

RECAP

German objections to the Treaty of Versailles



Timeline: Impacts of the Treaty of Versailles

▼ 1920

- The Kapp Putsch – an attempted revolution in Germany

▼ 1921

- Reparations set at £6,600 million

▼ 1923

- January: The Ruhr crisis – France invades Germany to take goods from factories when Germany fails to make a reparations payment; the German government pays workers to strike (so there are no goods for the French to take) and prints off more banknotes to pay them, leading to **hyperinflation**
- November: the Munich Putsch

▼ 1924

- USA lends Germany 800 million gold marks in the Dawes Plan

APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS

◀ **SOURCE A** From a history book published in Germany in 1924

- Summarise the reasons German people felt they had been treated unfairly in the Treaty of Versailles.
- How did the reparations affect Germany? Try to give examples of the short- and long-term impacts.
- EXAM QUESTION** Source A criticises the German politicians who accepted the Treaty of Versailles. How do you know? Explain your answer using **Source A** and your contextual knowledge.

EXAMINER TIP

First, work out what the source shows. Labelling a couple of the key features might help you to do this in the exam. Then, link these images to what you know about the event. Does the picture link to a specific reason many people in Germany hated the treaty?

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

EXAM QUESTION 'The main reason why Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles was because of its financial terms.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

RECAP

How were Germany's allies treated at the end of the war?

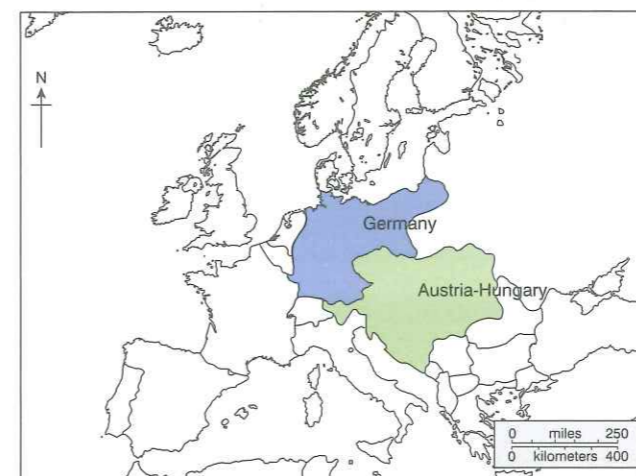
Germany had fought along with other countries during the First World War, so the peacemakers also had to decide how to treat Germany's allies. The table below outlines what was decided:

Country:	Austria	Bulgaria	Hungary	Turkey
Name of treaty:	Treaty of St Germain	Treaty of Neuilly	Treaty of Trianon	Treaty of Sèvres
Date:	10 September 1919	27 November 1919	4 June 1920	10 August 1920
Land:	Land taken to create new countries Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia	Lost land to Yugoslavia and Greece	Lost land to Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria	Split up the Turkish Empire so Turkey lost nearly all its land in Europe
Reparations:	Agreed in principal, but the amount was never fixed	£100 million	Agreed in principal, but the amount was never fixed	None
Military restrictions:	30,000 in army; no conscriptions; no navy	20,000 in army; no conscriptions; no air force; only four battleships	30,000 in army; no conscription; only three patrol boats	50,000 in army; seven sailboats; six torpedo boats
Other terms:	Forbidden to unite with Germany	None	None	Dardanelles and Bosphorus straits were opened to other countries

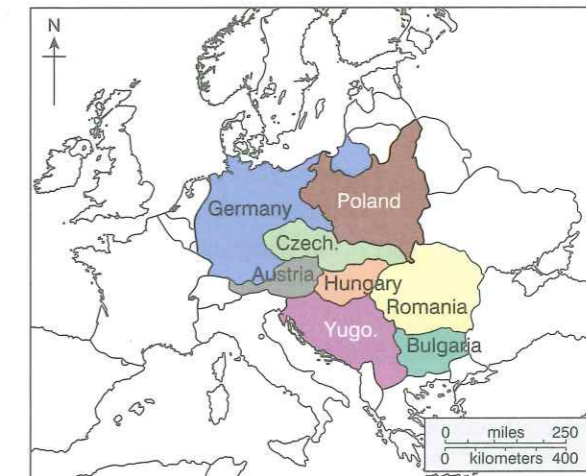
Impact of the treaties and problems faced by new states

- Losing land meant the Austrian and Hungarian economies collapsed in 1921.
- People in Turkey revolted over the Treaty of Sèvres, so the British replaced it with the **Treaty of Lausanne** in July 1923. This was hugely symbolic as it proved that the treaties could not be enforced and showed that Britain was willing to undermine the treaties.
- Rather than being controlled by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, east Europe was now divided into lots of small countries.
- Poland was created from land previously owned by Germany, but this caused lots of problems:
 - Germans living in the new country were unhappy and Russia argued about Poland's eastern borders.
 - Poland had no natural borders, such as mountains or rivers, so it could not be defended easily.
- Germany was split by the **Polish Corridor** – a strip of land that gave Poland access to the sea. This meant that Poland now owned land where German people lived, who were not happy to find that they now had a new nationality. Germany was also split in two, which weakened it and caused much resentment towards Poland.

Europe before 1919



Europe after 1919



APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



'The loss of land to create new countries was the main reason for the dissatisfaction of Germany's allies with the peacemakers, 1919 to 1920.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

- a Who lost most in the treaties agreed at the end of the First World War? Think carefully about what Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Turkey lost and what the impacts were. Write the country names in the top row of boxes below in order, from the most badly affected to the least.

most badly affected

least badly affected

- b Explain why you decided on this order. Under each country, in the second row of boxes, write a brief explanation of the impact the treaties had on each country.
- c Have a go at the exam question above.

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- a Write a one- or two-sentence summary of the problems that each of the treaties signed at the end of the First World War caused.



Write an account of how the Treaty of Sèvres led to an international crisis.

EXAMINER TIP

This activity will help you to think about evidence that could be useful when asked how far you agree with a statement in an exam. An example of such a statement could be: 'Germany was treated more unfairly at the end of the First World War than any of its allies.'

EXAMINER TIP

To get into the highest levels in the mark scheme you need to structure your answer in chronological order, explaining how one event led to another by showing links between your ideas and explaining what the impact of these events was. Make sure that you explain at least two causes that led to crisis.

RECAP

Assessing the Treaty of Versailles

Ever since the peace treaties were created, there have been strong views about the strengths and weaknesses of them. Some people argue that the treaties were fair and sensible and that the peacemakers did the best they could under difficult circumstances. Others argue that the treaties simply created more problems than they solved.

Strengths

- The war had caused huge amounts of damage, especially in France, so the reparations were needed to rebuild.
- France regained Alsace-Lorraine.
- Many areas had not wanted to be part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Places like Czechoslovakia and Poland were now given independence.



Weaknesses

- New states were created, but Poland was weakened because it was surrounded by enemies with borders that were difficult to defend.
- Austria and Hungary lost so much land that their economies crashed in 1921.
- Lloyd George and Wilson feared that the treaties would lead to another war in the future.
- The Treaty of Lausanne proved that the treaties could not be enforced and showed people like Hitler and Mussolini that Britain was willing to undermine them.
- Neither Clemenceau, Lloyd George nor Wilson were satisfied with the outcome of the treaties; people in Britain and France felt that the treaties should have been harsher, while the people of the USA felt they were too harsh.
- People in some of the defeated countries hated and felt humiliated by the treaties – there were revolts in Germany and Turkey.



SUMMARY

- Many were left unsatisfied with the treaties, including the Big Three: Clemenceau felt the Treaty of Versailles was not harsh enough, while Wilson and Lloyd George thought it was too harsh and would lead to war again in the future.
- People in Germany despised the Treaty of Versailles, in particular the war guilt clause and the reparations.
- Germany's wartime allies were also punished. The terms of the treaties were so harsh that they led to economic collapse in Austria and Hungary, and a revolution in Turkey.
- Historians writing throughout the twentieth century have said that treaties were too harsh, crippling the countries they affected and leaving them bankrupt, divided and vulnerable to attack.
- More recently, some historians have taken a different view, saying that that the peacemakers had a very hard job and that they did a good job considering the circumstances.

