

NAME _____ Tutor group _____

My target grade is _____

History Paper 1

Revision

Booklet

Exam Date: June 5th



Paper 1

One hour and 45 minutes

Revision help

Useful sites

www.johnndclare.net/

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/

www.schoolshistory.co.uk

- Revision APP: GCSE Modern World History Bitesize Last-minute Learner. £1.49 from I Tunes
- This Revision Guide
- Your exercise book
- GCSE History AQA B Modern World History ISBN 978-0435-510-41-1
- CGP Revision guide
- Other commercially produced guides suitable for AQA Specification B Modern World History.

Contents:

- 1) Getting Started
- 2) How do I answer the exam questions?
- 3) What topics do I need to revise?
- 4) Practice exam questions
- 5) Example 10 mark answers

Getting started

Remember that revision has two main purposes. The first is to understand the content of all the topics you have studied. The second is to practise presenting your knowledge in the right way in the exam.

Revision may seem like a daunting task, but these hints and tips will make it seem a lot simpler.

- Organise your notes before you start and make sure you have everything you need.
- Know what you will be tested upon in the exam. The table below shows the key questions and in the second section of this booklet there is a more detailed breakdown of what you need to know.

<p>Unit 1 <u>The origins of the First World War</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why were there two armed camps in Europe in 1914?• Why did war break out in 1914?
<p>Unit 2 <u>Peacemaking 1918-1919 and the League of Nations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the Treaty of Versailles establish peace?• Why did the League fail in its aim to keep peace?
<p>Unit 3 <u>Hitler's foreign policy and the origins of the Second World War</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did Hitler challenge and exploit the Treaty of Versailles to March 1938?• Why did Chamberlain's policy of appeasement fail to prevent the outbreak of war in 1939?

- Plan a realistic revision timetable. History is probably not the only subject you will need to revise.
- When revising make sure you are in a calm and organised environment. If your desk is messy you won't be focussed.
- Set yourself realistic targets and divide your time into small sections of about half an hour. Give yourself lots of breaks and rewards.
- Some people find it helpful to revise with a friend and test each other.
- Try not to cram too much in. Pick out key points and summarise the main ideas and events.
- Find a revision style that suits you. Everyone is different so don't worry if your friends are revising in a different way from you. If your way works stick to it.
- Complete practice questions and hand them to your teacher to mark.
- Don't leave everything until the last minute.

1. How do I answer the exam questions?

You must answer 3 questions on the 3 topics you have studied. Each question is worth 20 marks and each question has three parts. There are three kinds of questions

1. A "Describe" question (4 marks)
2. An 'Interpretations' question (6 marks)
3. An "Either-Or" question (10 marks)

A good degree of factual knowledge is the underpinning of all work

How to approach the questions

1. A 'Describe' question

You can give a brief statement of what the main issue is and then add 3 points of reasonable factual depth.

One way to prepare for this is to learn all facts about these events off by heart

2. An 'Interpretation' question

You are given a quotation or a cartoon that offers a particular interpretation of events. You are then asked if you agree with its interpretation.

Analysing a particular interpretation of events is an important skill for a historian. You can prepare for the exam by choosing any of the sources in Unit 1 and answering these questions

- a) Do I agree with the interpretation of events?
- b) Looking at the content and **provenance** of the source, **WHY** do I agree or disagree with it?

3. An 'Either-Or' question

As you learn about the First World War you will come to understand that a number of events can be seen as **CAUSES** of the war. In the 'Either-Or' part of the exam you are given two events that were among the causes.

You are then asked to consider which of the two was the more important cause. You have to **DESCRIBE** each event; **EXPLAIN HOW** each was a cause of the major development and **ASSESS** which one was the more important cause.

This is the highest scoring question it is worth 50% of the marks on the paper.

Go on to the next page to see an Exam Answer Toolkit!

Exam Answer Toolkit

Question	How to get full marks	How to structure it	Sentence starters
Describe. ...(4)	Two or more detailed and well explained points using the PEE format	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give a brief general opening statement about the issue 2. One aspect in detail 3. Another aspect in detail) 4. A final aspect in detail 	<p><i>The.....was.....</i></p> <p><i>Firstly.....</i></p> <p><i>Secondly.....</i></p> <p><i>Finally.....</i></p> <p><i>The source shows.....</i></p> <p><i>The provenance of the source is....</i></p> <p><i>This reduces/ increases the accuracy of the interpretation because.....</i></p> <p><i>The content of the source is accurate because it is supported by the fact that.....</i></p> <p><i>However some things in the source are not completely accurate because they are challenged by the fact that...</i></p> <p><i>Overall...../ In conclusion.....</i></p>
Do you agree?... (6) <i>(The interpretation question)</i>	Agrees or disagrees using source AND own knowledge. Reach an evaluated conclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the interpretation given by the source 2. Refer to the provenance of the source 3. Explain how and why the provenance reduces or increases the accuracy of the interpretation 4. Explain parts of the content which are accurate when compared with your own knowledge 5. Explain parts of the content which are not accurate when compared with your own knowledge 6. Reach a balanced conclusion which refers to the content and provenance of the source 	<p><i>The....was.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important/ significant in causing.....because.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important to a large extent/ only to a small extent because.....</i></p> <p><i>The....was.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important/ significant in causing.....because.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important to a large extent/ only to a small extent because.....</i></p> <p><i>When comparing both factors.....is more important than.....because....</i></p>
Which one of these reasons was more responsible for/ more important t....(10) <i>(The Either-Or question')</i>	DESCRIBES, EXPLAINS and ASSESSES both factors in depth and reaches a CONCLUSION/	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the first factor 2. Explain it's role/ importance 3. Assess it's role/ importance 4. Describe the second factor 5. Explain it's role/ importance 6. Assess it's role/ importance 7. Conclusion comparing the two factors against each other 	<p><i>The....was.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important/ significant in causing.....because.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important to a large extent/ only to a small extent because.....</i></p> <p><i>The....was.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important/ significant in causing.....because.....</i></p> <p><i>It was important to a large extent/ only to a small extent because.....</i></p> <p><i>When comparing both factors.....is more important than.....because....</i></p>

Topics to revise

Topic 1

Why were there two armed camps in Europe in 1914?

Why did war break out in 1914?

'Describe'

• the Triple Alliance	
• the Triple Entente	
• Kaiser Wilhelm's foreign policy	
• the Moroccan crisis of 1905 and 1911	
• the Bosnian crisis of 1908	
• the military arms race	
• the naval arms race	
• Austria-Hungary's aims in the Balkans	
• the Black Hand	
• Serbia's aims in the Balkans	
• the assassination in Sarajevo	
• the events of 28 th June to 4 th August 1914	
• the Schlieffen plan	

'Why?' Think of 2 reasons for each situation

• did Britain fear Germany?	• did Princip assassinate Franz Ferdinand?
• did Germany resent Britain?	• did Austria Hungary declare war on Serbia?
• did Austria Hungary fear Serbia?	• did Russia mobilise?
• did Russia support Serbia?	• did Germany declare war on Russia?
• did Germany intervene in Morocco?	• did German troops invade Belgium?
• did Austria Hungary annex Bosnia?	• did Britain enter the war?

How? Think of 2 ways each factor led to the outcome

How did this	Cause this?
• the system of alliances	• greater international tension
• the naval arms race	• hostility between Germany and Britain
• the Moroccan crises, 1906 and 1911	• tension between Germany and France
• the Bosnian crisis of 1908	• tension between Russia and Austria Hungary
• the assassination of Franz Ferdinand	• the First World War

• alliances	• the slide to war 28 th June to 4 th August 1914
• the Schlieffen plan	• the outbreak of fighting in August
• Austria Hungary	• the First World War
• Russia	• the First World War
• Germany	• the First World War

Topic 3

How did Hitler challenge and exploit the Treaty of Versailles to March 1938?

Why did Chamberlains policy of appeasement fail to prevent the outbreak of war in 1939?

'Describe'

• 'Hitler's aims in foreign policy	
• the return of the Saar to Germany in 1935	
• Hitler's rearmament of Germany	
• the remilitarisation of the Rhineland	
• Anschluss with Austria 1938	
• the policy of appeasement	
• the benefits and disadvantages of appeasement	
• the Sudetenland crisis and the Munich agreement	
• the occupation of Czechoslovakia 1939	
• the Nazi Soviet Pact August 1939	
• the invasion of Poland and the outbreak of war 1939	

'WHY?' Think of two reasons for each situation

• did Hitler want to rearm Germany?	• did Hitler want the Sudetenland?
• did Hitler want to reoccupy the Rhineland?	• did Britain abandon appeasement in 1939?
• did Hitler want Anschluss?	• did Stalin make a pact with Hitler?
• did Chamberlain appease Hitler?	• did Stalin not make a pact with Britain?

HOW? Think of 2 ways each factor led to the outcome

How did this	Cause this?
• the Treaty of Versailles	• Hitler's aggressive foreign policy
• the reoccupation of the Saar	• an increase in Hitler's international aggression
• the remilitarisation of the Rhineland	• an increase in Hitler's international aggression
• the failure of the League of Nations	• Appeasement
• the Sudetenland crisis	• the Second World War
• the occupation of Czechoslovakia	• the Second World War
• the Nazi Soviet pact	• the Second World War

Topic 2

How did the Treaty of Versailles establish peace?

Why did the League of Nations fail in its aim to keep peace?

'Describe'

• The Paris Peace Conference
• The aims of Clemenceau
• The aims of Wilson
• The aims of Lloyd George
• the territorial, military and financial terms of the Treaty of Versailles
• the reaction of the Germans to the Treaty
• the changing membership of the League
• the structure and powers of the League
• the Leagues strengths and weaknesses
• the successes of the League in the 1920's
• The Manchurian crisis 1931-33
• The Abyssinian crisis 1935-36
• the Disarmament Conference 1932-34

'WHY?' Think of two reasons for each situation

• did France want revenge?	• did the Treaty fail to satisfy the British?
• did Clemenceau clash with Wilson?	• did the USA refuse to join the League?
• did the German hate the Treaty of Versailles?	• did Japan invade Manchuria?
• did the Treaty fail to satisfy the Americans?	• did Italy invade Abyssinia?

HOW? Think of 2 ways each factor led to the outcome

How did this	Cause this?
• the Treaty of Versailles	• the rise of Hitler and the Second World War
• the War Guilt clause	• anger in Germany
• reparations	• anger in Germany
• loss of territory	• anger in Germany
• the Hoare Laval pact	• damage to the league
• the Abyssinian crisis	• the failure of the league
• the Manchurian crisis	• damage to the league

Practice Exam Questions

Topic 1

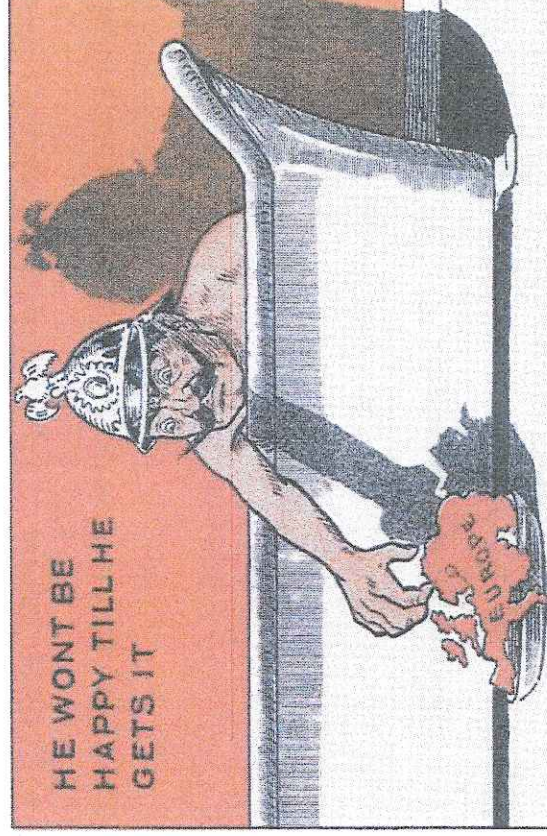
DESCRIBE Questions (4 marks)

- 1) Describe the reasons why the Alliance System made war more likely.
- 2) Describe how the Empires of Europe built up their armies before 1914
- 3) Describe the competition over naval power between Britain and France in the run up to the First World War.
- 4) Describe the reasons for the crisis in Morocco in 1905.
- 5) Describe the results of the Bosnian/Balkan Crisis of 1908.
- 6) Describe the events of the Agadir Crisis of 1911
- 7) Describe the results of the 1912-1913 Balkan for the Alliance System in Europe.
- 8) Describe the causes of the Assassination of Franz Ferdinand.
- 9) Describe how the death of Franz Ferdinand led to a war between many nations.
- 10) Describe the importance of the Schlieffen Plan
- 11) Describe the reasons why Britain had been reluctant to become involved in the War.
- 12) Describe the reasons why War broke out in 1914

INTERPRETATION Questions (6 marks)

- 1) **Study source A.** The source suggests a reason why Britain went to war against Germany in 1914. Do you agree that this was the main reason why Britain went to war against Germany in 1914?

Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and your **own knowledge**



A postcard published in Britain in 1914.
The person in the bath is Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany.

