

Lesson 6

Interpretation practice

Learning Intention:
To practise interpretation questions

Starter: The German Revolution

What can you remember?

Kaiser losing control

End of war –
unrest and
mutinies

Kiel – Mutiny

Stuttgart –
strikes
Workers
councils

Munich
Strikes –
separate

Kaiser
abdicates

Berlin – streets
full of people
protesting
peacefully

Berlin –
armed
workers

Communist
takeover?

New German
Republic

Ebert

Council of
Representatives

Learn: What is the difference in the views?

Q3B. Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the German revolution.

What is the **main difference** between these two views?

(4 marks)

Interpretation 1

*From 'The coming of the Third Reich' by
Richard J. Evans*

Fear and hatred... gun battles, riots and civil unrest... ruled the day in Germany at the end of the First world war. Yet somebody had to take over the reigns of power... extreme groups looked to the workers' and soldiers' councils.

Interpretation 2

From John Guy 'The Early years of the Weimar Republic'

Many ordinary electors in Germany saw voting for the three moderate democratic parties as the best way to prevent the creation of a communist revolution. Not surprisingly, therefore, the Social Democratic

Learn: What is the difference in the views?

The main difference is that **Int 1 says the German Revolution was** as it says “quote” **WHEREAS Int 2 says the German Revolution was** As it says “quote”

Interpretation 1

*From ‘The coming of the Third Reich’ by
Richard J. Evans*

Fear and hatred... gun battles, riots and civil unrest... ruled the day in Germany at the end of the First world war. Yet somebody had to take over the reigns of power... extreme groups looked to the workers’ and soldiers’ councils.

Interpretation 2

From John Guy ‘The Early years of the Weimar Republic’

Many ordinary electors in Germany saw voting for the three moderate democratic parties as the best way to prevent the creation of a communist revolution. Not surprisingly, therefore, the Social Democratic

Q3c.

Suggest one reason why Interpretation 1 and 2 give different views about the German revolution
(4 marks)

One reason for the difference in views about X is that the two views

... have different focuses/emphases

... have based their views on different evidence

Interpretation 1 focuses on....

Whereas Interpretation 2 focuses on ..

They have focused on **different things** – social, leisure, political, economic, discipline aspects etc.

Focused on **different groups** in society, the NSDAP, KPD, women, working classes

They have based their conclusion on **different evidence** – they have looked at **different sources**

Source B – a newspaper report on elections in Germany Jan 1919

The elections that took place on 19th January 1919 were a success. 82% of the electorate voted. Moderate parties gained the most seats.

One reason for the difference in views is that ... they have based their views on **different evidence**

Interpretation 1 has looked at evidence such as source ...

Whereas interpretation 2 has looked at evidence such as source



Source C – a photo of armed workers in Berlin in Jan 1919

Learn: Q3D

IDENTIFY:

What does the historian say about the question? What does the historian say about X? Back it up with a quote!

SUPPORT:

Can you prove this historian is right? What do you know? **Link your knowledge to answer the question**

CHALLENGE:

Can you prove this historian is wrong? **USE THE OTHER INTERPRETATION!** Identify and support here too.

How far do you agree with Interpretation 1 about the German Revolution?

You may also refer to sources B and C.

(16 marks + 4 SPAG)

How far do you agree with Interpretation 1 about the German Revolution?

I somewhat agree with interpretation 1 about the German Revolution. Interpretation 1's view is that the German Revolution was violent ~~and the public attempted to take over~~. It says "*fear and hatred.. Gun battles, riots and civil unrest*" which suggests it was ~~violent~~-volatile. The interpretation says "*extreme groups looked to the workers' and soldiers' councils*" this suggests the public attempted to take over Germany during the German Revolution during 1918 – 1919. I agree that the German Revolution was violent because I know that **OWN KNOWLEDGE**

However there were some elements of the revolution that were peaceful such as there were some peaceful protests and the Kaiser abdicates to Holland peacefully

Apply: Q3D

IDENTIFY:

What does the historian say about the question? What does the historian say about X? Back it up with a quote!

SUPPORT:

Can you prove this historian is right? What do you know? **Link your knowledge to answer the question**

CHALLENGE:

Can you prove this historian is wrong? USE THE OTHER INTERPRETATION! Identify and support here too.

Task



1. Read the model answer.

I DO

2. Using three colours, highlight where the view of the interpretation is **identified**, where it is **supported** with own knowledge and where the interpretation is **challenged** using the other interpretation.

3. Do you think this answer is *strong or weak*? Why do you think this? Remember there are 16 marks + 4 for SPAG. Use the mark scheme to guide your opinion

October 1918, some **crews mutiny (refused to follow orders)** in the ports of Kiel and Hamburg because of bad decisions the Kaiser is making in the war.

By November 1918

In Stuttgart, Daimler plant workers **went on strike and demonstrated in the streets**

In Hanover, **soldiers refused to control rioters**

In many places workers' and soldiers' councils were set up to take over their cities.

7th November, in Munich, workers declared a general strike and **protested in the streets**. Led by a Jewish communist, they announced that they were a separate state from Germany.

Abdication

By November 1918, the **German Revolution** had begun. Kaiser Wilhelm II's ministers told him that the only way to restore order was if the Kaiser abdicated – gave up his position as emperor of Germany. The Kaiser had lost support of the Germany army.

On the 9th November the Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated and went into exile in Holland. He went **peacefully**.

A new republic is declared

The streets of Berlin are full of people, **some gather peacefully** outside the Reichstag while **others collect guns and take over parts of the city**.

Phillip Scheidemann, a leading member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD - the largest party in Reichstag) is told that armed rioters are preparing to take over and create a communist government. This scares Scheidemann and other politicians. Scheidemann was keen to keep control and create a more moderate form of government.

He tells the people that the Kaiser has abdicated and **declared a new German republic**.

The Council of People's representatives

The SPD had to work quickly to establish the new republic.

-9th November the Kaiser's chancellor Max von Baden gave up his role and **Friedrich Ebert**, the leader of the SPD became the **new republic's chancellor**.

-10th November Ebert made an agreement with General Groener for the army to work with the government to keep the communists out of power

- Ebert also suspended the old Reichstag parliament and named **6 moderate politicians** who would form the Council of People's Representatives. The council would head the government of the country until a new constitution was agreed.

By taking these steps **moderate politicians in the SPD were able to take control of Germany, preventing rioting or a takeover by communist extremists**.