REVISION SKILLS

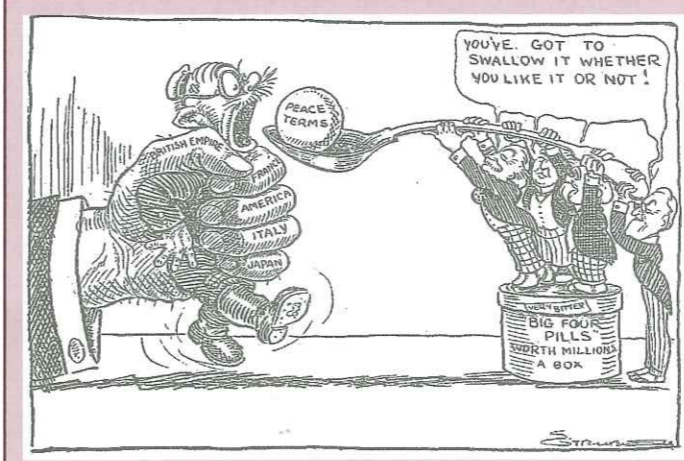
When you revise it is a good idea to mix up the topics you are revising. Try to learn the strengths and weaknesses of the treaties off by heart, and when you're confident you know them revise something else (like the actual terms of the Treaty of Versailles), then come back to the strengths and weaknesses.

APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- Make two flashcards that order the strengths and weaknesses of the treaties signed at the end of the First World War, according to how important you think they are.
- How did the redistribution of territory lead to problems after 1919?

SOURCE ANALYSIS



SOURCE A A British cartoon from 1919, entitled 'A bitter pill to swallow'



SOURCE B A protest in Kiel, Germany, 1919

SOURCE C Adapted from an article in a German newspaper printed on the day that the Treaty of Versailles was signed, 28 June 1919:

The disgraceful Treaty is being signed today. Don't forget it! We will never stop until we win back what we deserve.

a **EXAM QUESTION** Source A opposes the Treaty of Versailles. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source A and your own knowledge.

b **EXAM QUESTION** How useful are Sources B and C to a historian studying the German reaction to the Treaty of Versailles?

EXAMINER TIP
Revising the strengths and weaknesses of the treaties could help you if you are asked questions such as: why a cartoon opposes or supports the treaties; how useful two sources are for showing why people opposed or supported the treaties; or how far you agree with a statement about how successful the treaties were.

EXAMINER TIP
Start by breaking down the imagery in the cartoon. Who do the people represent, what are they doing, and what is used to show a negative opinion? Then link the cartoon to what you know about people's opinions about the treaty. Why did Germany find it 'hard to swallow'?

EXAMINER TIP
Make sure you read the question carefully. It asks you about two sources, so it's important that you refer to both of them.

RECAP

The formation of the League of Nations

The formation of the League of Nations was one of Wilson's Fourteen Points. The League's aims were to:

- get countries to collaborate to help to prevent war (**collective security**)
- encourage disarmament
- improve living and working conditions
- tackle deadly diseases.

The League was written into each of the treaties signed at the end of the war, to make people recognise and respect it. Initially 42 countries joined, but countries who lost the First World War, including Germany, were not allowed to join. Russia was not allowed to join because it was Communist. The USA refused to join.

Membership of the League did change over time, with Germany joining the League after agreeing the Locarno Treaty (1925). Russia was allowed to join in 1934, by which time there were 58 member states. Each state sent representatives to the **Assembly**, and had to agree unanimously on an issue before action was taken. Four

powerful countries were permanent members of the **Council**: Britain, France, Italy and Japan. However, although Britain supported the League, it felt that action would be limited. France thought the League could help keep it safe from German attack. The League set up the **Permanent Court of International Justice** in 1920, but it could only advise on arguments and could not forcefully back up verdicts. The League would deal with aggression through its **Covenant**, which included:

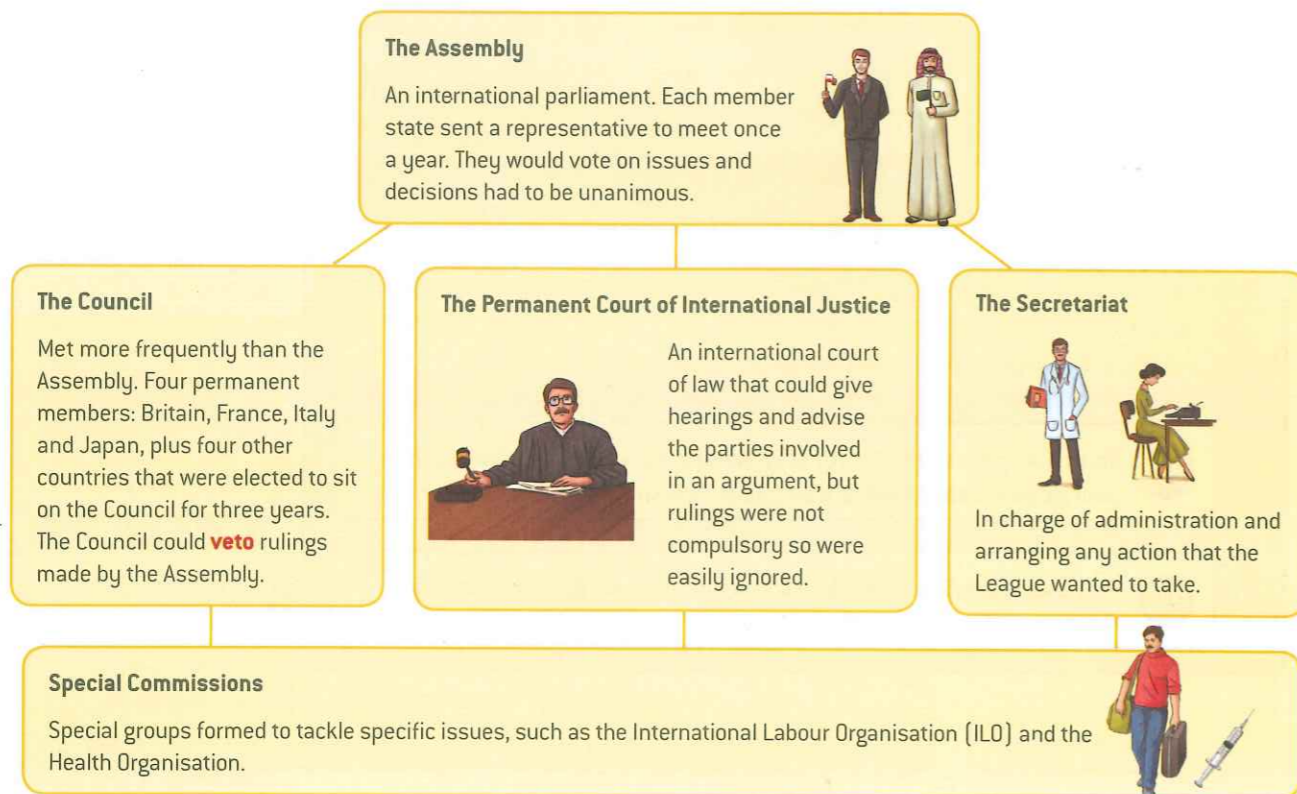
- mitigation
- moral condemnation
- economic sanctions
- military force.

REVISION SKILLS

A mnemonic could help you remember that the League would deal with issues using the **'four Ms'**: Mitigation, Moral condemnation, Money and Military.

The League included many powerful countries, so these sanctions could be quite intimidating. However, the League did not have an army of its own to enforce its decisions; it relied on its members providing a force.

The structure of the League



APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

- a Complete the table below to summarise what the strengths and weaknesses of the structure and organisation of the League were.

Strengths:	Weaknesses:

- b **EXAM QUESTION** 'The structure of the League made it fair and strong.' How far do you agree?

EXAMINER TIP

Make sure you consider and explain both sides of the argument. When answering these types of questions in the exam you should try to use specific evidence to support your ideas. This activity will help you organise the evidence. You should try to link your ideas to specific events that the League was involved in.

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE A A cartoon entitled 'Muzzled?' published in the London Opinion, September 1919



- a Look at **Source A**. Describe what you can see.
- b **EXAM QUESTION** **Source A** is critical of the League of Nations. How do you know? Explain your answer using **Source A** and your contextual knowledge.