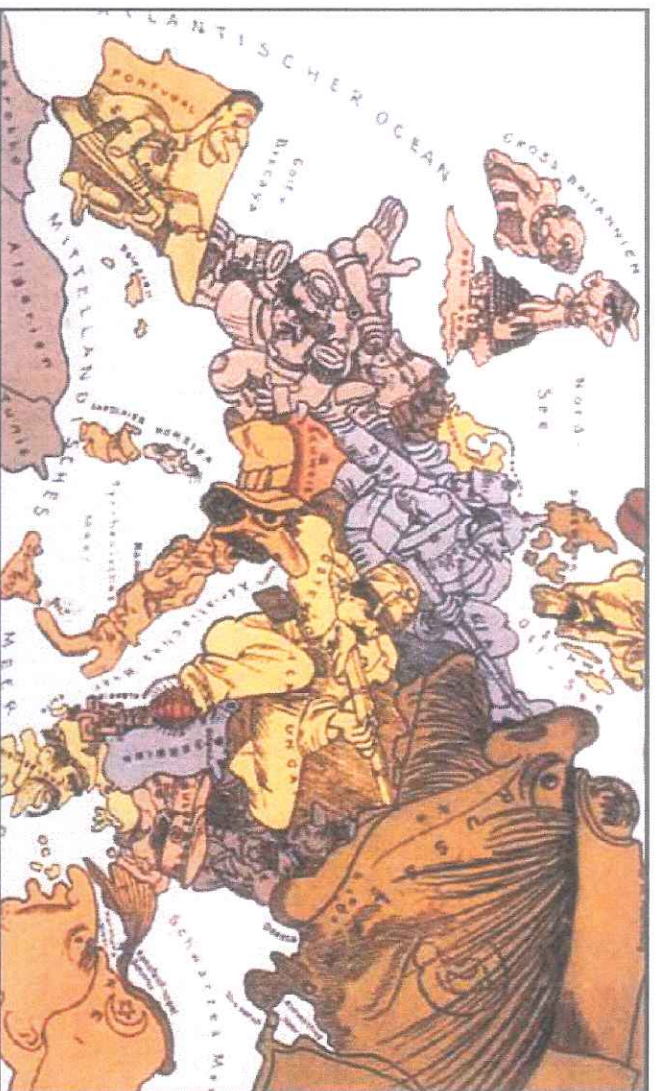
- 2) **Study Source A.** How accurate is this description of the relationship between Britain and France?

Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and your **own knowledge**

"The fundamental fact of course is that the *Entente* is not an alliance. For purposes of ultimate emergencies it may be found to have no substance at all. For the *Entente* is nothing more than a frame of mind, a view of general policy which is shared by the governments of two countries, but which may be, or become, so vague as to lose all content."

Source A : Minutes of a British Foreign Office Meeting in 1911

3) **Study Source A.** How accurate is this interpretation of Europe in 1914?
Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using
it's content and your **own knowledge**



A German Cartoon published in 1914

4) **Source A suggests that Wilhelm I was responsible for the Naval Race.**
Do you agree?

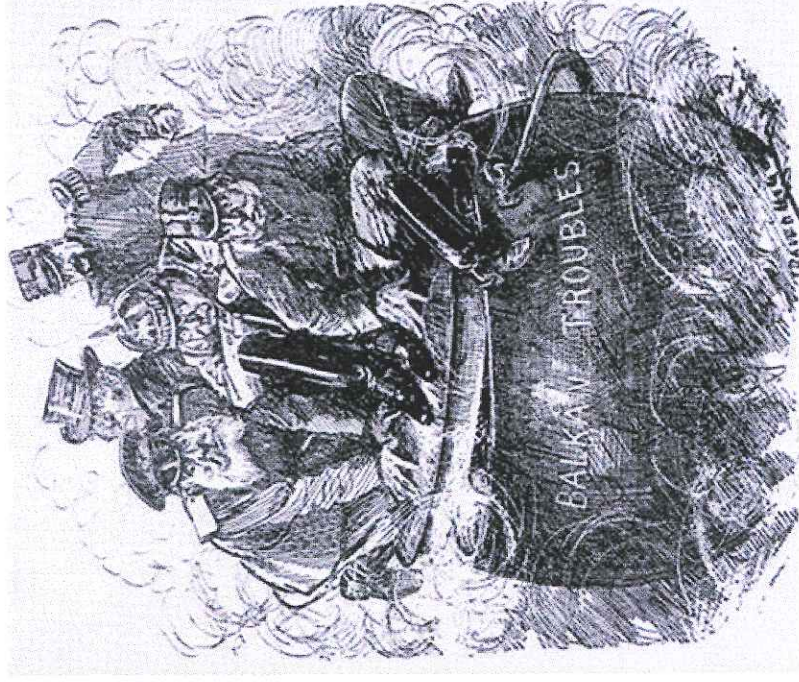
Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using
it's content and your **own knowledge**

‘The German emperor Wilhelm II had a dream of being an imperial ruler. He set
his sights on having an Empire to match that of the British. To do this he would
need to have a large and powerful navy. In 1900 Wilhelm decided to put this
dream into practice.’

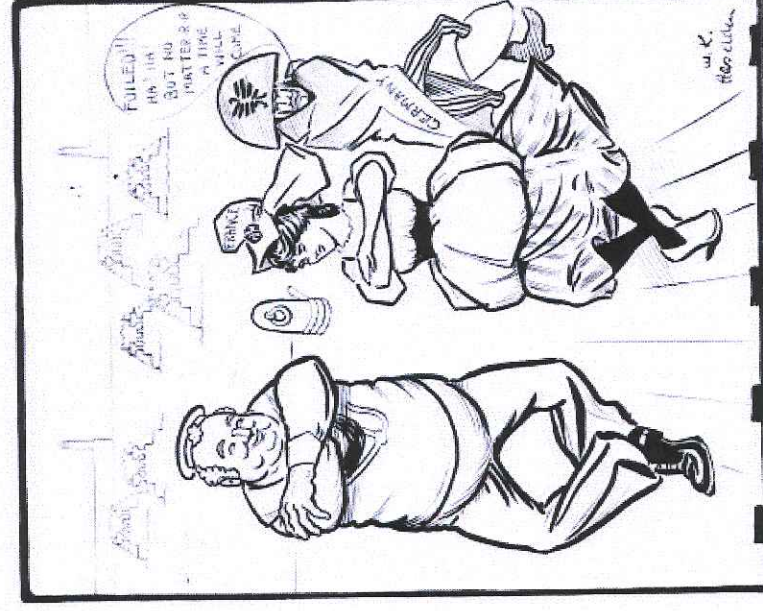
From a History website for schoolchildren (2005)

- 5) **Study Source A.** The source suggests that Wilhelm II was responsible for the Moroccan crisis of 1905. Do you agree?

Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and your **own knowledge**



- 8) **Study Source A.** The source suggests that the Balkan wars of 1912-13 were a major threat to peace in Europe. Do you agree?
Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and your **own knowledge**



Source A: A 1912 British cartoon from Punch Magazine with the caption 'BOILING POINT'

9) Study Source A: **How accurate is the source below in describing the events of the 28th June 1914?**

Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and your own knowledge

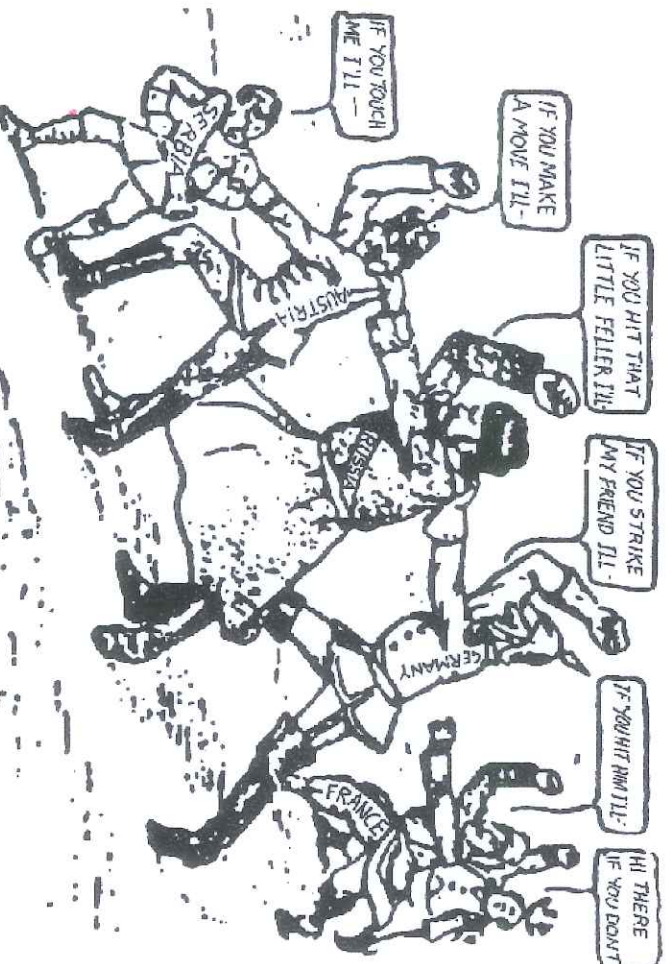
As the car quickly reversed, a thin stream of blood spurted from His Highness's mouth onto my right check. As I was pulling out my handkerchief to wipe the blood away from his mouth, the Duchess cried out to him, "For God's sake! What has happened to you?" At that she slid off the seat and lay on the floor of the car, with her face between his knees.

I had no idea that she too was hit and thought she had simply fainted with fright. Then I heard His Imperial Highness say, "Sophie, Sophie, don't die. Stay alive for the children!"

From the memoir of Count Franz von Harrach, who was stood on the sideboard of the car on 28th June 1914.

10) **Study source A.** How accurate is the source below in explaining the steps to war after the assassination of Franz Ferdinand?

Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and your own knowledge



This cartoon - 'A Chain of Friendship' - appeared in the American newspaper the Brooklyn Eagle in July 1914. The caption read: "If Austria attacks Serbia, Russia will fall upon Austria, Germany upon Russia, and France and England upon Germany."

- 11) **Study Source A.** The source suggests the Schlieffen Plan failed because of the successful British counterattack. Do you agree?

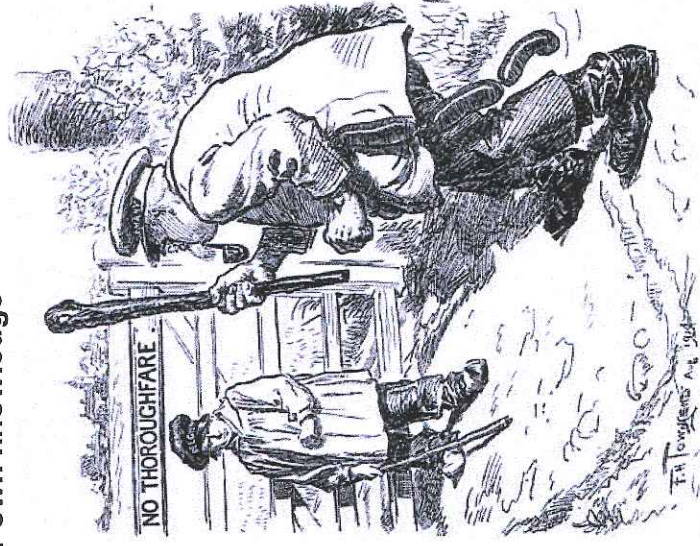
Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and **your own knowledge**

On Tuesday, October 20, a determined but unsuccessful attack was made on virtually the whole British line, and at one point where one of our brigades made a counter-attack 1,100 Germans were found dead in a trench and 40 prisoners were taken. Everywhere the British troops have fought with the most splendid courage. For five days at Ypres they held in check, although overwhelmingly outnumbered, 250,000 Germans who fought recklessly to break a way through.

From an article in the Manchester Guardian (28th October 1914)

- 12) **Study Source A.** The source suggests Britain became involved in WW1 because Belgium was being unjustly attacked by a stronger, aggressive power. Do you agree?

Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and **your own knowledge**



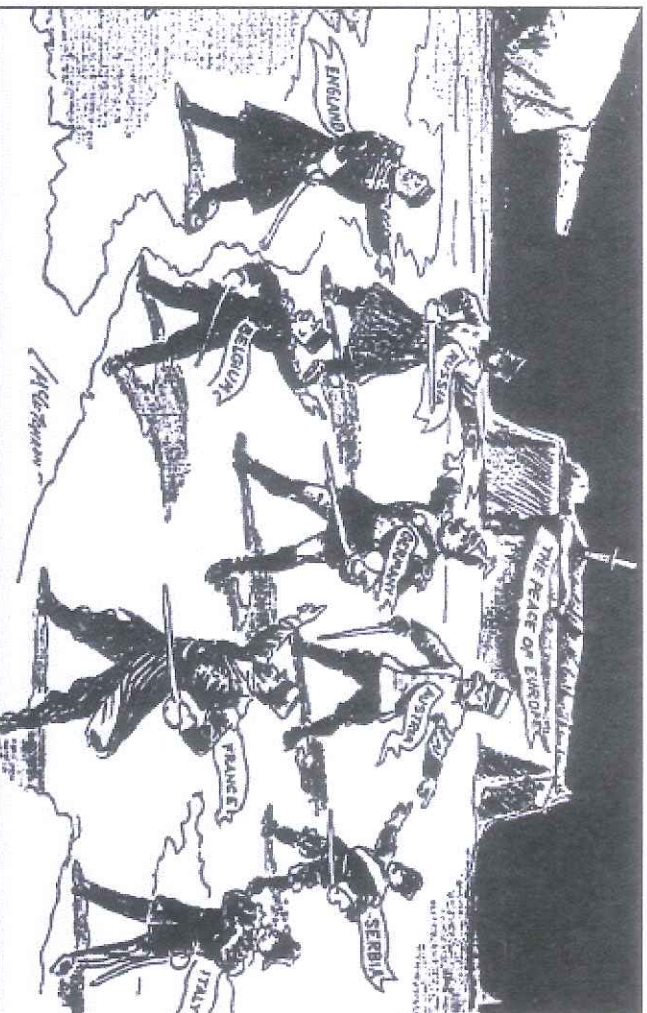
BRavo, BELGIUM!

