

# A Level History course preparation:

**Course title: 1L The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991**

AQA website (useful for Specification, past papers, mark schemes etc)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042>

**Basis for A level preparation work** – The work below will be incredibly useful in developing your understanding of the course that you will begin in at the start of your A Levels. It is complimentary work, so that, if there is something that you do not fully understand, we will cover it in class, so you will not miss out. However, if you have completed all the work successfully then you will have an excellent foundation for the first term of the course and you will find it far easier to cope with the transition to a more in-depth style of learning.

**Guidance for A level preparation work** – The information and questions below are for your own understanding and knowledge. You should use the questions as a guide to help you build up a set of notes for your own knowledge and future revision and you do need to make sure that you have well organised, written notes as evidence of your work and understanding in order to be receive a level for the Scholarship award.



The proclamation of Prussian king Wilhelm I as German Emperor at Versailles created in 1885 by Anton von Werner

## Part 1:

Topic Question: What kind of country Germany was in 1871?



The Steel Rolling Mill was created between 1872 and 1875 by Adolph Menzel

*We are used to thinking of Germany as a central part of Europe and a powerful nation and economy today, but only 150 years ago it was a very different place. In 1871, the new country of Germany was created. A collection of 38 smaller states were united under the control of the largest, most dominant German state: Prussia. It was brought together by a series of successful wars against its neighbours: Denmark, Austria and France. We need to understand what kind of country Germany was at this time. Why was its industry so successful? What sort of divisions were there within its populations? How was this new country operated by its political elites: the Junkers? (The aristocratic, land-owners of Prussia.)*

### Video resources:

#### **Documentary on the wars of German unification:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqcGs\\_rnqll](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqcGs_rnqll)

*(Guidance – Make notes to ensure that you answer all the questions)*

- How was Germany created/ unified?
- How was Prussia viewed by other 'German' states?
- What factors explain why Prussia won its wars?
- What was Bismarck's role in starting these wars?
- How does Bismarck use these wars to unify Germany?
- How did Germany change economically and socially?
- How is it governed run? (What sort of political system did it have?)
- How did Bismarck deal with domestic enemies (such as socialists & Catholics)?
- What was the legacy of German unification?

Further Readings on Germany in the 1870s:

(Guidance - write 300-400 word summary/notes to help answer the key question)

\*Readings can be found in separate document.

1. \*Germany 1870-1970, Dr R Morgan, Chapter 2 Machine Power.

**Key Question:** What were the main economic changes occurring in Germany during this period?

2. \*Questions on German History, Paths to Parliamentary Democracy, 2. New Social Structures and political theories.

**Key Question:** What were the main ideas in Germany during this period?

**Part 2: (Term 6)**

**Topic question: How did Bismarck control Germany between 1871-1890?**



**Portrait of Otto Eduard Leopold von Bismarck, created in 1890 by Franz von Lenbach**

*The leading figure in this new Germany was a Prussian Junker named Otto von Bismarck. He became Chancellor of the new German Reich (Empire) and was responsible to most government decisions. You will have already seen how he helped to unify the different states to create Germany. You will now need to examine what kind of man he was and how effectively he controlled Germany. You will need to understand how he created and then dealt with his enemies and how he survived as Chancellor for so long and held the new Germany together.*

Video resources:

Lecture: Jonathan Steinberg - Bismarck: A Life - November 29, 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw47NhDR4zw> (starts at 8:30)

*(Guidance – Make notes to ensure that you answer all the questions)*

- What type of man was Otto von Bismarck?
- What sort of career did he have?
- What kind of image did he create for himself?
- What was his relationship like with the Kaiser?

Further Reading on Bismarck's Chancellorship:

A very clear overview of Bismarck's time in power:

<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/europe/bisdome.htm>

*(Guidance – Make notes to ensure that you answer all the questions)*

- What were the democratic strengths and weaknesses of the new German Constitution?
- Who were the main political parties in Germany?
- What was the policy of the Kulturkampf?
- How successful was the policy?
- What changes occurred in the German Economy and society?
- How effectively did Bismarck deal with the Socialists?
- Why did Bismarck fall from power?

Further Reading on Bismarck's Germany:

*(Guidance - write 300-400 word summary/notes to help answer the key question)*

1. \*Bismarck... and the development of the Germany, Ian R Mitchel, Chapter 9 Bismarck and the Liberals

**Key Question:** What sort of relationship did Bismarck have with the Liberals of Germany?

2. \*A History of Germany 1815-1990, William Carr, pp 140-145 (The end of Bismarck)

**Key Question:** What was Bismarck's legacy?

**Extension work:**

An excellent research website that provides great detail and source information on the whole Germany course:

<http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/index.cfm> - Overview Page

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/section.cfm?section\\_id=10](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/section.cfm?section_id=10) – 1870/80s section

*(Guidance - Use these pages to carry out further research on the 1870s and 1880s, or any topic of interest in Germany between 1871-1991. This should be around 500 words in length and can include images and diagrams)*