



A-Level History

Welcome!

Miss Fern teaches the German History course from 1870-1991

Mr Davies teaches the British side of the course from 1906-1957

Both share responsibility for the coursework (NEA) on Tudor England

Mr J Davies

(Department Leader for History/Head of Yr12/Teacher of Politics)

Mr S Donlan

(Teacher of History)

Miss H Fern

(Teacher of History)



Mr Donlan
working hard...



Mr Davies
hardly
working...

Exam Board and Specification: AQA A-Level History (7042)

1L – The Quest for Political stability – Germany 1870-1991

2M – Wars and Welfare – Britain 1906-1951

Link to Specification:

<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/p28bar15/green/e8af941793cb16ef8915d3678684853d6c8a5ca9.pdf>



Bridging *work*

Britain in 1900

Our course begins in 1906 so you won't be examined specifically on anything from before this date - but you must have some general understanding and knowledge of what Britain was like at the turn of the century.

1. Richest and most powerful country on earth

- Greatest trading nation in world, empire covers $\frac{1}{4}$ globe
- London – heart of banking, finance, investment
- Built 60% of world's merchant ships. Navy bigger than any 2 other nations.
- UK population – 43 million, mostly employed in industry, living in cities.
- New industries developing – chemical, electrical, cars
- Queen Victoria on throne, parliament led by aristocratic Lord Salisbury, class system entrenched.
- Edward VII 1901 – can be seen as a continuation of Victorian era OR as a prelude to the Twentieth century age of change and modernity.

2. Warnings were evident

Economic

- industrial and commercial superiority being challenged.
- GB dependent on older industries and suffering from overseas tariffs
- 10% of population owned 90% wealth

Military

- War against Boers in SA 1899-1902 had highlighted military weaknesses and some serious military failings.
- Poor physical condition of working men for army raised questions of National Efficiency
- Loss of 20,000 lives, incompetence on part of army command, introduction of concentration camps led to criticism.

Social

- living conditions appalling in poorest areas
- 4 million people living below subsistence levels
- social degeneracy reported in urban areas
- many working men and no women were entitled to vote



Task 1: Research

Extend your understanding of what Great Britain was like in 1900, on the next slide, make notes from the following website:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/+https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/census/main.htm>

(have a good snoop about under the various tabs – some really good background information in here)

Task 2: Research

Make notes on the video – Andrew Marr – first 37 minutes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_eICyolb8Q



The quest for political stability: Germany 1871-1991

The German Empire was founded on January 18, 1871, in the aftermath of three successful wars by the North German state of Prussia. From 1864 to 1871 Prussia had emerged as the dominant state, making up 60% of the population and land of the new empire.

As such you will need to make a judgement on how important Prussia was in winning the wars and in establishing the modern state of Germany. You will also need to consider the role of the Prussian aristocracy/elites who sought to preserve their power in this new regime and how they used the military traditions of Prussia to increase their grip on power

Task 3: Use the weblinks below to answer the following questions:

<https://massolit.io/courses/the-unification-of-germany-1815-71/what-was-germany-like-in-1871>

How important was Bismarck in 1871?	
What evidence is discussed showing his status?	
Who were the 2 major European states?	
What role did religion play in unifying Germany?	
What was the national identity based on?	
How did the universities help unification?	

<https://massolit.io/courses/the-unification-of-germany-1815-71/what-role-did-individuals-and-the-military-play-in-the-formation-of-a-german-nation-state>

List the strengths of Bismarck's character.	
How does Steinberg view Bismarck	
What was his role in unifying Germany?	
What was the consequence of unification?	

Image Analysis: Notice & Wonder

Instructions: Look at the image and write down 2-3 things you notice (key details, main ideas, themes) and then write down 2-3 things you wonder (questions you have because of the image, things you are curious about when you look at the image.)

**What
do you
notice?**

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**What
do you
wonder?**

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Read & Annotate

Instructions: Read the passage below. As you read, mark the text using the provided symbols then write down something you noticed about the passage. Read again and write down what you wonder from the passage. Read a third time, and make a connection to something else you've learned.

Social issues in Britain • Feeling isolated in a hostile world & losing her economic lead/primacy, Britain's contemporaries were alarmed by signs of decline & a 'great depression' in industry and agriculture.

- Talk of 'National Efficiency' / the condition of England. Social reform was seen as a potential solution.

- The Boer War highlighted Britain's deficiencies in the military, administration and health of her population.

- Germany/USA/Japan were catching up or overtaking Britain in industry - Germany's growing military presence enlarged British anxiety over her inadequate military.