A British Cartoon from Punch magazine in 1914

13) **Study source A.** The source suggests that all nations were responsible for the outbreak of WW1 in 1914. Do you agree?

Explain your answer by referring to the purpose of the source as well as using it's content and your own knowledge

The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?



Source: John McCutcheon, *The Chicago Tribune*; H. H. Windsor, *Carbons Magazine* (adapted)

Study source A . The source suggests that all nations were responsible for the war which broke out in 1914. How far do you agree?

'We muddled into war... The nations slithered over the brink into the boiling cauldron of war without any trace of apprehension or dismay...not one of them wanted war; certainly not on this scale'

A statement by David Lloyd George's War Memoirs written in 1934. He was a British government minister in 1914 and became Prime Minister during the war.

EITHER- OR Questions (10 marks)

1) Which of the following was more important in causing the Alliance System to develop?

- The geographical position of Germany in Europe
- Militarism

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

(10 marks)

2) Which of the following is more likely to cause a war in Europe to develop?

- The Alliance System
- The Arms Race

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

(10 marks)

3) Explain which you think had the greatest effect on the Alliance System in Europe. Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

- Naval Race
- Arms Race

(10 marks)

4) Which of the following was a greater reason for the strengthening of the relationship between Britain and France after 1905?

- The Moroccan Crisis of 1905
- The Naval Race

Explain your answer using your own knowledge and give a reasoned judgement.

5) Which of the following created the most tension in Europe by 1909?

- The Moroccan Crisis of 1905
- The Bosnian/Balkan Crisis of 1908

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

6) Which of the following sets of events was more likely to help to cause a war between the European powers?

- The Bosnian/Balkan Crisis of 1908
- The events in Morocco between 1905 and 1911

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

7) Which of the following sets of events created the most tension in Europe prior to 1914?

- The events in the Balkans between 1908 and 1913
- The events in Morocco between 1905 and 1911

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

- 8) Which of the following did the most to make war possible between the nations of Europe prior to 1914?
- The Alliance System
 - The role of the Black Hand Gang

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

- 9) Which of the following did the most to create war after June 1914?
- Austria-Hungary
 - Russia

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

- 10) Which of the following is the more important reason why the First World War happened?
- Austro-Hungarian fear of Serbia
 - German fear of being attacked on two fronts

Explain your answer and give a reasoned judgement.

- 11) Which of the following is the more important reason why Britain became involved in the war?
- The Schlieffen Plan
 - Kaiser Wilhelm's actions prior to 1914

- 12) Which of the following nations was most responsible for the outbreak of war in 1914?

- Austria-Hungary
- Germany

Sample 10 mark answers

Which was the more important reason for Great Britain joining the First World War in 1914?

- The naval race with Germany 1906-1914
- The Schlieffen plan

You must refer to both reasons when explaining your answer. (10 marks)

One of the reasons that Britain became involved in the First World War was the naval race with Germany. Britain had relied on their naval supremacy to maintain their Empire but when Germany copied them and began building dreadnoughts Britain became more and more suspicious of them and their relationship deteriorated. Britain felt threatened by Germany's new navy and this is possibly one of the reasons that they formalised alliances with France and Russia to ensure that they had the support of other powerful countries against the growing strength of Germany.

The Schlieffen plan was another factor that influenced Britain's entry into the war. Developed in 1905 the Schlieffen plan was Germany's military strategy to avoid fighting a war on two fronts (against both France and Russia). Part of their plan was to march through Belgium in order to invade France as this would mean the German army would have to cross through the French fortress town on the Franco German border, thus giving the invasion an element of surprise. When the Schlieffen plan was orchestrated in 1914 German troops entered Belgium and Britain who had guaranteed Belgium neutrality in 1839 declared war on Germany.

However I do not think that these two factors are exclusive of each other. The agreement that Britain had made was the best part of a century old and Britain could easily have ignored their dated obligations. In fact Britain used the German invasion as an excuse to become involved in the war because they had become increasingly concerned about Germany's imperial intentions and the Arms race had convinced them that Germany could not remain unchecked or else they would become more powerful than Britain. Britain had to continue to 'rule the waves' or their empire would be at risk and with it the economic and political power that Britain wielded on a global scale. In conclusion I think that the Arms Race and the Schlieffen plan linked to each other with one giving Britain the excuse to act on concerns that they had regarding each other.

Which was the more important reason for Great Britain joining the First World War in 1914:

- The Arms (Naval) Race with Germany 1906-1914
- The Schlieffen Plan?

You must refer to both reasons when explaining your answer

THE NAVAL RACE DID A GREAT DEAL TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS WITHIN BRITAIN THOUGH IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT BY THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN 1914, THIS CONTEST HAD ALREADY BEEN WON. Building up the German navy was a key ambition of the Kaiser as part of his Weltpolitik. A strong German navy could lead to the development of a much greater influence around the World and that might affect the position of the British Empire. Also it would be dangerous for Britain to ignore a German naval build up as it would be focused in the German Ocean (or North Sea as we now call it), thus directly affecting the British homeland whereas the British fleet was distributed around the World's oceans. The naval race became more serious after the development of the Dreadnought class of battleship in the early 1900s. The Germans were keen to match British construction levels and propaganda within Germany led by Admiral Tirpitz and the Navy Leagues meant that Britain were in danger of losing their naval advantage. This led to Britain seeking closer ties with the French and Russians and spending more on their own navy in order to maintain the "two power standard" where the British Royal Navy was as strong as the next two greatest fleets put together. THE NAVAL RACE CERTAINLY AROUSED BRITISH HOSTILITY TO GERMANY BUT BY 1912 IT HAD SUCCESSFULLY BEATEN THE CHALLENGE OF GERMAN DREADNOUGHT CONSTRUCTION, MORE LONG LASTING THOUGH WAS THE FEELING THAT THE KAISER COULD NOT BE TRUSTED.

The Schlieffen Plan was the secret orders to the German military to engage in a swift war against their rivals in France in order to defeat them quickly before turning on the larger but slower engaging Russians. The British were not part of the considerations and spent most of July 1914 seeking to avoid entanglements, Sarajevo did not affect them directly. The plan involved defeating France in six weeks following the surrender of Paris. The invasion route would take German troops through Belgium as well as France. IF GERMANY

CONTROLLED BELGIUM THEN IT COULD BE A DIRECT THREAT ACROSS THE CHANNEL TO BRITAIN. IT WAS THIS FACTOR WHICH RESULTED IN BRITISH INVOLVEMENT. Belgium was meant to be neutral from its independence in 1839, THIS VIOLATION BY THE KAISER, WHO CALLED IT A "SCRAP OF PAPER", WAS THE EVENT THAT LED TO BRITAIN'S DECLARATION OF WAR. BRITAIN COULD ALSO CLAIM THE MORAL HIGH GROUND AS GERMANY HAD BROKEN AN INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT.

The Naval Race had made the British more suspicious of Germany but it cannot be considered the main reason why they went to war when they did, it did though increase tension between the powers. Britain may have gone to war anyway to support France and Russia in 1914 but the invasion of Belgium gave Britain the justifiable pretext for joining the First World War - this is what makes it the more important reason.

Which was the more important reason why the people of Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles?

- Military and territorial restrictions
- The War Guilt clause

You must refer to both reasons when explaining your answer. (10 marks)

Versailles was a spiteful treaty in which the French and British inflicted severe terms on Germany. One of the terms that Germany hated most were the territorial restrictions.

According to these Germany lost 13% of its territory as areas such as Alsace Lorraine and the Polish Corridor were taken away. This upset people because 10% of the German population now found themselves living in different countries.

Military restrictions were similarly severe with Germany only being allowed an army of 100,000, being banned from making aeroplanes, tanks and submarines. The people of Germany hated these restrictions because they meant that Germany was left vulnerable from attack if a country such as France decided to attack in revenge.

The term that Germany possibly hated the most was the War Guilt clause. This meant that Germany accepted full responsibility for starting the war. The German population was furious about this as it humiliated and vilified them.

However I believe that the terms are all connected. The War Guilt clause meant that Germany had agreed in principle to all the other terms

of the treaty in principle including the payment of reparations which was set at £6,600 million in 1921. The repayment of reparations crippled Germany especially since soldiers left their jobs as Germany's army was restricted. Factories building aeroplanes, tanks and submarines which had boomed during the war had all closed down losing jobs income because the treaty demanded they were. The loss of land also meant that valuable resources and taxes were lost.

Therefore the military and territorial restrictions inflicted on Germany were hated because they had accepted the War Guilt clause. The people of Germany had to pay huge amounts in reparations but they quite simply did not have the money to do this. This is why the German people hated these terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

Which was the bigger threat to European peace in the 1930's?

- The remilitarisation of the Rhineland 1936
- The Nazi Soviet Pact 1939

You must refer to both reasons when explaining your answer. (10 marks)

The remilitarisation of the Rhineland in 1936 threatened peace in Europe because it demonstrated to Hitler that he could get away with violating the terms of the Treaty of Versailles without Britain and France acting to stop him. The Rhineland had been demilitarised in the treaty and Germany's army had been restricted to 100,000 men. However in 1936 Hitler sent his men back into this area. Britain did not act because Britain thought there was no point in preventing Germany from 'marching into its own backyard', and France would not act alone. Hitler saw this as a weakness and realised that he could do whatever he wanted. His next act was to unite with Austria. After this Hitler started to use force to invade other areas such as the Sudetenland followed by Czechoslovakia and then Poland.

However this was not the only threat to peace in Europe during this era. In 1939 Hitler and Stalin signed the Nazi Soviet Pact. During the First World War Germany had had to fight a war on two fronts. France and Britain in the west and Russia in the east which meant they had to divide their army. Hitler knew that if he invaded Poland Britain would declare war as Chamberlain had announced this after Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia. However it was the threat of Russia which really concerned Hitler as it was closer to Poland. The signing of this pact meant that Hitler no longer had to worry about Stalin declaring war so he no longer had to face fighting a war on 2 fronts. This gave Hitler the

confidence to invade Poland which threatened peace in Europe at this point because Chamberlain had to declare war or else they would have looked like they were backing out of their promise.

However I do not believe that the two factors are exclusive of each other. It was because Hitler believed that the Allies were weak after the failure to prevent the remilitarisation of the Rhineland that he started to invade different countries. When he set his sights on Czechoslovakia Britain warned Hitler that if he tried to invade Poland they would act. Hitler did not want to face Britain as well as Russia. So the signing of the Pact meant that Hitler no longer had to face a war on two fronts. However it would never have got this far had the Allies opposed Hitler earlier when he was too weak to resist, for example when he remilitarised the Rhineland. So I believe that these two factors actually combined in order to lead to the collapse of peace in Europe.

Which of the following events was the greater threat to peace in the 1930's?

- The annexation of Austria in March 1938
- The occupation of Czechoslovakia by Hitler in 1938-39

You must refer to both reasons when explaining your answer 10 marks

The annexation of Austria in 1938 helped Hitler in his plans to unite all German speaking peoples in one country. He had tried to take Austria in 1934 but failed. Now thanks to the Spanish civil war Hitler had the support of Mussolini and felt confident to threaten Austria. He moved troops to the border and threatened Schuschnigg the Austrian chancellor. Once Hitler and his troops entered there was a plebiscite and 99.75% voted in favour of the union.

The occupation of Czechoslovakia happened in 1938-9 and Hitler used the same bullying tactics. He began by demanding the Sudetenland as there were 3 million German speakers there and ended in taking over the whole country in March 1939. The Munich conference when Chamberlain appeased Hitler and claimed he had peace was a sham.

The annexation of Austria threatened the peace because Hitler was openly defying the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler's confidence continued to grow and he had Mussolini for an ally. Britain, France and the league had done nothing. What's more Hitler had the resources of Austria at his disposal for war making

The occupation Czechoslovakia threatened the peace too. Czechoslovakia had been betrayed Germany and Germany had gained the armaments and military resources of the Sudetenland. Britain speeded up rearmament. The USSR had felt left out and betrayed.

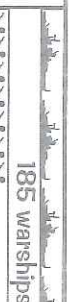









Of the two events the occupation of Czechoslovakia was the greater threat to peace. It marked the end of appeasement. Hitler had proved to Chamberlain once and for all that he could not be trusted. Hitler could not justify taking Czechoslovakia. Britain was now openly preparing for war and conscription was introduced. The invasion of Poland would not be long in coming

The Great Powers in Europe 1900

To really get to grips with why the war started, you'll need to know about the background to it.

