This document contains all of the mark scheme sections related to the questions in the previous document. Once you have planned / written those, check the mark scheme below to see if you are on the right lines. Remember, the mark schemes are guides only – they are not the only way to answer the questions so use them loosely.

**Interwar years: conflict and cooperation 1919–1939**

May 15

**15. Examine the reasons why the democratic government in Germany was able to survive the various crises it faced in the years 1919 to 1924.**

Crises could include: Spartacus week in January 1919; the establishment of the Bavarian Republic; the publication of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles; the Kapp Putsch, 1920; problems over reparations (and other factors) that led to the occupation of the Ruhr; the policy of Passive Resistance and the hyperinflation of 1923; the Munich Putsch, November 1923.

The Weimar Republic faced threats from both extreme revolutionaries and extreme nationalists. In the case of revolutionary threats politicians such as Ebert and Scheidemann took decisions that gained them support, for example declaring a republic rather than trying to retain a constitutional monarchy. Ebert also made pragmatic deals such as the Groener-Ebert Pact that meant he could rely on the Reichswehr and the Freikorps to protect the Republic from extreme revolution.

In the case of extreme nationalist threats such as the Kapp Putsch, the republican government could rely, to some extent, on public support (the general strike in Berlin) and the forces of law and order (Munich Putsch). Additionally, the Reichswehr was unwilling to side openly with extreme nationalists because of the presence of occupation forces in Germany and the possible risk of renewed international conflict.

Ebert was also willing to use Article 48 to deal with a crisis, for example the appointment of Stresemann as chancellor to deal with hyperinflation (which he did by introducing the Rentenmark and entering into negotiations that led to the Dawes Plan of 1924).

The Republic survived because both extreme revolutionaries and extreme nationalists had limited support. Astute decisions by moderate politicians also contributed to the survival of the Weimar Republic.

Note: Answers must be confined to the dates in the question.

The above material is an indication of what candidates may elect to use.

**16. “The Republicans lost the Spanish Civil War because they lacked international support.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

International support:

Aid to the Nationalists came from Germany and Italy. The impact of the Non-Intervention Pact meant that the Republic found it very difficult to purchase weapons from Britain and France. Germany and Italy simply ignored the Non-Intervention Pact and supplied the Nationalists with military equipment and troops. The Republicans did receive some arms and equipment from the USSR but this was limited and had to be paid for by shipping Spain’s gold reserves to Moscow.

Military inferiority:

Initially the Republicans lacked a disciplined army and relied on untrained militias. The Popular Army was established by autumn 1936, but still lacked clear effective leadership whereas Franco unified all the elements of the Nationalist side. Italian and German troops played a significant role in the conflict. The Republic only had external support from the International Brigades.

Economic weakness:

Nationalists controlled all the main food producing areas by 1937. They had credit facilities with Germany and Italy. Fear of communism meant foreign businesses were more willing to trade with the Nationalists. The Republic lacked resources – the gold reserve had gone to Moscow, and Britain and France refused to extend credit.

Political divisions:

The Republican side consisted of a wide range of groups from the CNT (National Confederation of Labour) to moderate republicans with differing aims. Some, such as the POUM (Workers’ Party of Marxist Unification) and the CNT wanted social revolution whereas moderates wanted to defend the republican constitution. These divisions were exacerbated by the interference of the Soviet Union via the PCE (Spanish Communist Party) – their aim was to control revolutionary elements to prevent Great Britain and France from becoming anxious about revolution in Spain. This interference led to the May Days of 1937 in Barcelona – “civil war within a civil war”. The Republicans’ most effective leader, Largo Caballero, resigned in protest and his successor Negrin continued repression of the Left to try and win help from the democratic states.

However, in November 1938, the International Brigades were withdrawn – Madrid fell in March 1939.

In contrast, the various elements on the Nationalist side had one goal – the overthrow of the Republic. There was also clear leadership with Franco assuming the role of Caudillo from September 1936. The above material is an indication of what candidates may elect to write about in their responses. However, it is not exhaustive and no set answer is required.

Nov 14

**16. Evaluate the impact of Hitler’s social and economic policies in Germany up to 1939.**

Impact on society is the key focus, analysis should relate to pre-1939 Germany, as the outbreak of war led to major change in social and economic policies.