Use the sentence starters and your answer to part a to answer the exam question:

I can tell that the source criticises the League because ...

This suggests that ...

Some people felt that the League would not be able to stop war because ...



RECAP

The work of the League's agencies

The League was not only set up to help prevent future conflict. It also used its special agencies and organisations to tackle social and economic issues.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)



AIM: To improve working conditions



In the 1920s, death rate of workers on Tanganyika railway reduced from over 50% to 4%



In 1919, most members refused to stop children under the age of 14 from working as it would be too expensive

Commission for Refugees



AIM: To help people who had lost their homes because of war, by improving refugee camps, helping them to return home, or finding new homes



Helped free around 427,000 of the 500,000 prisoners of war still imprisoned after the First World War



During the 1930s, failed to help Jews trying to flee Nazi Germany

Slavery Commission



AIM: To end slavery



During the 1920s, the League set free 200,000 slaves from Sierra Leone

Economic and Financial Committee



AIM: To improve living conditions



Sent financial advisers to Austria and Hungary to rebuild their economies when they went bankrupt in 1921



Unable to cope with global depression after 1929

Organisation for Communications and Transport



AIM: To improve how countries worked together



Introduced shipping lanes and an international highway code

Health Organisation



AIM: To cure diseases



Sent doctors to help in Turkish refugee camps

Permanent Central Opium Board (became Permanent Central Narcotics Board after 1925)



AIM: To tackle the trade of illegal drugs



Blacklisted four large companies involved in trading drugs illegally



Some countries in the League did not want to stop the trade of opium as they made so much money from it



RECAP

The contribution of the League to peace in the 1920s

Many problems remained in Europe after the First World War. Europe had changed considerably, and the League had many disputes to solve during the 1920s. How successful was it in solving these?

Success: Åland Islands, 1921

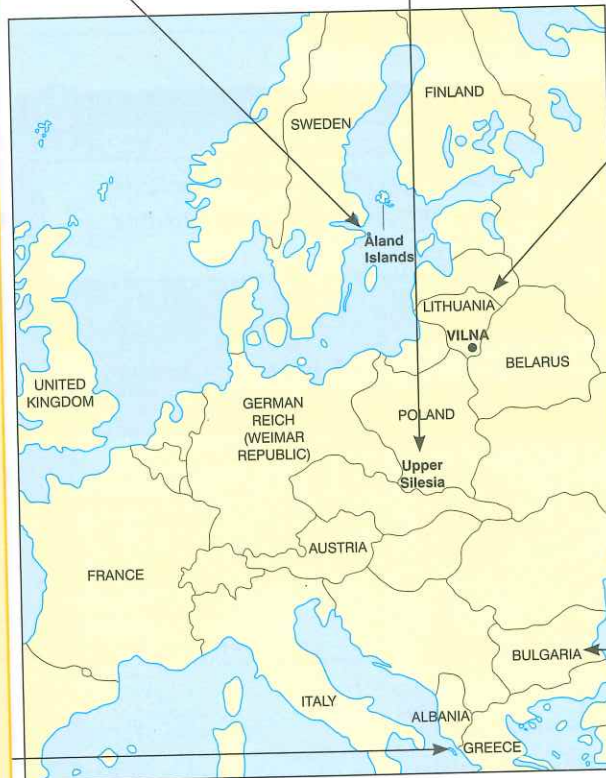
Sweden and Finland both claimed the Åland Islands. The League gave the islands to Finland, but forbid the building of forts on them. Both countries accepted the decision.

Failure and success: Upper Silesia, 1921–25

A **plebiscite** was held to decide whether Upper Silesia, which was on the Germany–Poland border, should be German or Polish. Germany won 60% of the vote, but Poland claimed this had been fixed. The League split Upper Silesia into areas according to how they had voted; Germany complained that Poland got most of the industrial areas and Poland complained that they had around half the population, but only one third of the land. However, both countries did [grudgingly] accept the League's decision, which could be seen as a success.

Failure: Corfu, 1923

An Italian general and his team were murdered while surveying land in Greece. Mussolini demanded compensation and for the murderers to be executed, but Greece did not know who the murderers were so could not do this. Mussolini invaded Corfu. The League condemned Mussolini, but he undermined them by complaining to the Conference of Ambassadors. Greece was forced to apologise to Mussolini and to pay compensation. Mussolini had shown that the League could not enforce justice when one country involved was a larger, stronger country. The League could be ignored or bullied by strong countries.



Failure: Vilna, 1920–21

Vilna was the capital of Lithuania, a new country, but there were many Polish people living there. The Polish army invaded and Lithuania asked the League for help, but the League did nothing as Poland was a strong ally against Germany.

Failure and success: Bulgaria, 1925

Greece invaded Bulgaria when Greek soldiers were killed on the border. The League forced Greece to withdraw and pay compensation. However, this seemed hypocritical since the League had allowed Mussolini, a much more powerful leader, to get away with something very similar in Corfu.

SUMMARY

- The League of Nations was founded to keep world peace through collective security.
- There were problems with how the League was organised, such as the need for a unanimous vote and the fact that countries like Britain and France had too much power.
- During the 1920s, the League was successful in dealing with humanitarian issues, such as refugees, and when negotiating with small countries.
- However, if a strong country like Italy wanted to ignore the League, they could, and Britain and France could undermine the League if it suited them.

 RECAP

International agreements

Certain countries made a number of agreements between themselves during the 1920s, including countries that were not members of the League, such as the USA. It is possible that these nations were simply trying to find as many different ways as possible to secure peace – or, perhaps, that they had little faith in the League's ability to uphold it.

Locarno Treaties

Who? France and Germany, represented by their **foreign ministers** Briand and Stresemann



When? 1925



Where? Locarno, Switzerland

What?

- The two enemies agreed to work together peacefully.
- Germany accepted the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Other countries like Britain and Italy also signed and each country agreed not to go to war with each other; if one country broke the treaties the others would support the country that was invaded.

Why wasn't the League involved?

- Germany suggested the treaties and it was not part of the League.

Why were the treaties significant?

- It seemed as if Germany was accepting the Treaty of Versailles, especially the terms about territory, and trying to become a peaceful nation.
- Relationships between countries, especially France and Germany, improved – this paved the way to Germany being allowed to join the League of Nations.
- The League should have been leading the way on such an important agreement, especially since it involved two of the League's powerful members; Britain and France.

Kellogg-Briand Pact

Who? 65 countries, including Germany, France and the USA



When? 1928

Where? Paris, France

What?

- The countries agreed war would not be used to solve disputes between them.



Why wasn't the League involved?

- Germany and the USA were not members.

Why was the treaty significant?

- The fact that the League was not involved made it look like it was a place to talk, not for actual solutions, and this damaged its reputation.

Other agreements

Washington Arms Conference (or the Washington Naval Conference), 1921–22



- Major countries like Britain, the USA, Japan and France agreed the maximum size of their navies.
- The League was not the one pushing for disarmament, and countries like Britain and France attended independently of the League.

Rapallo Treaty, 1922

- Germany and Russia agreed to work together.
- The League was not involved as Germany and Russia were not members.



SUMMARY

- The League of Nations should have been at the forefront of any international agreements that encouraged peace or disarmament. However, during the 1920s many international agreements were signed without the League, which damaged its reputation.
- While the USA, Russia and Germany were not in the League it meant that it could not be at the forefront of international politics, so its success would be limited. Russia and Germany did eventually join, but left in the 1930s.

 APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS

▼ **SOURCE A** Adapted from a speech given by Fridtjof Nansen at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in 1926; Nansen had won the prize in 1922 for his work helping refugees and was presenting the prize to Briand and Stresemann for creating the Locarno Treaties:

The Locarno agreements mark a radical and complete change in European politics, transforming the relations between the former antagonists in the war and infusing them with an entirely new spirit. This spirit derives from the almost previously unknown attempt to base politics on the principle of mutual friendship and trust.

▼ **SOURCE B** A picture of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact from a French magazine published in August 1928



- Look at **Sources A** and **B** and highlight or write down anything that tells you what the Locarno Treaties and the Kellogg-Briand Pact achieved.
- Why was it important that the League was not involved in these treaties?
- Use your answers to parts **a** and **b** to answer the exam question below.