There were Five main Rival Nations in Europe

- 1) **BRITAIN** ruled an empire of over one quarter of the world's people, and owned rich industries. Britain was an island, so it had a strong navy to protect itself and its colonies from invasion. During the 19th century, Britain had followed a policy of 'splendid isolation' — it didn't get involved in European politics.
- 2) **FRANCE** also had an overseas empire. The French were bitter about losing Alsace and Lorraine to Germany in the Franco-Prussian War in 1871.
- 3) **RUSSIA** was poor, but the biggest country in Europe. It was ruled by Tsar Nicholas II. It had no lands overseas, but wanted land in Europe and Asia with access to the sea.
- 4) **AUSTRIA-HUNGARY** was a central European empire, made up of 10 different nationalities — many of whom wanted independence. It was ruled by the Emperor Franz Joseph I.
- 5) **GERMANY** had a small empire ruled by Kaiser Wilhelm II. The Kaiser was jealous of Britain's superior sea power and rich colonies. He wanted to increase German influence and wealth abroad. The Kaiser described Germany's small empire as its 'place in the sun', and was keen to expand it.

BRITAIN	 185 warships  700 000 men
FRANCE	 62 warships  1 000 000 men
RUSSIA	 30 warships  1 200 000 men
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY	 28 warships  800 000 men
GERMANY	 100 warships  2 000 000 men

Approx. sizes of European Armies and Navies in 1914

Alliances were formed for Security

Countries often made agreements to help each other out.

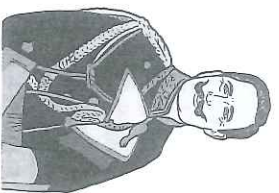
- 1) 1879: Dual Alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- 2) 1882: Triple Alliance when Italy joined the Dual Alliance.

These alliances created a large group of allies in Central Europe — making both France and Russia nervous.

- 3) 1892: Franco-Russian Alliance against the Triple Alliance.

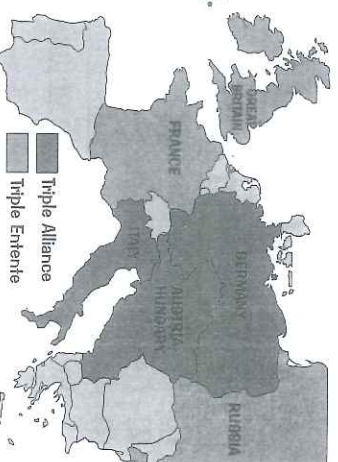
- 4) 1904: Entente Cordiale between Britain and France.

- 5) 1907: The Anglo-Russian Entente completes the Triple Entente between Russia, Britain and France.



Kaiser Wilhelm II

These ententes were not military agreements — but they ended up involving the military because of the tensions between the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. These alliances and ententes created more tension between the major powers. Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy felt threatened and surrounded by the Triple Entente. Russia was worried about Austria's intentions towards the Balkans. Meanwhile, Britain and Germany competed to build the best navy in the world...



International politics — a sneaky business...

Countries make alliances with nations who share their ideas. It's also a way of ganging up on enemies. Scribble a list of the main strengths of these countries and the alliances they formed.

Tension Builds — 1900-1914

Europe was drifting towards a major war — and Germany and Britain played a big part.

Germany and Britain began an Arms Race

- 1) The Kaiser wanted Germany to be a major world power, but he needed a bigger navy. Germany began to follow a policy known as 'Weltpolitik' — a more aggressive foreign policy aimed at increasing military strength and expanding Germany's empire.
- 2) Between 1900 and 1914 Germany attempted to double the size of its Navy.
- 3) Britain had a policy called the Two Power Standard — the Royal Navy always had to be as big as the next two strongest navies in Europe put together. It meant Britain would never be outnumbered at sea.
- 4) Britain responded to Germany's improvements in 1906 by building the first Dreadnought — a new and superior kind of battleship.
- 5) Germany built its own version in 1907-8 — but, by 1912, Britain had a new, bigger kind.
- 6) By 1914 Britain had 29 Dreadnoughts and Germany had 17.



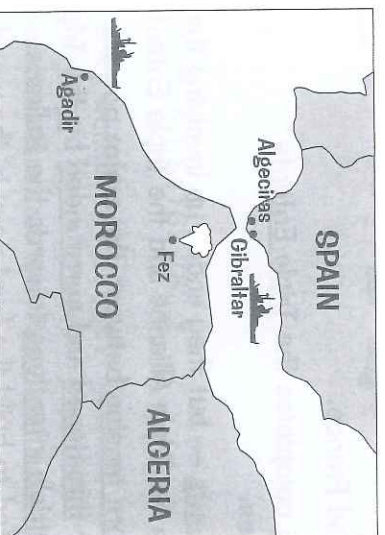
The Major Powers made Plans for War

- 1) Faced with enemies on both its eastern and western borders, Germany came up with the Schlieffen Plan in 1905. The plan was that in a war, Germany could defeat France before Russia mobilised, and then fight Russia afterwards.
- 2) France prepared Plan 17 to recapture Alsace and Lorraine from Germany.
- 3) Britain created an Expeditionary Force of 150,000 men, ready to travel immediately to Europe in case of war. The Territorial Army was also set up.
- 4) Russia started to build up its army in 1909 in case of war.

There were Two Crises over Morocco

The Moroccan Crisis 1905-6

- 1) Morocco was an uncolonised African country, but France wanted to add it to its empire.
- 2) Germany objected — and demanded an international conference on Morocco's future.
- 3) At the Algeciras Conference in 1906, Germany was forced to back down by British, Italian, Russian and Spanish support for France taking control of Morocco's police and banks.



The Agadir Crisis 1911

- 1) The French sent troops to Fez to fight Moroccan rebels.
- 2) Germany accused France of trying to take complete control over Morocco.
- 3) Germany sent a warship called the Panther to Agadir, hoping to force France to give them the French Congo.
- 4) Britain was worried that Germany might build a naval base at Agadir, which would threaten key British sea routes — so Britain also sent warships.
- 5) Germany backed down and recognised French influence in Morocco. The Germans felt increasingly anti-British.

Countdown to conflict — only a matter of time...

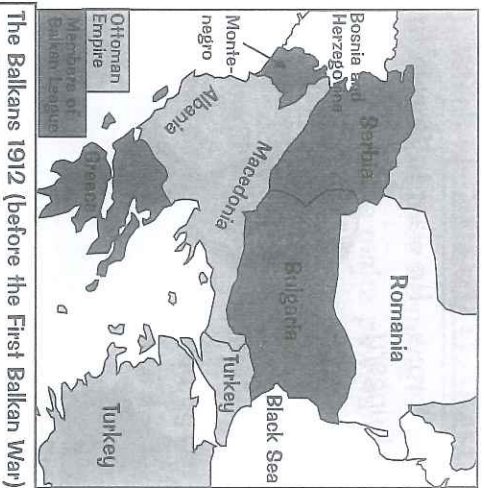
There you go then, three major factors in the start of the First World War. As soon as the arms race began, it was clear a war was possible — Germany was trying to overtake British power.

Trouble in the Balkans

The Balkans were known as 'the powder keg of Europe' — a spark of trouble could mean chaos.

The Balkans were controlled by the Turkish Empire

- 1) The Balkans were a very poor area of south-eastern Europe.
- 2) The Turkish Empire (also known as the Ottoman Empire) was very weak. It suffered from increasing corruption and the rise of nationalism among many of the countries it controlled. People called it 'the Sick Man of Europe'.



The Balkans 1912 (before the First Balkan War)

Other powers wanted influence

- 1) GERMANY wanted to build a railway to the East through the Balkans.
- 2) AUSTRIA-HUNGARY wanted to stop Serbia from stirring up the Slavic people inside its own lands. The Slavs wanted independence and hoped Serbia (a Slavic country) would help them.
- 3) RUSSIA is also a Slavic country. It wanted sea access from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, through straits controlled by the Turkish Empire.
- 4) ITALY wanted to control the other side of the Adriatic Sea. It took Tripoli in North Africa in 1911.

In 1908 Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia & Herzegovina

- 1) Austria-Hungary had been given control of Bosnia by an 1878 treaty. They wanted to make it an official part of their empire. They cut a deal with Russia — who would support this 'annexation' if Austria-Hungary backed Russian hopes of getting access for its warships through the Turkish Straits.
- 2) Russia didn't get what it wanted, as other powers stood against it — but Austria-Hungary went ahead with the annexation. Russia protested, but Germany, Austria-Hungary's ally, backed them. Russia wasn't strong enough to intervene against them both. This left Russia feeling angry and humiliated.

Two Wars created more tensions

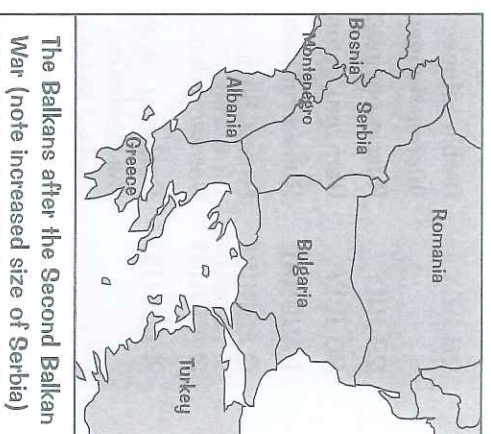
The First Balkan War

Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro formed the Balkan League and attacked the Turkish Empire in 1912. The Turks were beaten easily and were driven out of the Balkan area and forced to give up their lands.

The Second Balkan War

In 1913 the Balkan League quarrelled — Bulgaria went to war with Greece and Serbia. Turkey and Romania joined the Greek and Serbian side and Bulgaria was soon defeated — losing land to the four victors.

In both of these wars, the British tried to keep the peace, instead of supporting Russia, who were on Serbia's side. Germany saw this as a sign that the Triple Entente was weak.



The Balkans after the Second Balkan War (note increased size of Serbia)

There'll be more trouble in the Balkans...

Tension in the Balkans was a main cause of World War One. The Slav question is key here — Serbia wanted to unite the Slavs in the region and was angry about the annexation of Bosnia.

The Outbreak of War

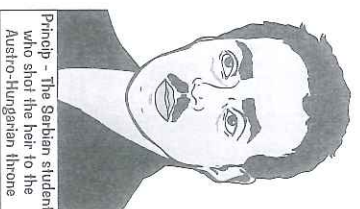
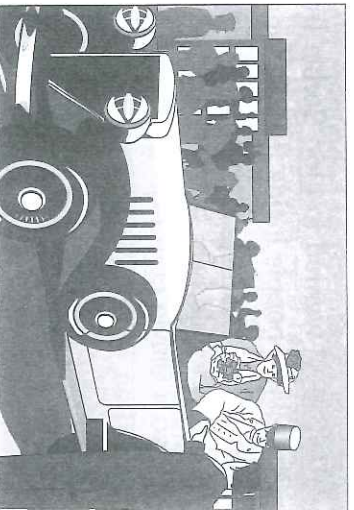
Tension suddenly exploded into the First World War — and it began in the Balkans.

The Black Hand was a Serbian Nationalist Group

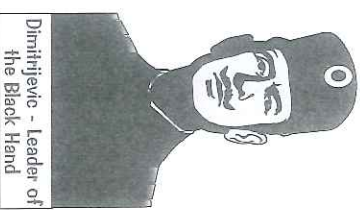
- 1) The Black Hand was started in Serbia with the aim of uniting all the Serbian peoples.
- 2) Austria-Hungary had many Serbian citizens and feared a rebellion in its lands, especially in Bosnia

Franz Ferdinand's Assassination spelled trouble

Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. He went to Bosnia to try to strengthen the loyalty of the Bosnian people to Austria-Hungary.



Princip - The Serbian student who shot the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne



Dimitrijević - Leader of the Black Hand

The Archduke was killed by a Serb student called Princip in Sarajevo in June 1914. Princip was a Black Hand member — Austria was furious.

Events Moved Quickly towards War

The sequence of events is important. Also remember the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente (see p.1) because they determined how the two sides shaped up for World War I.

23 JULY	Austria-Hungary blames the Serbian government for the assassination, demanding compensation and the right to send troops into Serbia.
28 JULY	Serbia refuses to let these troops in. Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and shells Belgrade.
29 JULY	Russia begins mobilising troops ready to help Serbia.
30 JULY	Germany demands that Russia stop mobilising.
1 AUGUST	Russia refuses. Germany declares war on Russia.
2 AUGUST	France begins mobilising to help Russia.
3 AUGUST	Germany declares war on France.
4 AUGUST	Germany sends troops through Belgium to attack France, following the Schlieffen Plan. Belgium is neutral, and Britain has agreed to protect Belgium. Britain orders Germany to withdraw.
6 AUGUST	Germany refuses. Britain declares war on Germany. Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.

Now count the number of days in which all this happened — not much time for sensible thinking.

The First World War — everybody got sucked in...

I know, it's all a bit complicated. Make sure you know the sequence of events and how the alliance system meant Russia helped Serbia, so Germany helped Austria-Hungary, etc., etc...

Revision Summary

Time for the best part of every section — the page with those fab revision questions to see how much you remember. I know it's a bit boring, but it's something you've got to do. I'll help you learn everything in the section — which you'll be really grateful for when you're sat in the exam. When you've finished the questions, check the answers you weren't sure about. Then have another go...