Social policies to consider: youth and education; policies on women (Kinder, Kuche, Kirche); policies on religion; anti-Semitic policies. Some might argue that there was the appearance of change because of propaganda, but that in fact there was limited change except as a consequence of anti-Semitic legislation. By 1939, Germany’s Jewish population was socially, politically and economically excluded from the Volksgemeinschaft.

Economic policies could include: reducing unemployment; Schacht’s New Plan, which attempted to balance the trade deficit; the 1936 Four Year Plan, which aimed to establish autarky and prepare Germany for war.

Answers should be well-balanced and assess impact: (was unemployment ended? was Germany self-sufficient and ready for war in 1939?). There is an opportunity to consider the views of historians.

May 14

**15. “Hitler’s rule in Germany gave most Germans what they wanted in the years 1933–1939.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

Answers will have to identify the problems that faced Germany in the years before Hitler gained power and the extent to which Hitler resolved these problems (including: economic crisis; mass unemployment; weak governments; lack of law and order because of political violence; threat of revolution; national humiliation, ie Versailles).

The main focus should be on how these problems were or were not dealt with: unemployment fell because of Schacht’s New Plan, which included public works schemes, conscription and rearmament; the one-party state and dictatorship (fully established by August 1934) ended political violence on the streets and gave the impression of strong, stable government. From the beginning, Hitler pursued a foreign policy designed to remove the Versailles settlement and restore national pride, including leaving the League of Nations, ignoring the military clauses of Versailles and remilitarizing the Rhineland, etc.

All of these actions were popular. Plebiscites and levels of collusion with the regime also indicate that most Germans were willing to support the regime for the benefits it brought. Levels of opposition could also be considered: repression dealt with overt opposition, but there was little covert opposition within Germany until Hitler began to move towards war.

**16. Analyse the political impact of the Great Depression on any one country of the region.**

Case studies might include Germany, Spain, Britain or France, but accept any valid example. For Germany, candidates may focus on Nazi electoral gains and their links with the level of unemployment. The failure of the Müller, Brüning, Schleicher and Von Papen governments may also be outlined. In other cases, it could be argued that the impact was to strengthen the Left, for example in France, with the formation of the Popular Front government in 1936. In Spain, the Great Depression contributed to general political instability with both right-wing and left-wing governments in power during the Second Republic. Another point of view would be that, in general, all governing parties of whatever political persuasion were undermined as a result of the Great Depression.

Nov 13

**15. Compare and contrast the economic and political problems facing Germany in the years 1919–1923 and 1929–1933.**

Comparisons: Political problems, including threats from extremist parties in the early years, Spartacus Week, the Kapp Putsch and the Munich Putsch. In the 1930s, growing support for anti-republican parties such as the Nazis and KPD. Coalition governments which had to rely on Article 48 (emergency powers to govern). Anger at the Treaty of Versailles led to criticism of republican governments, who were often referred to as “the November Criminals”. Political violence made the governments look weak – eg Rathenau’s assassination in 1922; frequent clashes between the various paramilitary groups in the 1930s.

Economic problems, including government budget deficit because of high welfare spending (Ruhr Crisis in 1923 and mass unemployment from 1930 onwards). Reparations were seen as an economic problem – in the early period they seemed to be hampering economic recovery from the war and, in 1929, the need to continue making payments exacerbated the budget crisis.

Contrasts: In the years 1929–1933 what appeared to be similar problems were actually on a much greater scale. Politically, there was a much greater use of non-democratic methods of government (Article 48 used by Bruning 109 times). By 1932 anti-republican parties were in the majority in the Reichstag (230 Nazis, 89 KPD). In the early period international action probably would have helped the republic survive. In the early 1930s Britain and France were too preoccupied with internal problems to be involved. Politically in the early period President Ebert used his powers to protect the republic; in the 1930s, Hindenburg used his powers to protect Germany from the left wing threat.

Economically, the Depression and its consequences was causing unemployment on a massive scale (6 to 8 million people were out of work by 1932). There was a crisis in the banking system, with German banks collapsing. By 1932 reparations had been suspended by the Hoover Moratorium.