Study Source A and B. How useful are Sources A and B to a historian studying the League of Nations? Explain your answer using Sources A and B and your contextual knowledge.

EXAMINER TIP

First, use the content of each source, linked to your own knowledge, to explain what it tells us about the League of Nations. Then use the provenance – think about **TAPAS**: Time, Author, Purpose, Audience, Site (where was the source created?) to work out how useful the sources are. You should presume that the sources are useful – don't write about things that the sources don't tell you about the League: no source can tell you everything!

RECAP

The League of Nations had some successes in the 1920s. However, in the 1930s it failed to perform its main role as a peacekeeping force. In particular, the League failed to act against the aggressiveness of Japan, Italy and Germany.

The Manchurian crisis

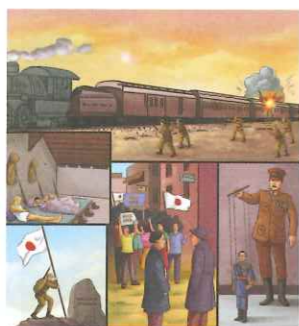
Causes

- In 1929, the **Wall Street Crash** started the **Great Depression**. Japan suffered greatly; its main export was silk, a luxury item that most people could not afford during the Depression.
- Japan became more militaristic – the government looked for land to invade, thinking it would give them more natural resources. Manchuria, in north China, was rich in natural resources.
- Japan already had industry and a railway there so it looked like an ideal place to invade.



Events

18 September 1931: The Mukden Incident. An explosion occurred on the Japanese-owned South Manchurian Railway. Japan blamed China but the Chinese denied that they were involved.



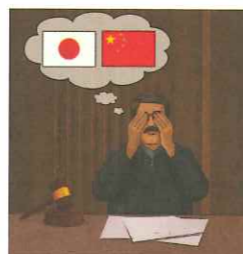
February 1932: The Japanese government had wanted friendship with Manchuria but the army ignored this and invaded it. When the people reacted positively the government decided not to stop the army's invasion. Soon a 'puppet leader' (one Japan could control) was put in charge of Manchuria.



Japan ignored the League. There was very little the League could do without its own army, and its members didn't want to send their own armies so far away. Economic sanctions would be useless as Japan's main trade partner, the USA, was not part of the League.



March 1932: China appealed to the League, which was reluctant to act: Japan was one of its leading members and Manchuria was far from Europe, where the League was based. The League did, however, issue a moral condemnation.



April 1932: The League sent British politician Lord Lytton to investigate; he took nearly a year to write his report (published in October 1932), by which time Japan had invaded Manchuria. Lytton concluded that Japan was in the wrong, but Japan ignored the report, left the League, and went on to occupy more Chinese territory from 1933 to 1937.



Consequences:

- One of the League's own members had ignored its moral condemnation and instructions to withdraw.
- Without an army of its own the League was powerless.
- However, most people continued to have faith in the League – they thought that if a similar event happened in Europe then the League would be able to deal with it.
- Other militaristic countries like Italy and Germany saw how powerless the League of Nations really was.

The Lytton Report took far too long; by the time it was finished, Japan was in control of Manchuria

Asia was far away and not viewed as vital to the countries in Europe; as a result, they did not want to commit resources to dealing with the issues there

Why did the League fail?

The Depression was already damaging world trade and League members were unwilling to impose economic sanctions

Countries were unwilling to take military action because it would be expensive and unpopular with the public

APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

a Explain how each of the following factors led to the League's failure to resolve the Manchurian crisis:

Great Depression	
League did not have its own army	
Membership of the League	
Japan undermining the League	

b **EXAM QUESTION** Write an account of how events in Manchuria led to an international crisis between 1931 and 1933.

Look at the exam question above. Plan your answer by writing four or five headings that summarise what happened. These should be in chronological order and will form the paragraphs of your answer. Then, use your answers to part **a** to make notes on the detail that each paragraph will cover.

EXAMINER TIP

You need to explain the causes and consequences of these events, showing how each step led to an increase in tension. Start with the effect the Depression had on Japan and how this led to the decision to invade Manchuria. Then, move on to explaining the Mukden Incident and the League's reaction. Finally, think about Japan's reaction to the League, and how the League was powerless to stop Japan's invasion of China. If you can demonstrate how each of these factors led to the next, you will be more likely to achieve Level 4.

REVIEW

In order to give a more detailed explanation of how the Depression led to the downfall of the League in areas other than the Manchurian crisis, look ahead to pages 38–39.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

EXAM QUESTION 'The main consequence of the Manchurian crisis was that the League's reputation remained intact.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

RECAP

The Abyssinian crisis

While the crisis in Manchuria continued, the League had to deal with invasion of the African nation of Abyssinia in 1935.

Causes

Mussolini wanted to invade Abyssinia in Africa for a number of reasons:


- He wanted to rebuild the Roman Empire, by invading other countries.
- There were lots of natural resources in Abyssinia, which would be useful for Italy during the Depression.
- In 1896, Italy had tried to invade Abyssinia and was humiliated when this poor country defeated them – Mussolini wanted revenge.
- He was confident that the League would not stop him as they had backed down to him before, during the Corfu crisis in 1923.
- In 1935, Britain and France signed an agreement with Italy to form the **Stresa Front**. Mussolini did not think Britain or France would endanger the new agreement by trying to stop him in Abyssinia.

REVIEW


To refresh your knowledge of the Corfu crisis see page 30.

Events

December 1934: Italian troops clashed with Abyssinians at Wal Wal. The League failed to stop Mussolini, who was intent on war.



January 1935: The French foreign minister, Pierre Laval, made a secret agreement with Italy: Mussolini could deal with Abyssinia however he wanted and France would not interfere.



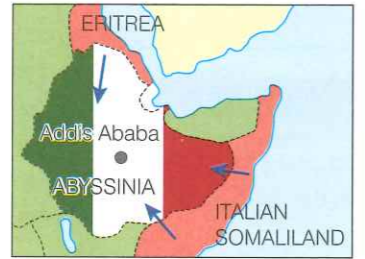
October 1935: Italian troops entered Abyssinia. The League condemned the invasion, but Mussolini ignored them and even used chemical weapons.



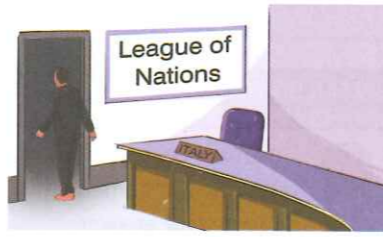
30 June 1935: The Abyssinian emperor, Haile Selassie, addressed the League, but still the League did nothing.



5 May 1936: Italian troops entered the capital, Addis Ababa.



May 1936: Italy left the League of Nations.




Consequences for the League

- Britain and France showed that they cared more about their own interests.
- Small countries knew the League could and would do nothing to protect them. From this time onwards, almost no one regarded the League as a serious or powerful organisation.

REVISION SKILLS

Remember to be realistic when making flashcards. Don't include too much information. Bullet points, images and mnemonics/acronyms can all help you to remember things when you use your flashcards to self-test.

APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?


- Make a series of flashcards that help you to memorise the causes, events and consequences of the Abyssinian crisis.
- 'The Abyssinian crisis was the main reason the League of Nations failed.' How far do you agree with this statement? Plan an answer for this question. Decide what evidence you would use for each side of the argument, and consider your overall judgment.
- Use your plan for part b to write a full answer to the question.

EXAMINER TIP

Be careful when explaining the factors that led to the collapse of the League – you need to think about how these weakened it. Use details of what happened to support your ideas, but don't simply describe what happened.

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE A A British cartoon from 1935; the men on the left are Hoare and Laval



- What event is this source about? Write down three facts about this event.
- Why did this event make the League look bad?
- EXAM QUESTION** Source A is critical of the League of Nations. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source A and your contextual knowledge.





EXAMINER TIP

Remember to link your answer to your own knowledge. What do you know about these events that would support the cartoonist's view?

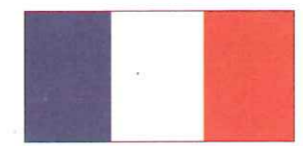
RECAP

Did the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises lead to the collapse of the League?