- 1) Which of the Great Powers had the biggest empire in the world in 1900?
- 2) Which two bits of land had France lost to Germany in 1871?
- 3) Who ruled over Germany at the time?
- 4) Which of the major powers had (1) the largest navy? (2) the largest army?
- 5) List the key alliances between 1882 and 1907 which split the major powers into two opposing camps.
- 6) Name the type of battleship which figured strongly in the naval arms race.
- 7) What dispute was settled by the Algeiras Conference in 1906?
- 8) Write a paragraph on the Agadir Crisis of 1911.
- 9) What was the nickname given to the Turkish Empire to show its weakness?
- 10) Give the reasons why Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Italy all wanted influence in the Balkans at this time.
- 11) What did Austria-Hungary do in the Balkans in 1908? Why was it potentially so serious?
- 12) Which Balkan states started the Balkan League? When?
- 13) What was the First Balkan War about? When did it happen?
- 14) What happened in the Second Balkan War? How did this leave Serbia?
- 15) Who were the Black Hand? What did they want to achieve?
- 16) Who was the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne at the time? Where was he visiting in June 1914? What happened to him there?
- 17) What did Austria demand from Serbia after the assassination?
- 18) What did Russia do when Serbia asked for help?
- 19) What was Germany's reaction to Russia's action?
- 20) What did France do after Germany's declaration of war on Russia?
- 21) What was the name of the German plan to invade France through Belgium?
- 22) Why did Britain decide to declare war on Germany?
- 23) How many days passed between Austria-Hungary's demand to Serbia and Britain's declaration of war on Germany?
- 24) Write down at least four reasons for the outbreak of World War I.
(Think about the whole section.)

The Peace Settlement

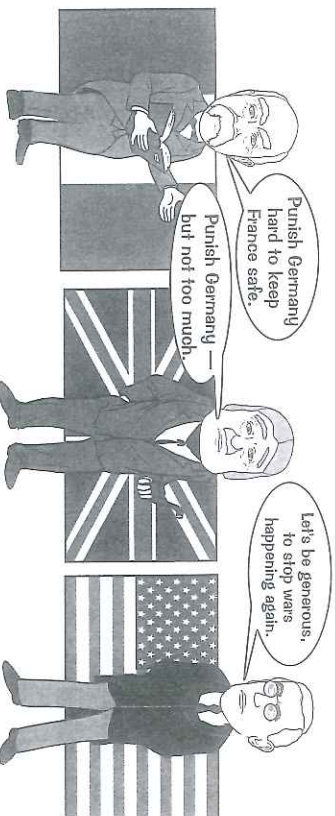
World War One lasted from 1914-1918. Fighting ended with the armistice on November 11th 1918. The winners (Britain, France and the USA) then had to agree a peace treaty with the losers.

There were Three concerns to think about

- 1) Millions of people were dead or injured. Countries like Belgium and France were devastated — the main powers had spent too much money on the war.
- 2) Many people wanted Germany to take all the blame, especially in Britain and France — so Germany and their allies weren't allowed to take part in the talks.
- 3) Everyone wanted to make sure a war like this wouldn't happen again, but they couldn't agree on how to do this — the system of alliances had obviously failed.

The Big Three were France, Britain and the USA

- 1) All three countries had ideas about the settlement, and they often disagreed.
- 2) So a compromise was reached — only some of their ideas became part of the settlement.
- 3) The key fact to remember is that the French had suffered badly, and the British had also suffered — this meant they both wanted to punish the Germans. But people in the USA had suffered less — so they were less emotional and wanted to stay impartial.



Georges Clemenceau
French PM

David Lloyd George
British PM

Woodrow Wilson
US President

Wilson suggested 14 Points

- 1) President Wilson had come up with the Fourteen Points in January 1918 when the Germans were asking for a truce.
- 2) Germany rejected them then, but when the fighting ended they changed their minds and wanted to base the peace settlement on them.
- 3) The Allies refused Wilson's Points because the Germans had rejected them before.
- 4) But the Fourteen Points were an important part of the peace process — especially point 14 which called for a League of Nations to settle disputes. This was going to become very important between the two world wars.

● WILSON'S FOURTEEN POINTS ● JANUARY 1918

1. No secret treaties
2. Free access to the sea for all
3. Free trade between countries
4. Disarmament by all countries
5. Colonies to have a say in their own future
6. Belgium to be free of German troops
7. Belgium to be independent
8. Alsace-Lorraine to go to France
9. New frontier between Austria & Italy
10. Self-determination for people of Eastern Europe
11. Serbia to have access to sea
12. Self-determination for people in Turkish Empire
13. Poland to be independent with access to the sea
14. League of Nations to settle disputes

The Fourteen Points — giving peace a chance...

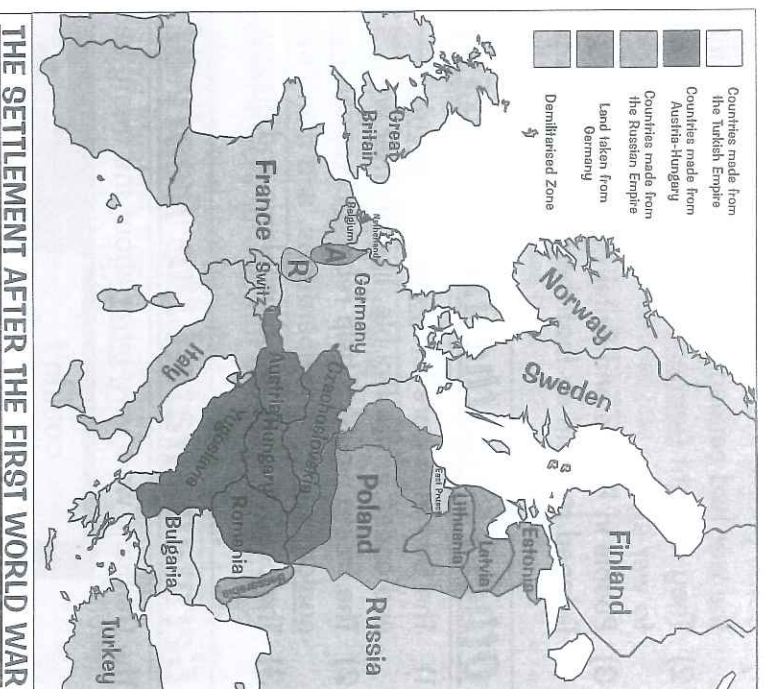
Once the war was over you'd have thought the squabbling would stop, but instead the winners argued about what should happen next. Don't forget the reasons why Britain and France had different ideas from the USA. Then scribble a list of the Fourteen Points and get it learned.

The Versailles Treaty

Wilson's Fourteen Points would have been pretty good for the Germans — but things didn't work out that way. After a lot of negotiating, the reality was the Treaty of Versailles.

The Treaty of Versailles was signed in June 1919

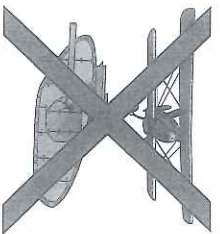
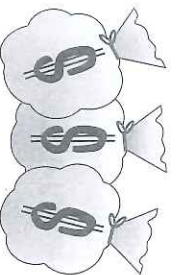
- 1) This treaty (agreement) dealt with Germany, but the other defeated countries made separate treaties.
- 2) This map shows the key changes, so go around it carefully and make sure you know who got what.
- 3) Start by looking at the land Germany lost — especially Alsace and Lorraine (A), the large piece of land to the west of Germany.
- 4) The Rhineland (R) was demilitarised — Germany wasn't allowed to have troops there as it was close enough to invade France and Belgium from.
- 5) Look at the new countries set up, particularly the ones near Germany. Some contained many different nationalities within their borders. They were potentially unstable.



THE SETTLEMENT AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Results of the Versailles Treaty were Severe

- 1) It wasn't just land that Germany lost. Article 231 of the treaty said Germany had to take the blame for the war — the War-Guilt Clause.
- 2) Germany's armed forces were reduced to 100 000 men, only volunteers, without armoured vehicles, aircraft or submarines, and only 6 warships.
- 3) Germany was forced to pay £6600 million in reparations — payments for the damage caused. The amount was decided in 1921 but was changed later. It would have taken Germany until the 1980s to pay.
- 4) Germany lost its empire — areas around the world that used to belong to Germany were now called mandates, and they were going to be run by...
- 5) ...the League of Nations, which was set up to keep world peace — you're going to have to learn a lot more about this organisation.



Versailles — no treats for the Germans...

This treaty was the key document in Europe for the next twenty years — and it was a major cause of the Second World War. The Germans were very unhappy with the results of the treaty, and it would cause major problems later...

Reactions to the Treaty

A lot of people didn't like the Treaty of Versailles — Lloyd George and Wilson thought it wouldn't work, and Clemenceau was criticised by many French people who thought it wasn't harsh enough.

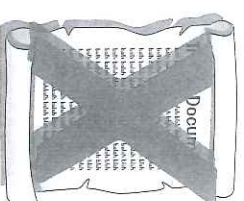
Some people said the Treaty was Fair

- 1) Some people thought the Treaty of Versailles was fair because the war had caused so much death and damage.
- 2) They thought Germany had to be made weaker so it couldn't go to war again.
- 3) People in France and Britain wanted revenge — politicians listened to them so that they could stay in power.



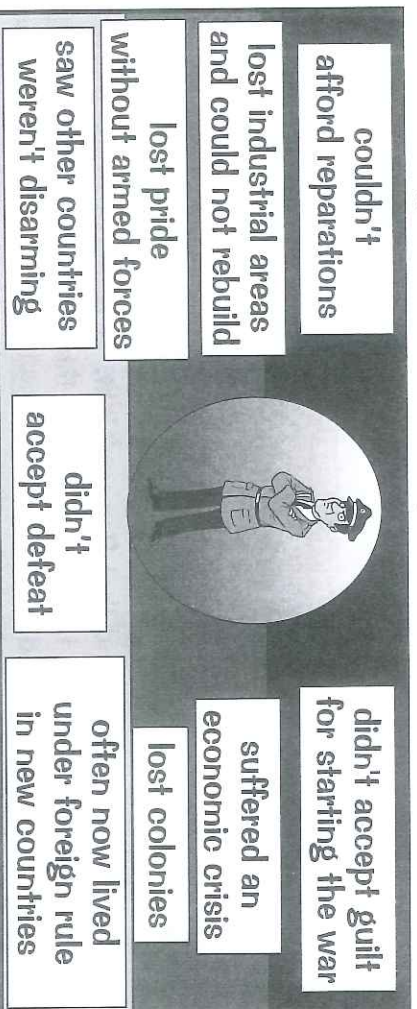
Others said the Treaty was too Harsh

- 1) The Germans were left weak and resentful — this could lead to anger and cause future trouble, like another war.
- 2) The treaty wouldn't help rebuild European trade and wealth — Germany couldn't afford the reparations, and many of the new countries were poor.
- 3) The peacemakers faced problems and pressure from the people at home.



Germany Hated the Treaty of Versailles

The Germans were very bitter about the treaty because they...



Problems were Building up for the Future

- 1) Europe couldn't recover properly while countries like Germany remained poor.
- 2) Self-determination would be difficult in new countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia where many people from different nationalities had been thrown together as an artificial country.
- 3) German anger would lead to trouble in the future. The Germans called the treaty a 'Diktat' — they had no choice about accepting it.
- 4) Without Germany, Russia or USA in the League of Nations, it'd be hard to keep the peace.

After the Treaty — there may be trouble ahead...

I'm afraid we've got more treaties to come — but the key here is that you understand the main points and effects of the Treaty of Versailles. Scribble two lists — one for the reasons some people thought the treaty was too harsh, and the other with the reasons some people said it was fair. Remember — you need to be able to give both sides of the case.

The Other Treaties

Versailles was really only about Germany — other treaties dealt with the rest of the losers.

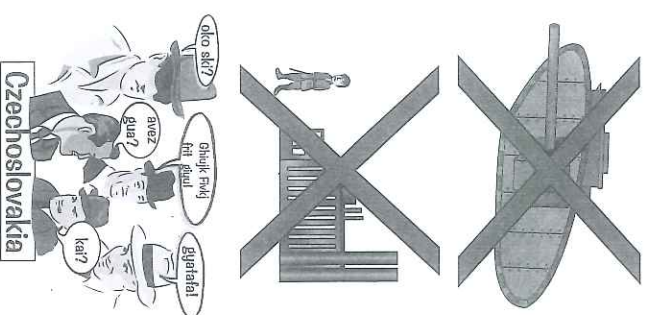
Four more treaties Caused Trouble

TREATY	DEALT WITH	MAIN POINTS
ST. GERMAIN 1919	AUSTRIA	Separated Austria from Hungary. Stopped Austria joining with Germany. Took land away, e.g. Bosnia. Made Austria limit its army. Created new countries (see p.7).
TRIANON 1920	HUNGARY	Took land away, e.g. Croatia. Made Hungary reduce its army. Created new countries (see p.7).
NEUILLY 1919	BULGARIA	Took away some land. Denied access to the sea. Made Bulgaria reduce its army.
SÈVRES 1920	TURKEY	Lost land — part of Turkey became new mandates, e.g. Syria. Turkey lost control of the Black Sea.

- 1) New countries like Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were formed out of Austria-Hungary.
- 2) Austria and Hungary's separation was important — and the fact that Austria wasn't allowed to join with Germany. Both Austria and Hungary suffered badly after the war.
- 3) The Turks hated Sèvres. Turkish nationalists like Mustafa Kemal resisted the treaty and forced some later changes — at the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. This reduced the amount of territory to be lost by Turkey and scrapped all reparations.
- 4) The Arabs who fought alongside the Allies didn't gain as much as they'd hoped.