**16. “The Spanish Civil War was caused by divisions in Spanish society, not ideology.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

Several key divisions could be identified: poor peasants versus landed aristocracy; urban workers versus big business; regional divisions; the desire of Catalonia and the Basque region for autonomy; anti-clericals versus the Catholic Church. Answers should link these divisions to the various political parties in Spain and the events of the years 1931 to 1936, from the establishment of the republic to the outbreak of civil war in July 1936. The best answers will be able to link the broad divisions to the polarization of politics, which made compromise at the political level difficult. Reference could be made to the limited nature of Azana’s reforms up to 1933, the bienio negro, the Asturian Rising and the Popular Front victory in the February 1936 elections.

May 13

**15. Evaluate the methods used by Mussolini to gain and retain power in the years 1919–1926.**

Methods used to gain power could include: flexible policies. He completely changed his manifesto after failure in the 1919 election. He made an electoral alliance with Giolitti, so he used the parliamentary system to his advantage. He gained the support of the Church and the traditional elites in Italy by exploiting their fear of communism.

He also used violence and the threat of violence. The tactic of Squadrismo during the Biennio Rossi effectively weakened the left but also undermined the Liberal state which appeared ineffective in contrast. The threat of force was the planned March on Rome if he was not given the premiership.

Methods to retain power were similar: he used his position in the state to strengthen his position by “legal” means – the Acerbo Law 1923, and beginning the establishment of the Corporate state.

He used violence against the opposition (for example, the murder of Matteotti). He continued the use of Squadrismo in order to reinforce the need for a strong leader. Once in office he continued to gain the support of the elites. The army was happy he left Victor Emmanuel III in place. He began negotiations with the church which resulted in the Lateran Accords (1929).

“Evaluate” invites candidates to make a judgment as to which methods were more important or even whether it was a combination of these methods, which allowed Mussolini to exploit the weakness of the Liberal state.

Nov 12

**16. Analyse the political impact of the Great Depression on either Britain or Germany.**

Germany will probably be the most popular choice. The focus is political and therefore social and economic issues should be linked to the consequences for politics. The economic crisis led to the polarization of politics with the rise of right- and left- wing political parties.

In the case of Germany the problems caused by the depression can be directly linked to the decline of parliamentary government in the years 1929–1933. They also contributed to the rise of the Nazis on a national level from a position of weakness pre-1929.

In Britain politics also drifted to the right with the collapse of Macdonald’s government in 1931 and the establishment of the National government. The impact of the depression also contributed to support for Mosley and the BUF (British Union of Fascists), but the parliamentary system remained in place.

May 12

**15. Compare and contrast the reasons for the rise to power of Hitler and Mussolini.**

Comparisons are much more obvious – contrasts may be limited. Comparisons include: flawed political structures in both cases which led to weak coalition government. Economic crises include: in Italy post-war recession, in Germany the impact of the Depression, in both high levels of unemployment led to support for the left and fear of revolution. Increased disillusion with democracy. In Italy the Biennio Rossi and in Germany the continued support for the K.P.D. increased fear of communism.

Desire for a strong leader and lack of support from the elites, undermined democratic governments. The fear of a coup contributed to the appointment of leaders who were hostile to democracy. In both cases the class based nature of political parties in coalitions made effective government difficult and weakened support for democracy.

Contrasts: In Germany Hitler had much greater popular support, thus appearing more democratic. Mussolini, in contrast, only had 35 Fascist deputies in 1921. This could be explained by the fact that Hitler had a clear programme which attracted mass support. Mussolini’s tactics were much more overtly violent than Hitler’s – Squadrismo was used to undermine the Liberal governments in Italy in the years 1919–1922.

Candidates may refer to the period of the consolidation of power, the main focus should be on the rise to power.

If only Hitler or Mussolini is addressed, mark out of a maximum of [8 marks].

