




Part 1 – Kaiser Wilhelm II’s Germany			
<p>1. What was Germany like before the First World War? Know how events before WW1 influenced the new nation of Germany including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German unification in 1871 after victory in the Franco-Prussian War • Prussia was the most powerful German state • The Kaiser ruled over all the states in the new Germany • Prussian militarism was influential in how Germany was run 			
<p>2. How was Germany run before the First World War? Know the roles of the following in how Germany was run...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaiser Wilhelm II – Emperor / King of Germany • Chancellor – Chief minister like a Prime Minister • Reichstag – German parliament • Bundesrat – Representative from each state <p>Understand how the Kaiser ruled over Germany...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why wasn’t Germany democratic? • Why was the Kaiser’s rule authoritarian? 			
<p>3. How did the character and personality of Kaiser Wilhelm II impact Germany? Know the character and personality of Kaiser Wilhelm II and the impact of this...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivalry and tension with Britain • Ambition for Germany’s wealth – industrialisation • Ambition for foreign policy – Weltpolitik and a place in the sun • Personality = unpredictable, erratic and paranoid 			
<p>4. What problems did Kaiser Wilhelm II face in pre-war Germany?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid industrialisation (e.g. move to factories, overcrowding, towns) • Trade unions – unhappy workers led to growing membership of trade unions • Growth of socialism – SDP (Social Democrat Party) wanted equal rights and equal power for the working class • Foreign relations – rivalry and tension with Britain over industry, militarism, and empire. 			
<p>5. What were the Navy Laws and why were they important? Know the reasons for the introduction of the Navy Laws including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaiser’s personal obsession with the navy • Competition with Britain • A way to distract unhappy German from their problems • Weltpolitik (world policy) and Kaiser’s desire for a ‘place in the sun’ 			
<p>6. What was the impact of the First World War on Germany? Know how WW1 affected Germany in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food shortages (due to British blockade of ports – no potatoes only turnips) • Disease (linked to starvation and malnutrition – outbreak of Spanish Flu) • Bankruptcy – Germany in debt • Division in society – between class and gender • Unexpected shock of defeat (stab in the back theory – November Criminals) • Political problems (German Revolution 1918 – see below) 			
<p>7. Was there a ‘German Revolution’ in 1918? Know why some historians refer to the events of 1918 as the ‘German revolution’ including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War weariness – growing dissatisfaction from the German people • Mutiny – 28th October 1918 Kiel Mutiny – sailors refuse to follow orders • Workers’ and soldiers’ councils – councils running towns in protest of Kaiser • Abdication - Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates the throne 			

Glossary

Part 1

Abdicate	Give up a throne – Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated in 1918	
Armistice	A ceasefire – an agreement to end fighting	
Authoritarian	A strict rule expecting obedience rather than personal freedom	
Bundesrat	A group made up of state representatives who supported the Kaiser	
Chancellor	Leader of the German government – like a Prime Minister	
Constitution	The basic laws of a nation outlining the roles of government and rights of the people	
Imperialism	The belief in building up an empire and taking over colonies	
Industrialisation	Process by which a country transforms to a farming society to one based on factories and manufacture	
Kaiser	Emperor or king of Germany from 1871 to 1918	
Militarism	The belief a country should have a strong army to use aggressively	
Mutiny	Rebellion by soldiers or sailors who refuse to take orders	
Naval Laws	Laws passed by Kaiser Wilhelm II to build up the German navy	
November Criminals	A nasty nickname for the politicians who signed the armistice	
Reichstag	German parliament	
Revolution	Overthrowing a government by force in favour of a new system	
Socialism / socialist	A political belief in equal rights, wealth and power	
Social Democrat Party (SPD)	A left-wing political party defending the rights of working-class people	
Stab in the Back Theory	A conspiracy theory that German soldiers were betrayed by Jews and socialists	
Trade Union	Association of workers formed to protect their interests	
Unification	Process of joining together – the unification of German states in 1871	
Weltpolitik	Means 'world policy' and was the Kaiser's plan to Germany into a world power	