The Treaties had Similar Results

- 1) All the defeated countries lost land, and had to disarm.
- 2) They were all punished, following the pattern of Versailles.
- 3) Versailles, St. Germain and Trianon were the harshest treaties — Germany, Austria and Hungary lost valuable industrial land. Bulgaria wasn't so badly treated because it hadn't played such a big part in the war.
- 4) Countries which were created or increased because of the treaties — like Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland — were now governing people of many different nationalities.
- 5) Czechoslovakia, for example, had Germans, Slovaks, Hungarians, Poles, Ukrainians, and over 6 million Czechs. Tricky one deciding what language to speak.



The treaty was a charmer — so disarming...

You'd be smart to get the names of the treaties and the countries involved all learned now. Learn the five key results of the treaties and the patterns that show how they all followed the example of Versailles. The new countries were artificial — and would cause big problems later.

Revision Summary

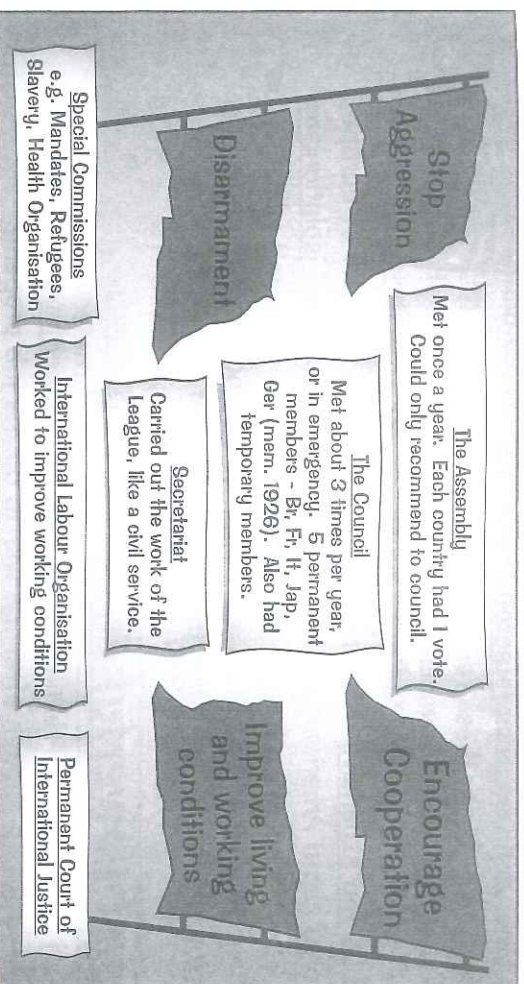
Time for some magnificent mind-bending questions yet again — just so you know how you're getting on. The important thing is to see what you know and to work out what you don't. Then go back over the section and have another go at these spiffing questions. Keep at it until you can get every single one of them right — I know it sounds much too hard, but you can do it... It's the only way to win yourself top marks when the exams come around.

- 1) On what date did the fighting end in the First World War?
- 2) Who were the 'big three' who led the talks at Versailles?
- 3) Which of the big three wanted Germany punished most?
- 4) Who came up with the Fourteen Points?
- 5) When was the Treaty of Versailles signed?
- 6) Which area of Germany was demilitarised?
- 7) What was Article 231 of the Versailles Treaty?
- 8) What size armed forces was Germany allowed?
- 9) How much was Germany expected to pay in damages? What were the payments called?
- 10) What were 'mandates'?
- 11) Give three reasons why the Treaty of Versailles could be seen as fair.
- 12) Give three reasons why the Treaty of Versailles could be seen as too harsh.
- 13) Explain why the Germans hated the Treaty of Versailles.
- 14) Name the other treaties which followed Versailles. Write briefly what each one did.
- 15) Name at least three nationalities living in the new Czechoslovakia.

The League of Nations

There were high hopes for the League of Nations. Lots of people admired its moral principles.

The League came from the Fourteen Points



The flags show the four main aims of the League.

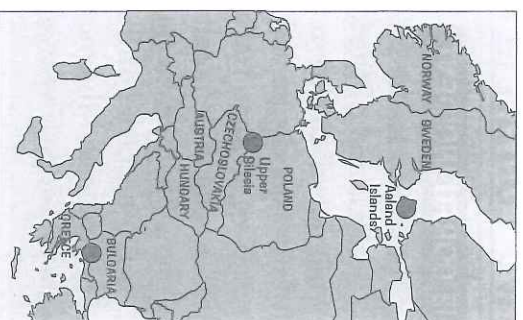
The rest of the diagram shows how the League was organised and which parts of the organisation were responsible for what.

The League was intended to Police the World

- 1) It began work in January 1920.
- 2) There were 42 members to start with, and around 60 by the 1930s.
- 3) All the members followed a Covenant (agreement) of 26 rules.
- 4) Every member country had a vote in the Assembly and the Council.
- 5) The League could warn countries in disputes, apply economic sanctions (block international trade with misbehaving countries), then send troops in.
- 6) The League tried to improve social conditions, working on health, slavery and refugees.
- 7) The Permanent International Court of Justice decided on border disputes between countries. Everyone hoped this would avoid another major war.

There were some early Successes

- 1) The League resolved several difficult situations over territorial claims — without fighting.
- 2) It solved the dispute in 1921 between Germany and Poland over Upper Silesia, the dispute between Sweden and Finland over the Aaland Islands in 1921, and the conflict when Greece invaded Bulgaria in 1925. These successes gave it a good reputation.
- 3) It also did a lot of good work to help refugees after the First World War.
- 4) It worked to combat the spread of serious diseases such as leprosy, malaria and plague — and inoculated against them.
- 5) It fought against slavery, and tried to create better working conditions for people all across the world.



Policing the nations — in a league of its own...

The main thing you need to know here is how the League was supposed to work, its main aims, and some examples of its early successes.

Problems with the League of Nations

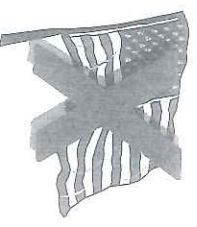
From the start, the League of Nations had real problems.

The USA Didn't Join the League

Wilson was very ill by this time, and Congress rejected the League.

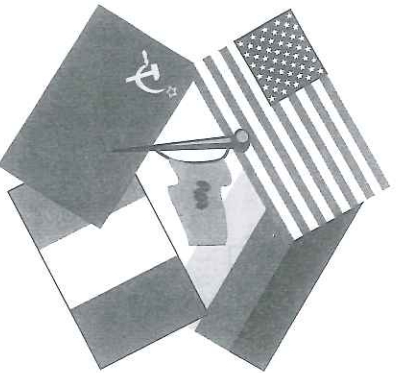
The USA never became a member. Learn these reasons why:

- 1) The people of America hadn't liked the Versailles treaty, and refused to accept it. They thought the League of Nations was connected to it.
- 2) They believed it would be too expensive — many people wanted to stay out of Europe, and wanted only to worry about American affairs. This attitude was called isolationism.
- 3) Many thought that all people should be free under democracy. They weren't willing to be dragged into wars to help countries like Britain and France keep undemocratic colonies.
- 4) Wilson's political enemies wanted to make him unpopular, and get rid of him.



The League Wasn't Powerful Enough

- 1) Britain and France were in charge, but neither country was strong enough after the war to do the job properly.
- 2) Economic and military sanctions could only work if a powerful nation like the USA was applying them. Most countries were too busy rebuilding to be able to apply them.
- 3) Germany and communist Russia were not allowed to be members when the League was first formed.
- 4) The League had no army of its own, and most members didn't want to commit troops to war. Some countries like Italy were quite prepared to ignore the League.
- 5) The organisation was a disaster — in the Assembly and the Council everyone had to agree before anything could happen. The Court of Justice had no powers to make a country act.



Two Conflicts caused the League Problems in 1923

THE CORFU INCIDENT

- 1) The Italian leader Mussolini occupied the Greek island of Corfu in 1923 after the murder of an Italian diplomat.
- 2) Mussolini demanded financial compensation and an apology from Greece.
- 3) The League demanded that the money should be paid to them, not Italy.
- 4) But Mussolini got the decision overturned and received the money and the apology he wanted. The League looked weak.

FRENCH OCCUPATION OF THE RUHR

- 1) Germany failed to keep up with its reparation payments.
- 2) In retaliation, France invaded and occupied an industrial region of German called the Ruhr in 1923.
- 3) The League of Nations didn't intervene.
- 4) The United States helped resolve the situation with the Dawes Plan (see p.13)
- 5) France withdrew from the Ruhr in 1925.

Big problems — hardly the Premier League...

The League was doomed from the start, I'm afraid — but you need to be able to argue for the good and the bad sides of the League. The biggest problem it had was when the USA didn't join — even though the idea had come from the US President in the first place.

More International Agreements

Despite problems with the League of Nations, countries were learning to get on with each other.

Agreements were made in the 1920s

- 1) Between 1921 and 1929, the political situation seemed to be getting better as countries tried to cooperate.
- 2) There were loads of important agreements over arms reduction and economic aid.
- 3) Germany even accepted her new western borders.



There seemed to be a chance of Lasting Peace

- 1) The Washington Conference showed that some countries were keen on disarmament.
- 2) The Geneva Protocol seemed to be strengthening the League of Nations.
- 3) The Dawes Plan and the Young Plan were helping Germany to recover — this would create increased trade and cooperation.
- 4) The Locarno Treaties suggested that Germany was at last prepared to accept the terms of the Versailles Treaty. The Germans joined the League of Nations in 1926.
- 5) The Kellogg-Briand Pact seemed to be a step towards lasting peace.

But all of these agreements had Problems

-
- 1) After the Washington Conference, nobody wanted to reduce arms further — the League had failed in its disarmament plans. Defeated countries were angry they had been forced to disarm.
 - 2) The benefits of the Dawes and Young Plans were wiped out by the economic Depression (see p.14) which was soon to affect everybody.
 - 3) Countries began to make agreements without the League of Nations because they didn't trust it to be effective — France made treaties with several countries because it didn't trust Germany. The Locarno Treaties had nothing to do with the League of Nations.
 - 4) Germany agreed to its western borders at Locarno, but nothing was said about the East — which worried Czechoslovakia and Poland.
 - 5) No one knew what'd happen if a country broke the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

Everybody agreed — to disagree...

The main point here is that everybody was willing to agree, but only up to a point. Sooner or later there was going to be a real crisis. Scribble a list of these agreements with their dates and what they tried to do, and what problems they had.

The Effects of the Great Depression

One of the things that really undermined the League of Nations was the Great Depression...

The American Stock Market Crashed in 1929

- 1) In the 1920s, the USA was the most prosperous country in the world, with high wages and mass production of goods. The 'Booming Twenties' saw billions of dollars loaned by the USA to help European countries recover from the effects of the First World War. American companies were selling lots of goods, so people borrowed money to buy shares in them.
- 2) But problems started to emerge. Many American producers overproduced — there was too much supply and not enough demand. There was competition from countries like Japan.
- 3) In 1929, the American stock market crashed — people realised some companies were doing badly and rushed to sell their shares.
- 4) Wall Street is the trade centre for the USA — by October 1929 the selling was frantic, and prices dropped because people no longer wanted to buy shares at high prices.
- 5) Businesses collapsed and thousands of people were ruined — by the end of the month they were selling shares for whatever they could get for them. This was the start of the Great Depression — a global economic downturn.



The Depression caused big problems in America

- 1) In 1929 the USA stopped lending money abroad and called in its loans.
- 2) By 1930 nearly 2000 banks collapsed as people rushed to withdraw savings.
- 3) Three years later there were over 12 million people unemployed in the USA.

The Depression Affected other Industrial Countries

- 1) Most industrial countries were affected — banks failed, industries struggled, and trade grou to a halt. The least affected country was the USSR, which had a communist system.
- 2) Within three years there were over 2.5 million people unemployed in Britain, and more than 30 million unemployed in the industrial countries of the West.
- 3) Germany, which had relied on American loans, was particularly badly affected, with banks failing, exports suffering and unemployment rising to over 6 million Germans by 1932.

The Depression made the League's work more Difficult

- 1) The Depression caused widespread poverty. People were more likely to support extreme right-wing leaders — hoping they'd provide strong government.
- 2) In 1933, the Nazis, led by Hitler, were elected in Germany. The Nazis wanted to defy the League of Nations by overturning the Treaty of Versailles.
- 3) The Depression meant that countries like Britain and France were less willing to help the League by getting involved in resolving international conflicts. They wanted to concentrate dealing with domestic problems like unemployment.
- 4) The Depression was also a factor in some international conflicts, e.g. the Manchurian Crisis (see p.15).

The Wall Street crash — a depressing subject...