Most historians agree that the League's inability to deal with the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises meant it was a failure, and that it had collapsed as a peace-keeping organisation. How can these two events be used as evidence of the League's failings?

Why did the League collapse?	Evidence from the Manchurian crisis	Evidence from the Abyssinian crisis
<p>The Depression</p> 	<p>Japan's main export was silk – a luxury item that people did not buy during the Depression, so the Japanese economy crashed</p> <p>Japan wanted to invade Manchuria because it was rich in natural resources</p> <p>The government in Japan was not popular – seizing land in Manchuria made the government appear strong and the victories against the Chinese took people's minds off the Depression</p>	<p>Mussolini came to power promising to rebuild the Roman Empire – invading Abyssinia was a distraction from what was going wrong in Italy</p> <p>Britain failed to inflict effective trade sanctions on Italy – they worried that banning the trade of coal would lead to further unemployment in Britain</p> <p>There were lots of natural resources in Abyssinia</p>
<p>The League was powerless without an army</p> 	<p>When Japan ignored the League's warnings there was nothing the League could do</p>	<p>Mussolini used chemical weapons on the Abyssinians, who were left defenceless by the League</p>
<p>Economic sanctions did not work</p> 	<p>Many members of the League felt that as the USA was Japan's main trade partner, economic sanctions would not have a major impact; therefore no sanctions were imposed on Japan</p>	<p>The League banned the sale of weapons to Abyssinia as well as Italy; this left their army with only basic weapons</p> <p>France and Britain failed to ban goods that Italy would need to invade, such as coal and oil</p>
<p>The League lacked important world powers such as the USA, the USSR and Germany</p> 	<p>Many European powers felt that Manchuria was too far away to deal with</p> <p>As the USA was not a member of the League, Japan would not lose its main trade partner if the League imposed economic sanctions</p>	<p>Britain and France wanted to keep Mussolini on side as they saw him as an ally against Hitler</p>

Britain and France dominated the League



The dominating countries of the League were based in Europe and were reluctant to get involved in a matter so far away

Britain sent Lord Lytton to investigate for the League, but he took too long – his report took many months to write by which time Japan had completed its invasion. As one of the dominating forces of the League, Britain had failed to act with enough speed, which made Japan's invasion easier

Britain and France both had huge empires in Africa, so Mussolini felt they could not object to him taking colonies there too

Britain and France failed to close the Suez Canal, which could have halted his invasion

Mussolini was seen as an ally against Hitler, so Britain and France proposed the Hoare-Laval Pact which undermined the League

APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

Create a series of illustrated flashcards that shows the sequence of events of either the Manchurian or Abyssinian crisis.

EXAMINER TIP

You need to ensure you are familiar with the chronology and key events of each of these two crises, as you may be asked to write an account of them in an exam.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

In the exam, you could be asked about the main reason why the League failed. You will need to explain your answer. Practise doing this with the activity below.

- a Write a PEE (Point, Evidence, Explanation) paragraph explaining how Britain and France's dominance in the League led to it failing. Use these sentence starters to help:
The League failed because Britain and France dominated it, and they put their self interests first. For example ...

This meant that the League failed because...

- b Now do the same, explaining why the Depression led to the collapse of the League, but this time without the sentence starters.
- c Explain how the way the League was structured led to its collapse.

EXAMINER TIP

In the exam, students are often good at remembering the events of the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises and how the League reacted, but do not always develop their answers by explaining how and why these events demonstrate the failure of the League. Make sure you explain how these events made the League look weak, or undermined its authority.

RECAP

The Depression and the rise of extremist parties

- In October 1929, the US economy crashed. The USA had lent money to many countries during the First World War and to help them rebuild after the war: therefore, when the USA went bust – so did everyone else.
- The Depression brought with it vast unemployment, homelessness and starvation on a global scale. In these desperate times people started to lose confidence in their governments and to demand change.
- Many were won over by the promises of dictators such as Hitler, who came to power in 1933. He had vowed to make Germany great again by invading other countries, which he promised would end the Depression by providing employment in weapons factories and the army.
- In Japan, the army took over the country; Stalin controlled the USSR; and in Italy Mussolini was dictator.

REVIEW

There is more specific detail about Hitler's promises and how they led to war on page 42.

The failure of the League to avert war in 1939

- People turned to extremism and militarism in the hope of rebuilding their countries' economies, and this meant that these countries were less likely to support the League's aims of cooperation and peace. For example, Hitler stormed out of the League's disarmament conference in 1933.
- Hitler and Mussolini promised glory for their countries by waging war. They were not afraid of the League's moral condemnation, and governments could not impose trade sanctions as their economies were also weak due to the Depression, and they could not afford to lose deals.
- The only action Hitler and Mussolini could not have ignored was sending in an army, but of course the League did not have armed forces of its own and other countries could not afford to lend theirs in this time of Depression.
- In this climate, war became more and more likely and the League was powerless to stop it.

SUMMARY

- The Manchurian crisis made the League look inefficient and ineffective.
- Britain and France undermined the League during the Abyssinian crisis. By the end of the crisis no one really respected the League.
- The Depression meant that the League faced dictators who were determined to start wars. The League had always been fragile, but against determined aggressors like Hitler and Mussolini it stood no chance.







APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

EXAM QUESTION 'The main reason the League of Nations failed was the Depression.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

a The table below gives reasons for the League's failure. Add **evidence** from your own knowledge by writing in an event that proves that each reason led to failure.

Point:	Evidence:	Explanation:
Depression		

Ineffective trade sanctions			
Absence of powerful countries such as the USA			
Slow and inefficient decision-making			
Self-interest of dominant members such as Britain and France			
Manchurian crisis			
Abyssinian crisis			

b Next, **explain** why each reason led to the failure of the League. Think about the impact: how did it affect the League's reputation, prove that it could not achieve its aims, or convince others that they could threaten war without the League taking action?

c Use your ideas from parts a and b to have a go at the exam question. Remember, you don't have to explain every factor. Explain the one from the question, but then aim to explain two others.

EXAMINER TIP

In order to achieve Level 2 or higher in this type of question, you need to explain your ideas. Writing in PEE paragraphs will help:

- First make your **point**. What reason for the League's failure will you look at in the paragraph? You should examine the reason mentioned in the question as well as other possible reasons.
- Next, illustrate your answer with **evidence**. Make sure your evidence is specific and relevant. Giving details like dates, names, places and statistics can help.
- Finally, **explain**. Link your evidence back to the question. You might want to come up with a 'magic sentence' to use at the end of every paragraph to keep your ideas focused on the question. In this answer your magic sentence could be 'this meant the League failed because ...'.

REVISION SKILLS

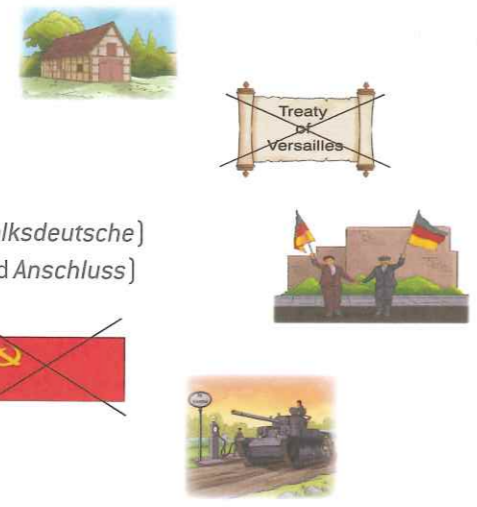
Try using a memory aid like a mnemonic or an acronym to help you remember the reasons for the League's failure. Look at the factors given on the table – how could you remember these?

RECAP

Hitler's aims

Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933. His foreign policy aims are summarised below:

- **Lebensraum**
- **O**verturn Versailles
- **U**nite German speaking people (*Volksdeutsche*) in a Greater Germany (this included *Anschluss*)
- **D**estroy Communism
- **R**earmament



REVISION SKILLS
Saying that Hitler's demands grew 'LOUDeR' might help you to remember his aims in the exam.

REVIEW
You can remind yourself what these terms mean by looking back to page 14.

REVIEW
The impact of the Depression is explored in more detail on page 40.