• Upper class: wealthy landowners who had dominated British society for generations - Addition of those obtaining wealth from industry/ commerce, eg owners of factories & investors - Eg Duke of Westminster inherited an estate with 300 acres in central London worth £14 mil & a financial empire spread across 4 continents • Middle class - Middle & upper classes = 1/4 of the pop at the time - Upper middle class were factory owner, merchants or 'professional men' with training such as doctors/ lawyers/teachers - Employment of professionals rose to 796,000 in 1911 - Variety of incomes: a barrister could earn max £28 000, a teacher £200/300 pa - Lower middle class were non-manual employees, eg shop assistants, clerks, shopkeepers, small proprietors & self-employed artisans - Many earned less than skilled workmen but had a higher social standing. For example, a clerk who earned less than a skilled workman would have higher expenses as would be expected to 'keep up appearances' in housing/ dressing.

• Working class - 75% of pop, did manual work - Census of 1911 - 28.7% of pop were unskilled workers, 34.3% semi-skilled & 9.6% skilled - Unskilled workers earned less than skilled: avg wage was just over £1/ week, & not enough to provide for a family leading to poverty • Booth/ Rowntree showed individuals weren't in poverty because of idleness/ wastefulness but because of factors out of their control - Economic forces leading to large families, unemployment, low wages - Unavoidable factors, eg old age, sickness & premature death of main wage earner - Lack of education, poor diet & indecent housing - Showed the answer to these problems required an approach from society as a whole, not just to individuals - contributed to New Liberalism • Booth's

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study the Life and Labour of the People in London (1899) - Poverty in London was 30.7%, not 25% like the gov claimed - People in the 30.7% lived below the poverty line w/out shelter, food or clothing • Rowntree's Poverty: A Study of Town Life (1901 published) showed poverty was not due to laziness but socio economic: large families, unemployment, low wages & death of the wage earner.

- Son of successful chocolate manufacturer & inspired by his father John Rowntree & Charles Booth. Also close friend of LG - Found 28% of York pop lived in poverty - Concluded people need 21 shillings/ week to stay out of poverty - His poverty line showed an individual would be above the poverty line in early childhood, when having young children and in retirement • Concluded poverty was caused by: - In regular work but low wages 52% - Largeness of family 22% - Death of chief wage earner 16% - Other 10% • Infant mortality was 202 deaths per 1000 in Sheffield in 1901.

• Undeserving poor: able-bodied who could find work to support themselves & families
Deserving poor: those poor through no own fault, eg widows, orphans, the sick & old • A committee was set up in 1903 to investigate the numbers of volunteers rejected from serving in the Boer War.

- In 1900 8000/11000 volunteers in Manchester deemed unfit to undertake military training due to physical condition.

- Rising tide of demand for collectivist action.

• No state provision for the poor because of 'laissez faire' - Left to beg/ turn to charities eg/ Dr Barnardo's (1867) helped orphan children. However, not many were concerned w/ the elderly - For the elderly, the Poor Law was the last resort.

Before 1834 there were different forms of poor relief dating back from Elizabethan times, the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 brought them all under one national system - Person needing help was supposed to go to a harsh workhouse, or accept 'outdoor relief' - payments in cash/ goods to the needy in their own homes - Accepting poor relief was shameful and labelled the person a 'pauper' - Some could afford private insurance through trade union/ workmen's club, but provision was inadequate and prolonged periods of unemployment meant many policies lapsed • Balfour did try address some issues to tackle educational reforms to raise it to the standard of a

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country like Germany, but this was overshadowed by a succession of mishandled problems.

- Balfour, like Salisbury, was cautious & suspicious of change/ social reform - intelligent and understood the major issues of his country, but appeared uninterested in government - LG described him as 'the scent on a pocket handkerchief' - Most, including Austen Chamberlain, accept he was ironically too intellectual to understand the social changes taking place among the electorate - Massive contrast with Joseph Chamberlain, yet he was never really a threat to Balfour's premiership as the leader of a small group of Liberal Unionists and non-Anglican.

The British Economy 1906-1914 • 1906 Britain was the world's greatest trading nation since the 19th cent.

- 1914 30% of goods/services produced in Britain sold abroad - Britain had 25% of world trade (down from 40% in 1870s) - empire covered almost ¼ of the globe - population of 43 million • Between 1870 – 1914 there was the 'late Victorian recession' - Britain overtaken by Germany & USA in iron & steel output - Britain continued placing its trust on 'laissez faire' principles in industry, whereas Germany provided subsidies to help new industries start up & develop.

- Rate of industrial growth less than that of USA & share of world exports declined.

- Imports grew faster than exports: led to a 'trade gap'. Worrying that the former 'workshop of the world' imported manufactured goods.