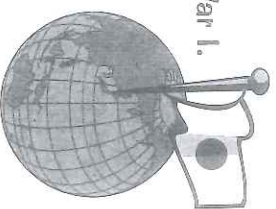
The Depression didn't just affect the world economy — it affected world politics too. Countries that had nearly recovered from World War One found themselves in dire straits again

The Manchurian Crisis

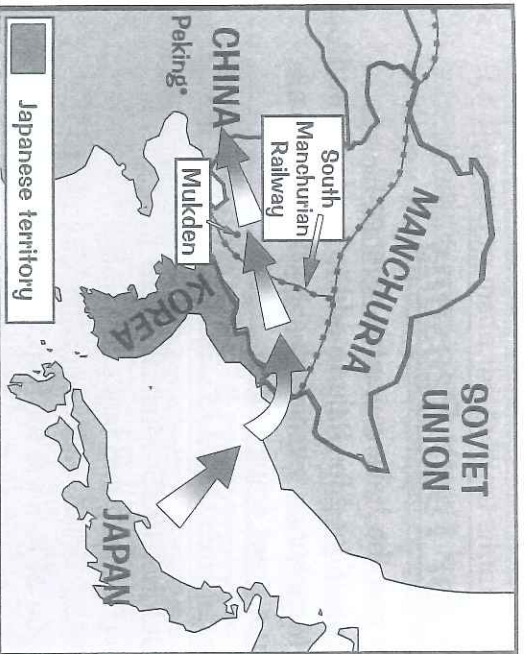
On the other side of the world, Japan had suffered badly during the Depression.

The USA saw Japan as a Threat

- 1) Japan had been at war with Russia in 1904.
- 2) Japanese industries had grown while Europe was busy fighting World War I.
- 3) The USA was worried about Japanese competition, and tried to limit its power and reduce the size of its navy.
- 4) When the Depression wrecked Japanese industries, the military leaders and business interests in Japan called for military expansion to strengthen the country.



Japanese Aggression led to the Manchurian Crisis



- 1) Japan had a large army and navy. Since 1905, it had controlled the territory of the South Manchurian Railway.
- 2) In September 1931, it used the excuse of a disturbance to take Mukden and send its troops to overrun the rest of Manchuria.
- 3) The Japanese pretended to give Manchuria independence. They put a weak leader called Puji (who'd been the last emperor of China) on the throne so they could control him.
- 4) The League of Nations sent Lord Lytton to assess the situation. He produced a report, which said the Japanese had been wrong, but the League didn't do anything else — it failed to stop Japan and end the crisis.

This was the first major challenge for the League of Nations, and the whole world saw it fail to confront the Japanese aggression.

The League was Weakened

- 1) Japan refused to accept Lord Lytton's report and withdrew from the League in 1933.
- 2) In 1933 the Japanese invaded China's Jehol Province, which bordered Manchuria.
- 3) Dictators like Hitler and Mussolini saw the obvious weakness of the League.
- 4) Japan signed a treaty with Germany in 1936 and in 1937 started to invade China — again the League did nothing to stop it.

The League of Nations — a Drama out of a Crisis...

This is where things started to go seriously wrong for the League of Nations. Japan's suffering in the Depression made them look for ways to get stronger — by expanding and attacking other countries. The League's weakness meant it'd be a matter of time before someone else tried too.

The Invasion of Abyssinia

Next it was the Italians who tested the strength of the League of Nations.

Italy was ruled by Mussolini's Fascists

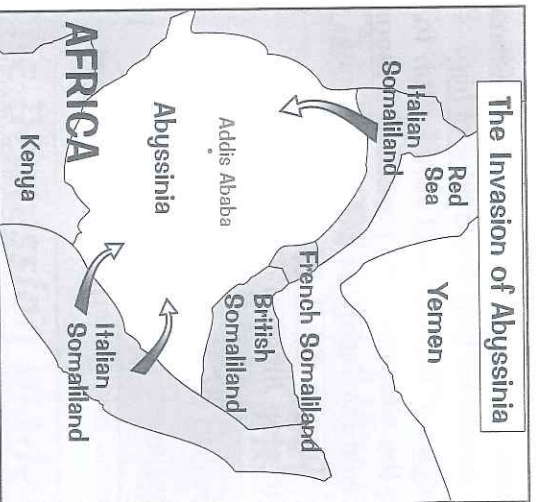
- 1) Italy was under the control of Benito Mussolini and his Fascist Party.
- 2) Mussolini had been made Prime Minister in 1922 after threatening to take power by marching on Rome. He used his new position to change the voting rules, and in the 1924 election the Fascists swept to power.
- 3) From 1925, he began to change Italy into a dictatorship.
- 4) Opposition political parties were banned. He used a harsh secret police against his opponents.



In the early 1930s, Mussolini was more on the side of France and Britain. He joined them at the Sirese Conference in 1935 to stand against a possible German invasion of Austria.

Mussolini invaded Abyssinia for Four Reasons

- 1) Italy had been defeated by Abyssinia in 1896 and the Italians wanted revenge.
- 2) Abyssinia — now called Ethiopia — was well positioned for Italy to add to her lands in Africa
- 3) Mussolini had seen Japan get away with the Manchurian invasion despite the League of Nations' threats. He dreamed of making Italy a great empire again.



- 1) In October 1935, Mussolini sent troops with heavy artillery and tanks to invade.
- 2) The Abyssinian leader appealed directly to the League of Nations for help.
- 3) The League of Nations imposed economic sanctions but delayed banning oil exports in case the USA didn't support them.
- 4) Britain and France didn't close the Suez Canal to Italian ships — so supplies got through despite the sanctions.
- 5) By May 1936 Italy had conquered all of Abyssinia

The League of Nations appeared ineffective

- 1) The League's reputation was in tatters. But Italy became more confident — and started making pacts with the fascist leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler.
- 2) Mussolini and Hitler agreed the Rome-Berlin Axis in 1936, and in 1937 Italy joined Japan and Germany in the Anti-Comintern Pact.
- 3) Italy also attacked Albania in 1938, and signed the Pact of Steel with Hitler in 1939.

Some world problems were out of its league...

Once again, the League was too weak and ineffective. Its failure to protect Abyssinia would have dire consequences. The new alliance between Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany gave Germany the extra strength it needed to bounce back after the losses of Versailles.

The Failure of the League of Nations

It's important to see why the idea of the League of Nations didn't work.

The League Didn't Achieve its original Aims

The League set out to prevent aggression, to encourage cooperation, to work towards disarmament and to prevent a major war breaking out again. In the end, it failed on all these. The League did have some success in improving the lives of ordinary people around the world — combating slavery and poor working conditions — but this wasn't its main purpose.

There are Arguments in Defence of the League...

It was always going to be tough...

- 1) Once the USA refused to join, Britain and France had a very difficult task — when they weren't that strong themselves. You can't enforce sanctions if nobody else wants to do it.
- 2) The Depression made the political situation tougher worldwide — it was nobody's fault.
- 3) No organisation could have stopped leaders like Mussolini or Hitler peacefully. Italy and Germany were members themselves, and could have worked harder for the League instead of against it. The same was true of Japan.
- 4) The League of Nations had to defend a settlement made after World War I which many of the nations themselves thought was unfair.

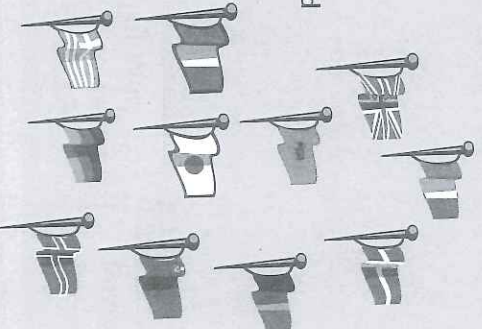
...and there are Arguments Against the League

It made some big mistakes...

- 1) The Manchurian crisis was the turning point — the League should have resisted Japan.
- 2) Too many members didn't keep to the rules. When they were attacked for it, they simply left the League, e.g. Germany and Japan in 1933, Italy in 1937.
- 3) Britain and France didn't lead strongly, and were often very slow to do things.
- 4) Members of the League who could have opposed aggression didn't want to risk a war.
- 5) Ambitious members like Hitler and Mussolini weren't dealt with strongly enough.
- 6) Instead of cooperation, it let the old system of secret alliances creep back.

For

- Early successes in preserving peace between minor powers
- Helped to rebuild Europe and aid refugees of the war
- Improved health and labour conditions around the world
- Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928
- Provided the groundwork for the United Nations



Against

- Rise of dictators
- Manchurian crisis 1931
- Failed to force countries to disarm
- Germany and Japan leave 1933
- Abyssinian crisis 1935
- Rome-Berlin Axis 1936
- German aggression
- Italy leaves 1937
- USSR expelled from League 1939
- Powerless to prevent World War II

For and against — now you be the judge...

Make sure you know the League's original aims and can give your own verdict on whether the League can be blamed for its problems, or if they were unavoidable.

Revision Summary

Here are a few more cracking questions for you to have a go at. Don't skim past this page — you need to make sure you've learnt everything in this section before you go any further...

- 1) List the four main aims of the League of Nations.
- 2) Which countries were permanent members of the Council?
- 3) Name three early successes which the League enjoyed.
- 4) Give four reasons why the USA would not accept membership of the League of Nations.
- 5) Why did Britain and France find it difficult to lead the League?
- 6) Which two important nations apart from USA were not members at the beginning?
- 7) Write brief notes to show the importance of the Corfu Incident in 1923.
- 8) Why did the French occupy the Ruhr in 1923?
- 9) Briefly explain the purpose of the following international agreements:
 - a) the Dawes Plan
 - b) the Kellogg-Briand Pact
 - c) the Young Plan
- 10) Describe a weakness of the Locarno Treaties.
- 11) What event sparked off the global depression in 1929?
- 12) The Depression started in America. How did it affect other countries?
- 13) Why did the Depression make the work of the League of Nations more difficult?
- 14) Why did the USA see Japan as a threat?
- 15) Why did Japan invade Manchuria?
- 16) Why did the Manchurian crisis make the League of Nations look weak?
- 17) Who was the leader of the Fascist Party in Italy in the 1920s?
- 18) Give four reasons why Italy invaded Abyssinia in 1935.
- 19) Why did the Abyssinian crisis make the League of Nations appear weak?
- 20) Who signed the Pact of Steel?
- 21) Give four ways in which the League of Nations could be judged a success.
- 22) Give four ways in which the League of Nations could be judged a failure.

The Rise of the Dictators

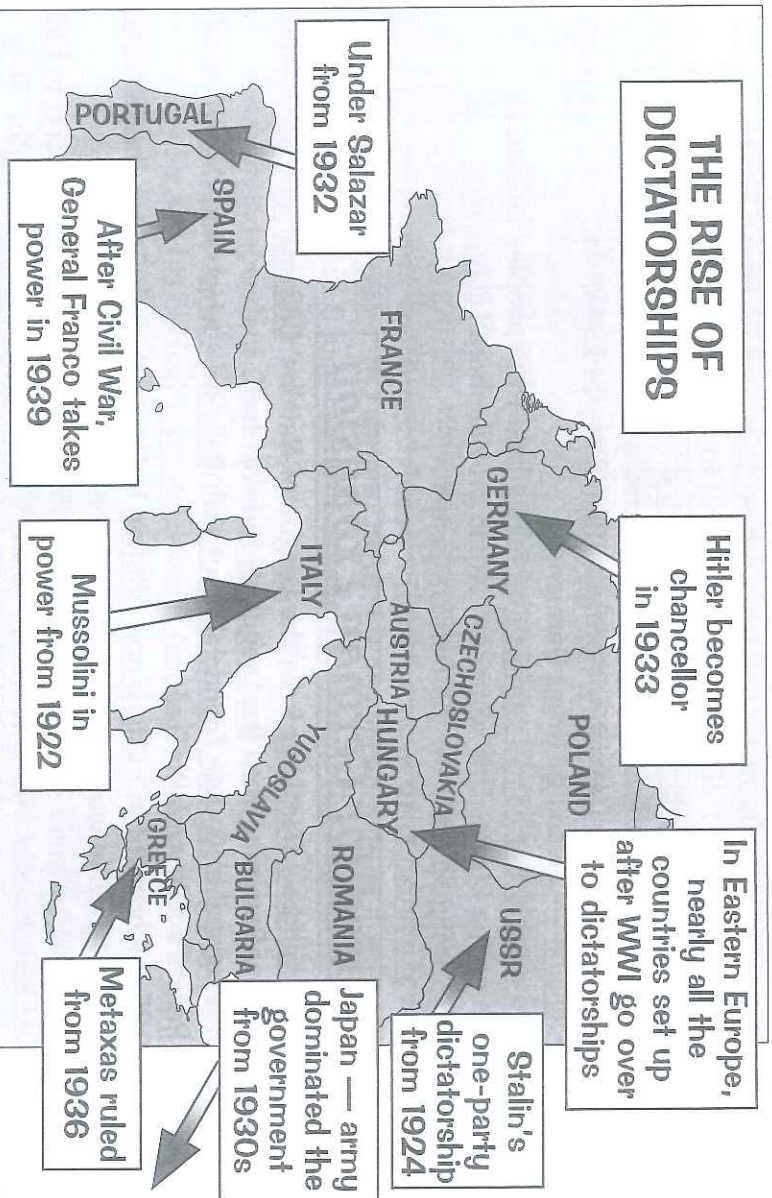
Poor conditions in 1930s Europe saw the rise of dictators, and increasing international tension.

Problems and Fears aided the rise of Dictators

Dictatorship might seem a scary idea, but for some people it solved a lot of worrying issues.