Nov 11

**16. “The Spanish Civil War was essentially a domestic matter that rapidly became an international issue.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

The causes of the Spanish Civil War were mainly domestic issues. They included: separatism; the wealth and privileges of the nobility and the Church, which contrasted with peasant and urban poverty. This poverty in the countryside, and in the towns with the growth of new industries and its labour problems, led to strikes and unrest; many wished to overturn the existing order. Government extremes within the Republic, formed in 1931 after the departure of Alfonso XIII; polarization of politics; army revolt led by various generals with Franco emerging as the Nationalist leader by September 1936.

The actual conflict (1936–1939) did become a European and an international issue. The former developed with the attempt to limit the conflict to Spain, with the failure of the policy of Non-Intervention pursued by Britain and France. Germany and Italy supported the Nationalists, and the USSR and the International Brigades supported the Republicans. European issues were fought out in Spain. Germany and to a lesser extent Italy, used it as a “dress rehearsal” for a larger conflict; it was also perceived to be a conflict between Communism and Fascism.

Do not expect or demand all of the above and credit other relevant material. Candidates should focus on both domestic and international parts, but there is no set division of marks for each section.

May 11

**15. Analyse the consequences of the Great Depression on any one country in Europe.**

Consequences will obviously include mass unemployment, with its attendant social ills. However, consequences should also be seen to be political – the growth of political extremism in many countries (both left and right-wing). Economic protectionism/growth of nationalism are also consequences. Detailed knowledge, not generalizations, is required. Obvious exemplars – Britain, France or Germany – but this also provides an opportunity for candidates to explore their own national history.

**16. Evaluate the success of Hitler’s domestic policies between 1933 and 1939.**

Hitler’s aims should be identified and analysis should consider how successful he was in achieving those aims. Policies to be examined could include: consolidation of power and the establishment of a strong dictatorship; economic recovery and Autarky; a racially pure society focus must be on internal measures and not on the Final Solution, the creation of the Volksgemeinschaft; levels of support/scale of opposition; scale of the police state; strength of the economy by 1939. It would be legitimate to argue that a strong, unified nation would enable Hitler to pursue his foreign policy goals.

Nov 10

**15. Analyse the reasons for the weaknesses and collapse of democracy between 1918 and 1939 in either Italy or Spain.**

The main similarity is lack of confidence in the ability of democracy to maintain national self-respect and social order. In both countries extreme rightists gained widespread support because of fear of the “Red Menace” in its various forms. Mussolini and Franco both appealed to the public desire for a strong leader. Another key reason could be the failure of democratic parties to cooperate with each other and establish stable governments.

There are also factors peculiar to each country. In Italy frustration at failure in the First World War led more quickly to democratic collapse because the Liberal leaders were ready to collaborate with Fascism. In Spain, as in Italy, the monarchy sided with authoritarian rule in the 1920s during the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera. In Spain the monarchy’s fall in 1931 created a vacuum, and the new republic had many enemies and few loyal supporters. In Spain Fascism did not become a mass movement as in Italy but part of a reactionary Nationalist coalition. Unlike in Italy political violence erupted into a full-scale civil war and bitter divisions on the left helped the extreme right to destroy the Republic and set up a Fascist dictatorship.

In both countries political divisions were exacerbated by economic problems.

May 10

**15. Compare and contrast the domestic policies of Hitler and Mussolini.**

Comparison: both authoritarian rulers, both fostered a Cult of Personality/strong leadership. Hitler – Fuhrer, Mussolini – Duce. Both used coercion and terror to control potential opposition (GESTAPO/OVRA). Both used propaganda effectively. Both attempted to reach accommodation with the Church. Education was controlled and Youth movements were established to indoctrinate the young. Leisure activities were also influenced by the government.

Both focused on the economy but the levels of government intervention varied (Four Year Plan, Corporate state, search Autarky).

Contrast: Hitler’s domestic policies were underpinned by his desire to establish the racially pure Volksgemeinschaft. From 1935 anti-semitic legislation was passed to marginalise the Jews, in Italy Mussolini did not introduce anti-semitic policies until 1937, they were not rigorously applied.

The main contrast was the level of personal power, Hitler and the Nazis were totally dominant whereas in Italy traditional power centres such as the Church and to a lesser extent the monarchy remained influential.

Do not demand all the above, and accept other domestic policies. If only Hitler or Mussolini is addressed, mark out of a maximum of [7 marks].