- Raised questions about British education, free trade & failure of industry to adapt to new technologies/ methods • Invisible exports were vital to British economy to ensure Britain maintained a balance of payments. The value of imports were rising & exports declining at this time, but exports continued growing - Invisible exports = exports of services vs tangible goods. For example banking, lending/investing money, etc - Britain was world leader in banking, investing & insurance – London the unchallenged commercial center of the world - Bank of England very reliable, so many large businesses invested in British enterprise - Foreign companies took out British insurance policies - By 1913 32% of Britain's national wealth was in investments overseas, mostly in railway building abroad 1906 –1913

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- 40% of British investment went to British empire, much to USA & South America.
- British investors also received dividends from other countries. Dividends = a sum of money paid regularly by a company to its shareholders out of its profits.
- Most workers employed in industry: - Textiles = Leeds, Bradford & Lancashire - Coal mining = South Wales, Yorkshire & north-east - Ship building = Liverpool, Glasgow & Belfast - Engineering = Birmingham & West Midlands - Steel = Sheffield • New industries being established - Electricity, chemicals, motorcars & electrical engineering - Expanding faster than the economy as a whole w/ growth rate of 3.8% vs overall growth rate of 2% in manufacturing.
- 25% of workforce in textiles by 1907 - 6.6% of workforce in motor vehicles by 1907, by 1914 375, 500 employed in motor industry & 1,000,000 supported by the motor industry - In 1910 UK car industry produced 14,000 units - By 1913 Ford built a factory in Manchester & was leading UK producer, building 7310 cars that year.
- Motoring brought £1 ½ million into the Exchequer & insurance companies • Employment increasing for both men & women in retailing, transport, banking & education - Domestic service (eg, maids, cooks & gardeners) is biggest single category of occupation, especially for women • 1913 - British industry still focused on staple industries (basis of its industrial rev) - Main 'staples' = textiles, shipbuilding, coal mining & steel - 1913 - 60% of exports came from main staples - Main industrial areas = coal mines in South Wales, northern England & Scotland - As first to have an industrial revolution Britain was dominant in these staples in 19th cent - At turn of 20th cent concerns over being overtaken by Germany & America • Reliable statistical info didn't exist at the time, eg, national employment figures & the GDP were not calculated. Acc statistical info on Britain's foreign comp also didn't exist.
- Positive aspects of British economy - signs that industries were in long term decline, but this would become more apparent after WW1
 1. Staple industries were still profitable
 2. Britain's share of world trade was diminishing but world trade was expanding, so British goods were selling in greater quantities
 3. Britain was the largest foreign investor & the value of invisible earnings brought vast profits to Britain. Helped to compensate for the gap between visible exports and imports. London also remained the commercial capital of the world.

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4. Britain had been a key shipbuilding nation from 1870, remaining so until after WW2. Owned $\frac{1}{2}$ the world's shipping pre 1914.

5. British output of iron & steel continued to increase. USA & Germany may have made faster progress, but both had greater access to raw materials & a larger home market. German industry was marveled at, eg Krupp's steel works in the German Ruhr. Regardless, Britain was not being overtaken by countries with a similar population/ resources.

6. Coal industry continued to be profitable. 100 million tons of coal mined in 1870, a record 287 million tons in 1914. Also employed 1 mil men & boys by 1913 (10% of the workforce)

7. Cotton continued to maintain a strong export rate. Cotton goods = $\frac{1}{4}$ of all British exports pre-WW2.

8. Cheaper imports of cereals meant cheaper foodstuffs for livestock farmers.

9. Demand for fresh milk and high quality meat stayed strong – 1911 census shows increase in number of farm labourers.

10. Availability of cheaper food meant values of wages were consistently rising in real terms.

• Negative aspects of the British economy

1. Lack of research/ investment in new technologies - Britain's industrial lead was based on cheap textiles – cloth and cotton, & providing iron/ steel to build railways, steamships and machinery on the international market.

- Compared to America, Britain invested few resources into researching methods of improving the production of these goods. Eg, Britain's steel industry was characterized by 'pessimism and a lack of courage' - Because in Britain industries were already well established, the factories/ equipment were less modern & efficient. Changing was expensive .

- In the coal industry, mines had been worked for much longer, so by 1913 they were deeper, harder to work and mechanization was harder to implement. In America – coal seams thicker & nearer to surface.

- In Britain 8% of coal was mechanically cut in 1914 vs 25% in America in 1900. Only 360 mechanical conveyors for thousands of mines, so Britain's coal mines were labour intensive.

- 1 mil + employed in the mines for most years from 1913 – 27.