The reaction of Britain and France

Britain and France did not want to start another war, so they let Hitler get away with breaking the Treaty of Versailles, even though it was international law. They did this because:

- they needed time to rearm; their armies were not big enough to fight and win a war
- many people in Britain thought that Hitler was being reasonable because the Treaty of Versailles had been too harsh
- they were concerned about the USSR and thought that Hitler could be a valuable ally against Communism
- countries could not afford to go to war during the Depression and their governments were preoccupied with problems at home
- people could remember the horrors of the First World War: they did not want another war
- the policy followed by Britain and France from 1937 is known as appeasement: they tried to give Hitler what he wanted in the hope of preventing a war.

The reaction of the USSR and the USA

Joseph Stalin, the leader of the USSR, was worried by Hitler's determination to destroy Communism and by 1935 he was willing to put aside concerns about Britain and France in order to sign a mutual assistance treaty with France. Stalin would work with the allies to protect the USSR from Hitler.

The USA followed a policy of isolationism during the Depression. In 1934, a poll said that 70% of Americans did not want to get involved if a second war in Europe broke out.

APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE A Adapted from *Mein Kampf*, written by Adolf Hitler, 1925:

What a use could be made of the Treaty of Versailles! How each of its points could be branded into the hearts and minds of the German people until they find their souls aflame with rage and shame, and a will of steel is forged with the common cry, 'We will have arms again!'

APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE B A British cartoon from 1938; the cartoon is called 'Nightmare waiting list'



- a Look at **Source B**. Find the following features:
- 1 'All Germans everywhere are mine'
 - 2 'ghosts' holding signs that say 'Polish-Germans Crisis', 'Hungarian-Germans crisis' etc.
 - 3 a swastika – the Nazi flag
 - 4 'ghosts' with signs that read 'British Empire Germans Crisis' and 'USA Germans Crisis'
 - 5 Hitler.

b Why do you think the 'ghosts' representing the British and USA German Crises are positioned where they are?

EXAM QUESTION
c Study **Source B**. **Source B** is critical of Hitler's foreign policy aims. How do you know? Explain your answer using **Source B** and your contextual knowledge.

d Look at **Source A**. Which of Hitler's foreign policy aims is **Source A** about?

EXAM QUESTION
e Study **Sources A** and **B**. How useful are **Sources A** and **B** to a historian studying the causes of the Second World War?

REVISION SKILLS

It might help you to remember that whenever you are dealing with sources you have to remember the 'three Cs':
Content – what evidence is there in the source to support your ideas?
Context – what do you know about the events that explain the ideas in the source?
Comment – make sure all your comments are relevant to and focused on the question.

EXAMINER TIP

Timing is really important. Don't spend too long on questions that are worth 4 marks, as you might run out of time on later questions that are worth more marks. It's a good idea to practise writing answers in the time you'd get in the exam – around five minutes is about right for a 4-mark question like this one.

EXAMINER TIP

In the exam you will be asked how useful two sources are. Don't forget to think about how the sources link to your own knowledge of events, and use the provenance (remember TAPAS!) to analyse how useful the sources are.

RECAP

The road to war

The Second World War broke out in early September 1939. Read through the following events leading up to the war and think about how each one raised tension and contributed to the war's outbreak.

Event	Reaction
-------	----------

1933: Hitler leaves the Disarmament Conference
 The League of Nations held a conference encouraging all nations to disarm. When Hitler became chancellor he said he would disarm if everyone else did. If they didn't then he would disarm to the same level as France. When France refused Hitler stormed out of the conference and pulled Germany out of the League of Nations.

There was very little the allies could do. Hitler claimed that he had acted in a reasonable and fair way and that it was the French who were being unreasonable.



1934: The Dollfuss Affair
 Fearful that Hitler would try to unite with Austria in *Anschluss*, the Austrian chancellor, Englebert Dollfuss, banned the Nazi Party in Austria. Hitler ordered Nazis to cause havoc in Austria and they murdered Dollfuss.

Mussolini moved his army to the Austrian border in support of Austria. Hitler was not ready to fight so he backed down.



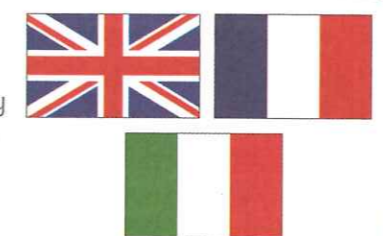
13 January 1935: The Saar plebiscite
 Under the Treaty of Versailles, the Saar had been controlled by the League of Nations for 15 years. In 1935, a plebiscite took place to decide whether Germany or France should control the area. 90% voted for Germany and Hitler used this as propaganda.

Hitler gained valuable resources, like the coalfields of the Saar, and there was nothing anyone could do as the plebiscite was fair and legal.



March 1935: Rearmament
 Hitler held a rally where he announced that he had been rebuilding the German army and was reintroducing conscription. He had also started to develop the Luftwaffe – an air force.

In April 1935 Britain, France and Italy agreed that they would work together against Hitler as the Stresa Front.



June 1935: Anglo-German Naval Agreement
 Britain signed an agreement allowing Germany to have a navy that was 35% of the size of the British navy.

Hitler realised that Britain was allowing him to break the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.



SUMMARY

- Hitler's foreign policy aims meant he needed to invade other countries; to do this he would need to build an army and to break the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Other countries were reluctant to intervene. Between 1933 and 1935 there was very little anyone could do to stop Hitler from taking actions that would lead to war.

APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE

a Which of Hitler's aims did he try to achieve in the following events? Copy the table below and complete the second row.

b Which of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles was Hitler trying to break in each event? Add these to the third row.

	Dollfuss Affair	Saar plebiscite	Rearmament	Anglo-German Naval Agreement
Hitler's aim(s)				
Term(s) violated				

EXAM QUESTION 'Hitler's foreign policy aims were the main cause of the outbreak of the Second World War.' How far do you agree with this statement?

EXAMINER TIP

There are other causes of the outbreak of the Second World War. Plan two paragraphs to explain how Hitler's foreign policy contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War. Add another paragraph to this answer after you have read pages 51–52 about appeasement.

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE A A British cartoon from 1935; the sailor in the foreground is Britain, next to him is Germany, and France is sulking in the background

a Label at least five features of **Source A**. Explain why the cartoonist has used this symbolism.

b **EXAM QUESTION** **Source A** criticises the Anglo-German Naval Agreement. How do you know?

THE BOY WHO SHOULDN'T GROW UP.
 JOHN BULL: "THERE'S YOUR NEW NAVY SUIT. NOW YOU MUST PROMISE ME YOU WON'T GROW OUT OF IT."
 GERMANY: "WELL, AT ALL EVENTS I'LL PROMISE NOT TO UNLESS YOU GROW OUT OF YOURS."

EXAMINER TIP

Always read the whole question carefully – it will give you clues about what to include. Here, it is important that you use evidence from the source but also your own knowledge about the event. Why did people criticise Britain for signing this agreement?

RECAP

Why did Hitler remilitarise the Rhineland?

The Treaty of Versailles had forced Germany to demilitarise the area of the Rhineland on the border between Germany and France. Hitler wanted to take *Lebensraum* in east Europe, but to do this he would have to invade other countries. He knew France and Britain were likely to declare war if he did this, so he had to protect his western borders by **remilitarising** the Rhineland.



Hitler's big risk

German generals had advised Hitler that the army was not strong enough to fight if Britain or France chose to challenge it. German financial ministers warned Hitler that if his plan failed he would have to pay huge fines, which Germany could not afford.

1935: The Franco-Soviet pact was signed – a deal between France and the USSR in which each agreed to assist the other if attacked; as a result, Hitler claimed he was under attack from France in the west and the USSR in the east.