- 1) **LOCARNO** had only settled the western borders of Germany. The borders on the East were vulnerable if Germany wanted to expand — people wanted strong leaders to protect them.
- 2) **DEPRESSION** still affected most countries, causing widespread unemployment and poverty. People welcomed strong governments who could put things right.
- 3) **DEMOCRACY** was often blamed for the bad conditions — democratic governments seemed unable to prevent them happening or to improve the situation.
- 4) **COMMUNISM** was seen as a threat to all of Europe after the Russian Revolution in 1917 — people looked to strong leaders to fight the threat of world revolution by the workers.
- 5) **ISOLATIONISM** continued — the USA stayed out of world affairs, and Britain and France weren't strong enough to oppose the large numbers of foreign dictators.
- 6) **FRANCE** was still suspicious of Germany and was building strong defences along the Maginot Line — many Germans felt they needed a strong leader against this French threat.
- 7) **DISARMAMENT FAILED** — most countries refused to disarm to the same level as Germany in 1932. Germany saw this as unfair and became determined to rebuild their armed forces.

Dictatorships popped up All Over Europe



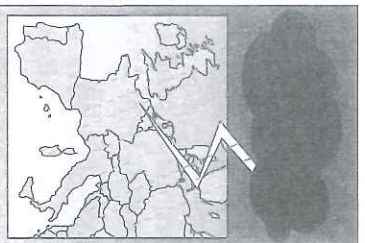
Dictatorship — simply irresistible...

This is really important stuff to learn. Europe was full of tension because of the economic crisis and the threat of war that still came from German anger over the Versailles Treaty. There was a power vacuum — people were afraid that no one was in control, so they turned to dictators.

Hitler's Foreign Policy

Hitler rose to power during a time of depression and international tensions in Europe — and his aggressive foreign policy just made things worse...

The atmosphere in Europe was Tense



- 1) All the League of Nations' attempts at disarmament had failed.
- 2) Democracy had collapsed in much of Europe. Several countries were led by aggressive leaders who wanted to take over new territories, and weren't worried about defying the League of Nations.
- 3) Italy and Japan both invaded other countries' territory (see p.15-16) — and the League of Nations did virtually nothing to stop them.
- 4) Germany still resented its treatment after the First World War.
- 5) France had never stopped distrusting Germany.
- 6) Britain didn't want to get dragged into a war, whatever the reason.

German discontent helped Hitler rise to Power

- 1) During the Depression, extremist parties flourished (see p.14). There was widespread poverty and unemployment — people wanted strong leadership.
- 2) Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazi Party, got to power in Germany in 1933.
- 3) The main aims of Hitler's foreign policy were:
 - 1) He wanted the Versailles Treaty to be overturned. Hitler hated the treaty which he saw as unfairly weakening Germany (see p.8).
 - 2) He wanted rearmament. Germany had been forced to reduce its armed forces under the Versailles Treaty. Hitler wanted Germany to be a strong military power.
 - 3) He wanted all German-speaking peoples to be united in a German Reich (empire). This would mean annexing Austria, and taking territory from Poland and Czechoslovakia which had German minorities. This idea was known as Grossdeutschland — meaning "Great Germany".
 - 4) He wanted to expand Germany's territory by taking land from peoples he saw as inferior, such as the Slavs. This expansion would provide more Lebensraum (which means "living space") for the German people.

Hitler Prepared for German Expansion

- 1) In 1933, Hitler withdrew Germany from the League of Nations' Disarmament Conference. He later withdrew Germany from the League of Nations itself.
- 2) In 1934, Hitler agreed a 10-year friendship pact with Poland — which had the effect of weakening Poland's alliance with France.
- 3) In March 1935, he brought in military conscription in Germany — breaking the terms of the Versailles Treaty. This was condemned by France, Britain and Italy.
- 4) In June 1935, Hitler reached a naval agreement with Britain. It allowed Germany to build up to 35% of British naval strength and up to 45% of their submarine strength. This agreement implied that Germany had a right to rearm — breaking the Treaty of Versailles.

Hitler didn't lack ambition...

Hitler was an ambitious and ruthless leader. He wanted to make Germany a strong military power which could dominate Europe — and didn't care if he broke the rules to do it.

The Rhineland & Austria

Hitler's foreign policy became increasingly aggressive...

Hitler's first Territorial Success was in the Saar

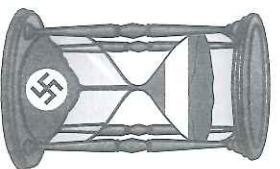
- 1) The Saar was an industrialised region of Germany about 30 miles wide, bordering France.
- 2) Under the Treaty of Versailles, the Saar was put under the control of the League of Nations for 15 years from 1920. The plan was for the territory's status to be decided by popular vote in 1935.
- 3) In the January 1935 plebiscite (referendum), 90% of voters chose reunion with Germany — showing Hitler's popularity. The Saar was returned to Germany in March.

In March 1936 Hitler sent Troops into the Rhineland

- 1) The Rhineland was demilitarised by the Treaty of Versailles. Germany accepted this by signing the Locarno Treaties in 1925 (see p.13).
- 2) But the League of Nations was busy with Italy's invasion of Abyssinia. Hitler saw his chance.
- 3) Russia and France had recently made a treaty against German attacks. Hitler claimed that this threatened Germany, and that he should be allowed to put troops on Germany's borders.
- 4) Hitler reckoned Britain wouldn't get involved. But he was unsure how France would react.
- 5) The German forces had orders to pull out immediately if the French army moved in. But France was in the middle of an election campaign — so no one was willing to start a war with Germany. The League of Nations and Britain were angry but refused to take action.

Hitler was breaking part of the Treaty of Versailles — and no one tried to stop him.

Hitler then turned his attention to Austria



- 1) Hitler believed Germany and Austria belonged together. He wanted "Anschluss" (union).
- 2) In 1934, a Nazi revolt in Austria failed, after Mussolini moved Italian troops to the Austrian border, scaring Hitler off.
- 3) But by 1936, Hitler and Mussolini had become allies.
- 4) Hitler encouraged Austrian Nazis to stage demonstrations and protests. In February 1938, he demanded that an Austrian Nazi called Seys-Inquart be made Minister of the Interior.
- 5) Instead, the Austrian Chancellor Schuschnigg called a plebiscite on whether Austria should remain independent. But Hitler couldn't be sure he'd get the result he wanted.
- 6) Hitler threatened to invade if Schuschnigg didn't resign. Schuschnigg couldn't take the risk — he and his cabinet resigned, except for Seys-Inquart, who invited the German army into Austria to "restore order".

On 15th March 1938, Hitler entered Vienna to proclaim the Greater German Reich. Austria and Germany were united.

The late 1930s — storm clouds gathering...

Hitler was rapidly gaining power — after the humiliations of Versailles, Germany was on the up. Write a list of the main reasons why Hitler got away with sending troops into the Rhineland.

Czechoslovakia & Munich 1938

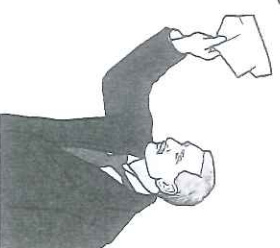
Czechoslovakia was afraid that Hitler, after taking over Austria, would try the same thing on the

Hitler put Pressure on Czechoslovakia in 1938

- 1) Czechoslovakia's borders had been set at Versailles. The Sudetenland was a part of western Czechoslovakia which had a large population of Germans — about 3 million.
- 2) Britain, France and the USSR agreed to support the Czechs if Hitler invaded.
- 3) Hitler promised the British PM, Neville Chamberlain, that he wouldn't invade Czechoslovakia.
- 4) But soon Hitler claimed that the Czech government was discriminating against the Germans in the Sudetenland. The Nazis organised demonstrations in the Sudetenland demanding that the area should become part of Germany.
- 5) In May 1938, Hitler threatened to go to war. The Czech leader, Benes, was ready to fight.
- 6) But Chamberlain and the French PM Daladier then put pressure on the Czechs to give concessions to Hitler to avoid a war.

Chamberlain Negotiated with Hitler

- 1) In September 1938, Chamberlain flew twice to Germany, where he met Hitler to negotiate.
- 2) But Hitler changed his demands, and set a date of 1st October to "rescue" the Sudeten Germans. Chamberlain called this unreasonable, and the British Navy was mobilised for war
- 3) Then on 29th September, Hitler invited Chamberlain, Daladier and Mussolini to a conference in Munich. Mussolini put forward a plan (really written by the German Foreign Office).
- 4) After discussions, the four leaders produced the Munich Agreement. This gave the Sudetenland to Germany but guaranteed the rest of Czechoslovakia would stay put. Chamberlain gave in to Hitler's demands because he believed Hitler would honour his promise.



The Munich Agreement was all about appeasement — giving aggressive countries like Germany and Italy what they wanted in order to avoid a major war.

Not Everyone was Happy with the Munich Agreement

- 1) It seemed like Chamberlain had prevented war. He claimed the agreement meant "peace for our time", and he flew back to Britain to a hero's welcome.
- 2) But Czechoslovakia and the USSR weren't invited to the Munich Conference. So the Czechs weren't even consulted on their own future.
- 3) And the USSR, who had big concerns about Hitler, were horrified at the agreement.

Appeasement may seem a bad idea now, but at the time, many people supported it.

- 1) No one in Britain wanted a war, and some people felt the Treaty of Versailles was unfair to Germany — so Hitler should be allowed to rebuild its power.
- 2) Many British politicians feared communism and the USSR much more than Hitler — they wanted Germany as a buffer between Britain and the USSR.
- 3) Britain's economy and armed forces were weak. Some historians say Chamberlain gave in to Hitler in order to buy time for rearming.

Appeasement — "Peace for our Time"...

Make sure you know what appeasement was — and scribble a list of the events of the Czech crisis.

Poland & the Outbreak of War

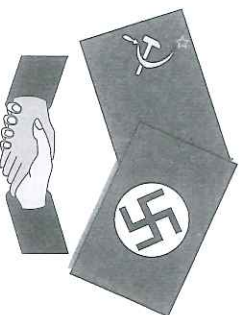
Most people were glad there wouldn't be a war — but in a poll soon after the Munich Agreement, over 90% of British people asked said they didn't trust Hitler.

In March 1939 Hitler took over the Rest of Czechoslovakia

- 1) After losing the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia began to descend into anarchy.
- 2) Hitler persuaded the Czech president to allow German troops in to "restore order".
- 3) In May 1939, Germany signed the "Pact of Steel" with Italy. They promised to support each other if war was declared.
- 4) Britain and France did nothing — but it was clear that the appeasement policy had failed. Hitler had broken his promises and taken non-German lands.
- 5) Once the Nazis had taken the rest of Czechoslovakia, Britain abandoned appeasement and made an agreement with Poland to support it in case it was invaded.

The USSR made a Pact with Hitler

- 1) The USSR (Soviet Union) joined the League of Nations in 1934, and signed a treaty with France in 1935 against Hitler. The Soviet leader, Stalin, was suspicious of the Nazis.
- 2) But the USSR never trusted the French, and couldn't understand why nobody stood up to Hitler earlier. After Munich, Stalin decided to negotiate with Germany to protect the USSR.



- 3) The Nazi-Soviet Pact was signed in August 1939.
The USSR and Germany agreed not to attack each other. They also secretly planned to carve up another country — Poland.
- 4) They agreed that if Germany invaded Poland, the USSR would get Latvia, Estonia, Finland and East Poland — but Hitler never really intended to let them keep those areas.

On 1st September 1939 Hitler invaded Poland. This was too much — Britain and France ordered him to leave. He ignored them and Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939.

The Road to the Second World War

These are the three key areas you need to cover in your revision of this topic:

- 1) Make sure you learn the final steps to war between 1936 and 1939 — the sequence of events is very important and you should practise the different names and spellings.
- 2) Be clear on the reasons why nobody stopped Hitler sooner — e.g. the weakness of the League of Nations, the policy of appeasement and the secret plotting of the USSR etc.
- 3) Remember the long-term causes of tension during the 1920s and 1930s — think about the problems caused by the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations, and the consequences of the worldwide economic problems during the Depression (look back at Sections 2 and 3).

Twenty years on — Europe was at war again...

This is really important stuff. Remember — there were long-term causes as well as the short-term ones. Scribble a quick summary of the Nazi-Soviet pact. Then test your memory of Hitler's actions in the Rhineland, Austria, Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Revision Summary

Yes, it's time for some more revision questions — just what you need to test your knowledge of this section. This is a really important section because it sits right in the thick of the action. All the problems after the First World War and then during the Depression suddenly came to a head. The key is to make sure you understand all of the different causes of the Second World War. Don't forget — it wasn't just one thing but a whole combination of long- and short-term causes. So start by working through these questions. Remember — you need to practise them till you know all the answers by heart.

- 1) List as many reasons as you can why several dictators came to power in Europe in the 1930s.
- 2) What was the name of the dictator who ruled in Italy?
- 3) Give four aims of Adolf Hitler's foreign policy in the 1930s.
- 4) Why did Hitler hate the Treaty of Versailles?
- 5) What conference did Hitler withdraw from in 1933?
- 6) When did Hitler bring in military conscription in Germany?
- 7) What was the result of the plebiscite (referendum) in the Saar in 1935?
- 8) Where did Germany send troops in 1936? Explain why nobody stopped them.
- 9) What was the name given to the joining of Germany and Austria? How did Hitler achieve it?
- 10) Name the area of Czechoslovakia that Hitler wanted in 1938.
- 11) What was agreed in the Munich Agreement in 1938?
- 12) What was appeasement? Give three reasons why it was a popular policy in Britain at the time.
- 13) What was the Pact of Steel?
- 14) Why did the Soviet Union make an agreement with Germany in 1939?
- 15) What happened after Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939?
- 16) Explain four causes of the Second World War.