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- By 1900 Britain fell behind America & Germany in steel production & America in coal production.
- Output of coal rose, but productivity fell by around 20% between 1880 – 1914 - Firms failed to develop organizational skills/ techniques to result in mass production like in America - Engineers developed high quality motorcars, but small firms couldn't economize by achieving economies of scale – a proportionate saving in costs gained by an increased level in production
- 2. Lack of progress in 'new industries' - In 1906 new industries based on more advanced science were becoming important & led by Germany & the USA.
- In 1913 the German chemical industry was twice the size of the British, although total industrial output was only slightly greater - In 1913, 90% of artificial dyes used in Britain were imported & the British army used German dyes for its uniform - In Britain large scale electrification of tramways/ factories began in 1890, 10 years after America - Companies producing electrical equipment in Britain were subsidiaries of German/ American companies
- 3. A 'low wage economy' - In America workers had a 'high wage' economy & were paid enough to buy the goods they produced. Ensured high demand & encouraged production - In Britain there was a 'low wage economy', so only rich/ middle-class people could afford to buy manufactured goods. The domestic market was kept small.
- 4. Issue of free trade - Germany & USA used tariffs to keep domestic markets free from competition but Britain's free trade policy meant foreign traders had easy access to British markets & Britain could not bargain with other countries to reduce tariffs.
- 5. Shortcomings in education/ training - British workers did not learn sufficient skills at school and Britain did not produce enough qualified inventors, designers & technicians - Both the USA & Prussia introduced primary school for all children in early 19th century, whereas Britain only did so from 1870.
- By 1908 fewer than 300 students took applied sciences in England at university, whereas Germany turned out 400 chemistry graduates per year.
- 1000 graduate engineers in Germany to 400 in Britain.

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6. Problems in agriculture - Because of mechanization/ the pop eating more food from abroad, employment in agriculture fell from 2 million in 1850 to 1,400,000 in 1914.

- Farming = 10% of employment & national income/investment 1906 – 1914 - Most British land was in large estates let out to British farmers who paid rent & gained a profit from selling their produce. They also employed agricultural labourers.

- Estate owners also profited from sale of the products of their land.

- Due to cheap food imports in the 1870s farmers suffered from overseas competition as steamships & railways from North American prairies meant grain was sold more cheaply than British farmers could produce it.

- Farmers gained less from selling produce, had to reduce their production and so landlords had to lower rents.

- Some landowners/ farmers invested capital into land in the mid 19th cent to get a higher production, and therefore higher profit.

- Farmers moved away from wheat production to dairy farming/ cattle by 1914 due to overseas competition on cheap grain & the agricultural depression of the late 19th cent.

- 1/4 of the wheat sold in the years before WW1 in Britain came from British farms.

- 1880s refrigerated ships brought cheap meat from New Zealand, South America and Australia.

- Britain's economic position was mixed and for contemporaries it was unclear if there was to be a long term decline.
- Britain relied on international trade more than any other country, and thus had much to lose from a war

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Answer and Explain

Instructions: For each question, answer the question and then explain why you picked the answer you did using specific evidence from the text.

Question:

1. According to the text, what was one of the main reasons for the decline in British agriculture in the late 19th century?

Pick the Answer

- A) The mechanization of farming led to a decrease in the need for agricultural laborers.
- B) The rise of industrial jobs in cities drew workers away from rural areas.
- C) Cheap food imports from overseas countries undercut British farmers' prices.
- D) A series of droughts and harsh weather conditions made farming unprofitable.

Explain: Why did you pick that answer?

[delete and type here]

Question:

2. What was the main difference between the 'deserving poor' and the 'undeserving poor' in early 20th century Britain?

Pick the Answer

- A) The deserving poor were those who had lost their jobs due to economic downturns, while the undeserving poor were those who refused to work.
- B) The deserving poor were those who had been injured or disabled, while the undeserving poor were those who had made bad financial decisions.
- C) The deserving poor were those who were unable to work due to age or illness, while the undeserving poor were those who were considered capable of finding employment.
- D) The deserving poor were those who had served in the military, while the undeserving poor were those who had not.

Explain: Why did you pick that answer?

[delete and type here]

Question:

3. What was one of the key factors that contributed to the 'low wage economy' in Britain in the early 20th century?

Pick the Answer

- A) The high cost of living in Britain made it difficult for workers to afford basic necessities.
- B) The British government's policy of free trade allowed foreign companies to undercut wages for British workers.
- C) The lack of unions and worker protections meant that employers could pay low wages without fear of repercussions.
- D) The widespread use of child labor in British factories depressed wages for adult workers.

Explain: Why did you pick that answer?

[delete and type here]

Short Answer Questions

Question

1. What were the main concerns about Britain's economic position in the early 20th century?

[delete and type here]

Question

2. How did Britain's reliance on 'laissez faire' principles in industry affect its economic competitiveness?

[delete and type here]

Question

3. What were some of the key factors that contributed to the 'late Victorian recession' in Britain?

[delete and type here]