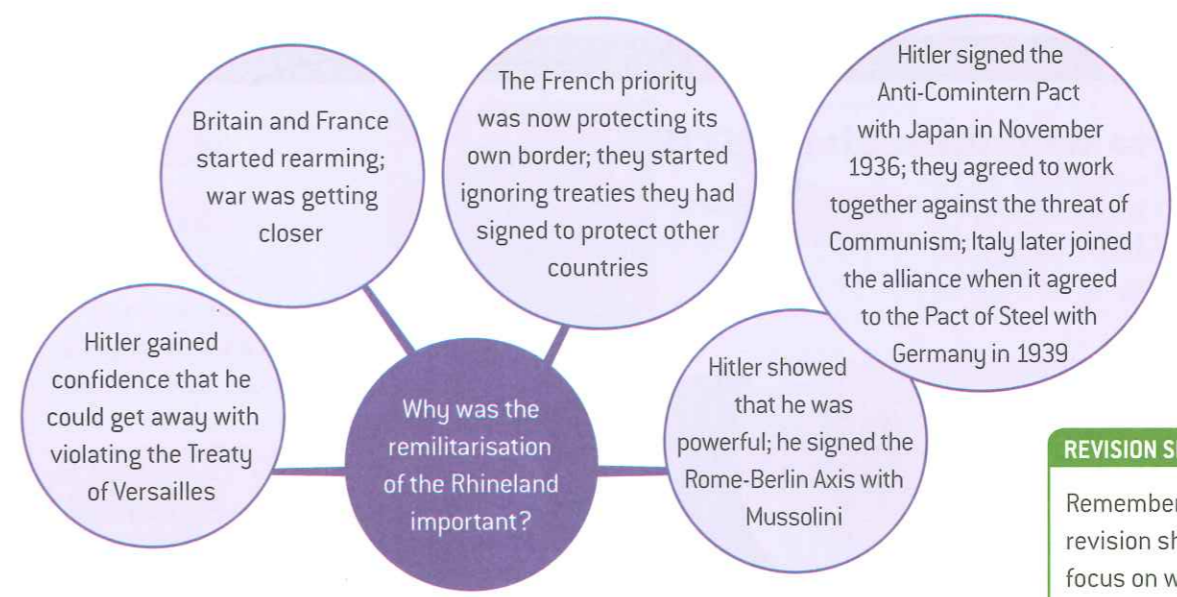
7 March 1936: Hitler's troops entered the Rhineland, many rode on bicycles and there was no air support.

Civilians in the Rhineland greeted the troops with flowers.

Why didn't anyone stop Hitler?

Britain	France
Depression causing problems at home meant Britain was reluctant to do anything	Politicians were distracted as they were fighting a general election
British people said there was no need to stop Hitler from 'marching into his own back garden'; many felt that Hitler had a right to defend his own borders and that this area was rightfully his	Much of the French army was in Tunisia in case they needed to intervene in the Abyssinian crisis
The British leadership was preoccupied with the Abyssinian crisis	Many believed that the German army entering the Rhineland was bigger than it was – they thought this was a battle they would not win

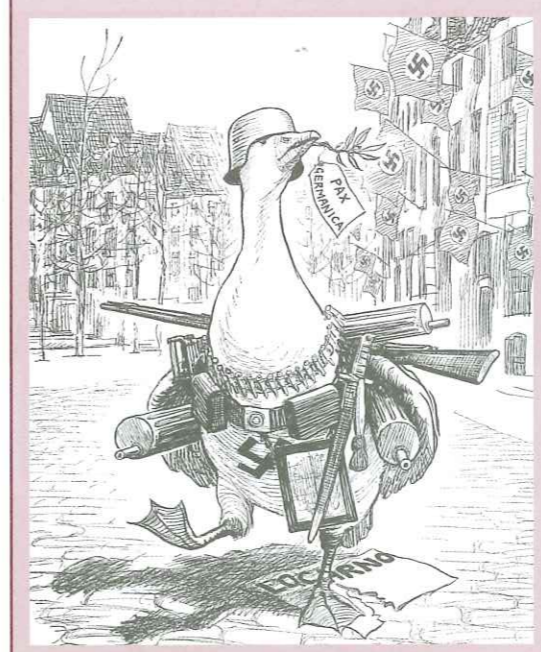
REVIEW
For more details on the Abyssinian crisis look back to pages 36–37.



REVISION SKILLS
Remember that your revision shouldn't just focus on what happened and when: try to think about *why* events were important too, as this will help you to analyse ideas in your answers.

APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS



SOURCE A A British cartoon from 1936, called 'The Goose Step'; this was the name for a type of march that Nazi troops used at parades; 'Pax Germanica' means 'German peace'

- a What evidence can you find in **Source A** that suggests that Hitler claimed he was acting in peace?
- b What evidence can you find to show that the cartoonist does not agree that Hitler's actions were peaceful?

EXAM QUESTION
Source A criticises Hitler's remilitarisation of the Rhineland. How do you know? Explain your answer using **Source A** and your contextual knowledge.

EXAMINER TIP
You need to use the source and your own knowledge to explain your answer – what can you see in the cartoon that shows that Hitler wanted war? Link these symbols to Hitler's remilitarisation of the Rhineland – what did he do and how could this have led to war?

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

EXAM QUESTION
Write an account of how Hitler's remilitarisation of the Rhineland contributed to international tension in 1936.

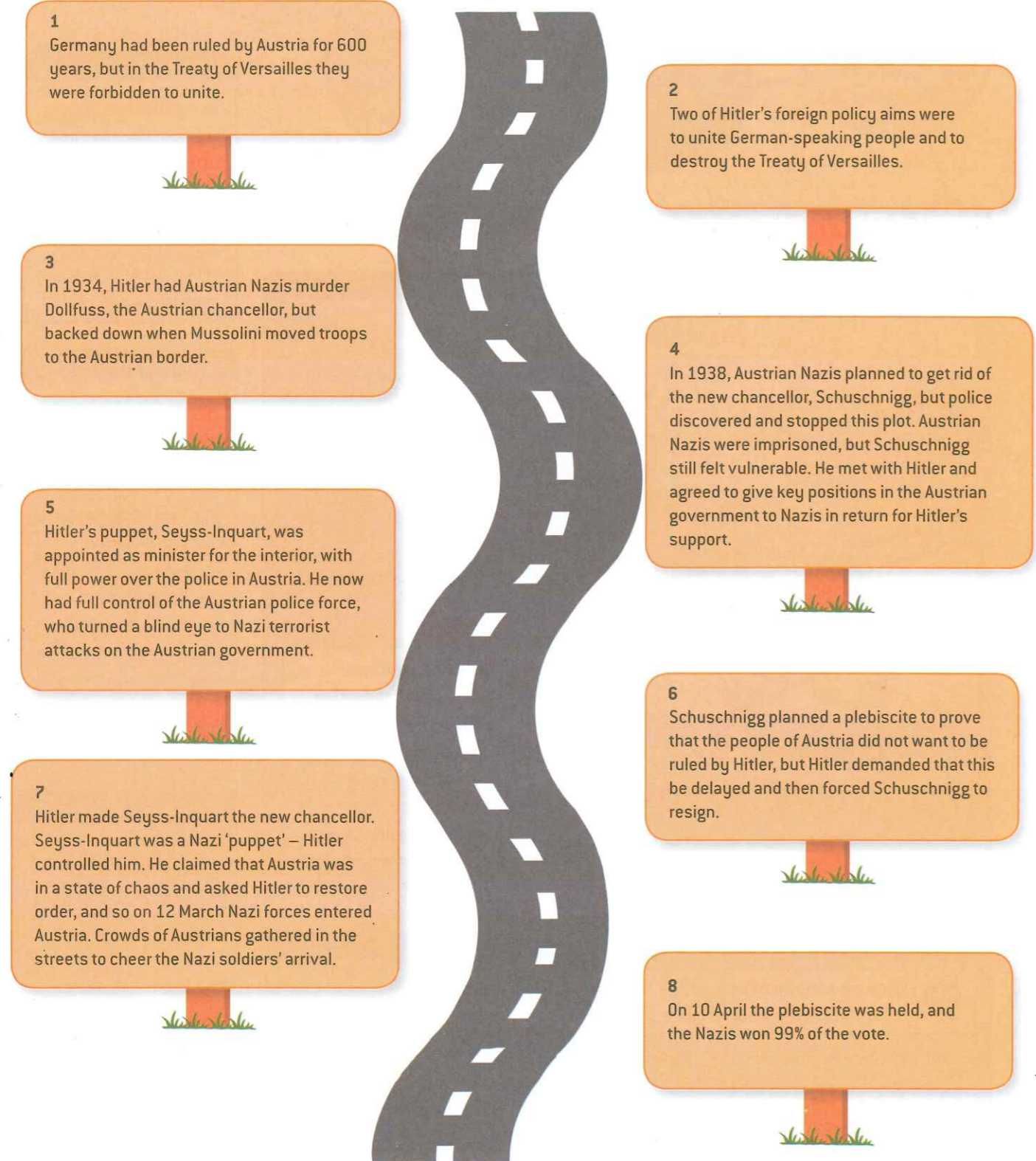
- a Identify five key words that you might need to use when answering the exam question above.
- b Now have a go at answering the question in full.

