deal with its problems?

Writing up your article



You now have 1 hour 'in the office', plus as much of your own time as you wish to complete your newspaper article.

Your finalised article can be presented in any way you wish, but must answer these three questions for your readers:

- Why is the Weimar Republic being set up?
- How is the Weimar system going to work?
- Will the new government be able to solve its problems?

You may wish to set your article out like this (optional):

Headline	
Main story (How and why the Weimar Republic is being set up, what problems it has to face)	Information box (How the new system will work)
	Editorial - opinion (Strengths and weaknesses of system and how well it will deal with its problems)