EXAMINER TIP
In the exam you may be asked to write an account of how an event became or caused an international crisis. Make sure you always read questions carefully and plan your answers so that they focus on the central event in the question.

RECAP

The road to war: Anschluss, 1938

Having remilitarised the Rhineland without opposition and secured his western borders, Hitler turned his attention to other countries, starting with Germany's old ally, Austria.

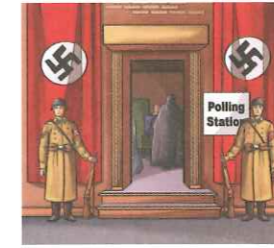


How did people react to Anschluss?

Austria



99% of people voted in favour of *Anschluss*, but polling stations were heavily policed by Nazi 'stormtroopers', and the 'yes' box on the ballot form was much larger than the 'no' one!



Czechoslovakia



The Czech people feared that Hitler's policy of *Lebensraum* would mean that they would be invaded next. Britain and France agreed that they would protect Czechoslovakia if Hitler did invade.

Germany



Hitler was able to use *Anschluss* as a great propaganda victory. The German people were delighted to be uniting with their Austrian neighbours, and could see that Hitler was achieving his foreign policy aims of *Volksdeutsche* and creating a Greater Germany.

Britain



Some British people had decided that the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh on Germany, and since they thought that Germany and Austria were essentially the same country, they felt that Hitler should be allowed to unite the two.

France



Two days before Hitler's invasion the whole government had resigned. France was in no position to get involved.

Anschluss meant that Hitler's next steps on the road to war were more easily achieved: he could now use the Austrian army; he could access the east much more easily through Austria; and the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia was now bordered by Germany (and Austria) on three sides.

APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- a Create a timeline that summarises the events between 1934 and 1938 that led to *Anschluss*.
- b Why was each event important? Think about the impact it had on Hitler and other countries when you explain your answer.



Write an account of how Hitler's attempts to unite Germany with Austria contributed to international tension between 1934 and 1938.

REVIEW

To remind yourself of other events leading to *Anschluss*, such as the Dollfuss Affair, look back to Chapter 7.

EXAMINER TIP

Lots of students lose marks because they simply describe what happened, rather than explaining their ideas. This activity will help you to develop the skill of explaining the importance of events, which will help you in the 'write an account' exam question.

EXAMINER TIP

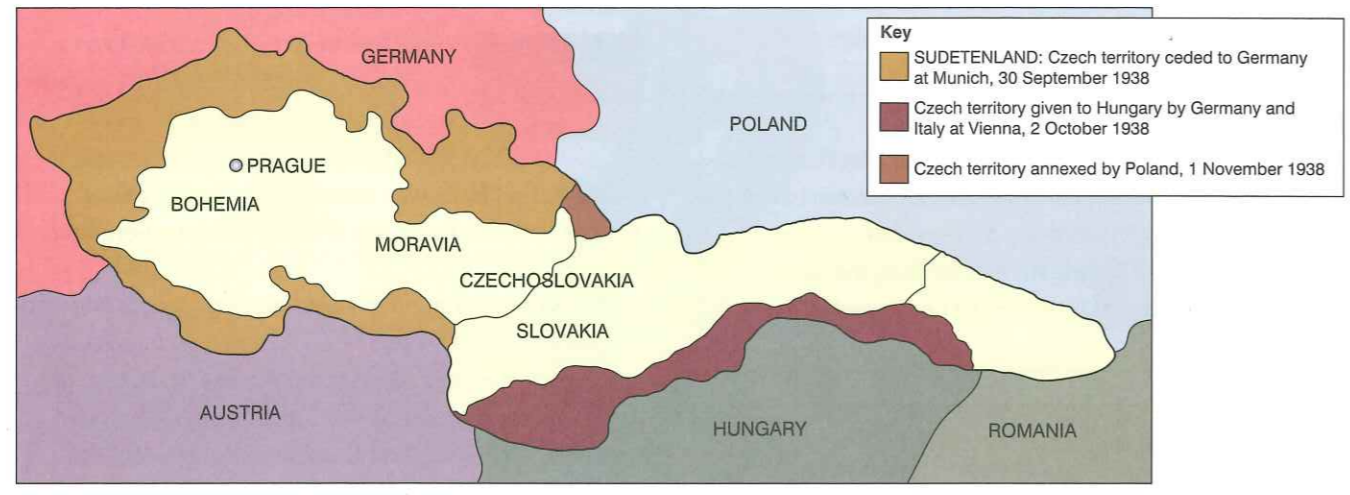
Look carefully at any dates in an exam question – they'll tell you what to include, so when you revise make sure you learn the dates of key events.

RECAP

The Sudeten Crisis, 1938

Hitler had taken many steps on the road to war and was getting more and more confident that he could do as he pleased without anyone trying to stop him. None of his actions had been violent, but his next step was to change this.

A map showing the Sudetenland



The Sudetenland was part of Czechoslovakia, on the German border.

Hitler planned to take *Lebensraum*.

Czechoslovakia's main defences were in the Sudetenland, so taking it would allow Hitler to invade the whole country. There were natural resources and factories in the area that Hitler could utilise in his war effort.

Czechoslovakia had been created at the end of the First World War. Hitler felt that the invasion of Czechoslovakia would be another step towards destroying the Treaty of Versailles.

About 20% of the Sudeten population was German. In May 1938, Hitler claimed they were being persecuted and used this as an excuse to attack.

Chamberlain meets Hitler, 15 September 1938

- Chamberlain flew to Berchtesgarden to meet Hitler.
- Chamberlain wanted to **appease** Hitler to prevent war, so agreed to allow Hitler to take the Sudetenland so long as his actions were peaceful.
- Chamberlain then met with the Czechs and forced them to agree to Hitler's terms.
- On 22 September, Chamberlain met Hitler at Bad Godsberg, where Hitler changed his demands: the Sudetenland would be handed over to him by 1 October and Hungary and Poland must also be given Czech land.

The Munich Conference, 29 September 1938

- Chamberlain, Hitler, Mussolini and Daladier (the French president) met in Munich.
- They accepted the demands Hitler had made at Bad Godsberg.
- Chamberlain and Daladier said they had prevented war, as Hitler promised not to take any more land. Chamberlain said he had guaranteed 'peace in our time'.
- The Czechs were not consulted.
- The USSR was not consulted. This made Stalin think that he could not trust Britain and France.

Hitler invades the Sudetenland, 10 October 1938

Troops marched in, but unlike events in the Rhineland and Austria, the Czechs saw this as a real military invasion.

This was first time Hitler had invaded a country that had never previously been united with Germany.

Hitler completed his invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939. He had broken the promises he had made at the Munich Conference and Chamberlain had to accept that his policy of appeasement had failed.

APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS



SOURCE A A Russian cartoon from 1938; the caption reads 'Onwards to the east!' and the 'meat' on the plate is labelled Czechoslovakia

SOURCE B Adapted from a note from General Ismay, the Secretary of the Committee of Imperial Defence, to the British Cabinet, sent on 20 September 1938:

If Germany swallows up Czechoslovakia it will enhance German military prestige, increase German potential for war, and enable Germany to deploy stronger land forces against France and ourselves than can be done at present.

- Look at **Source A**. There are four characters in the cartoon, representing Britain, France, the USA and Germany. Label the cartoon to show which figure represents each country and write a short sentence to explain why they appear as they do.
- Read through **Source B**, and highlight every reason given for Hitler's wanting the Sudetenland.
- Study **Sources A** and **B**. How useful are **Sources A** and **B** to a historian studying the reasons Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia?

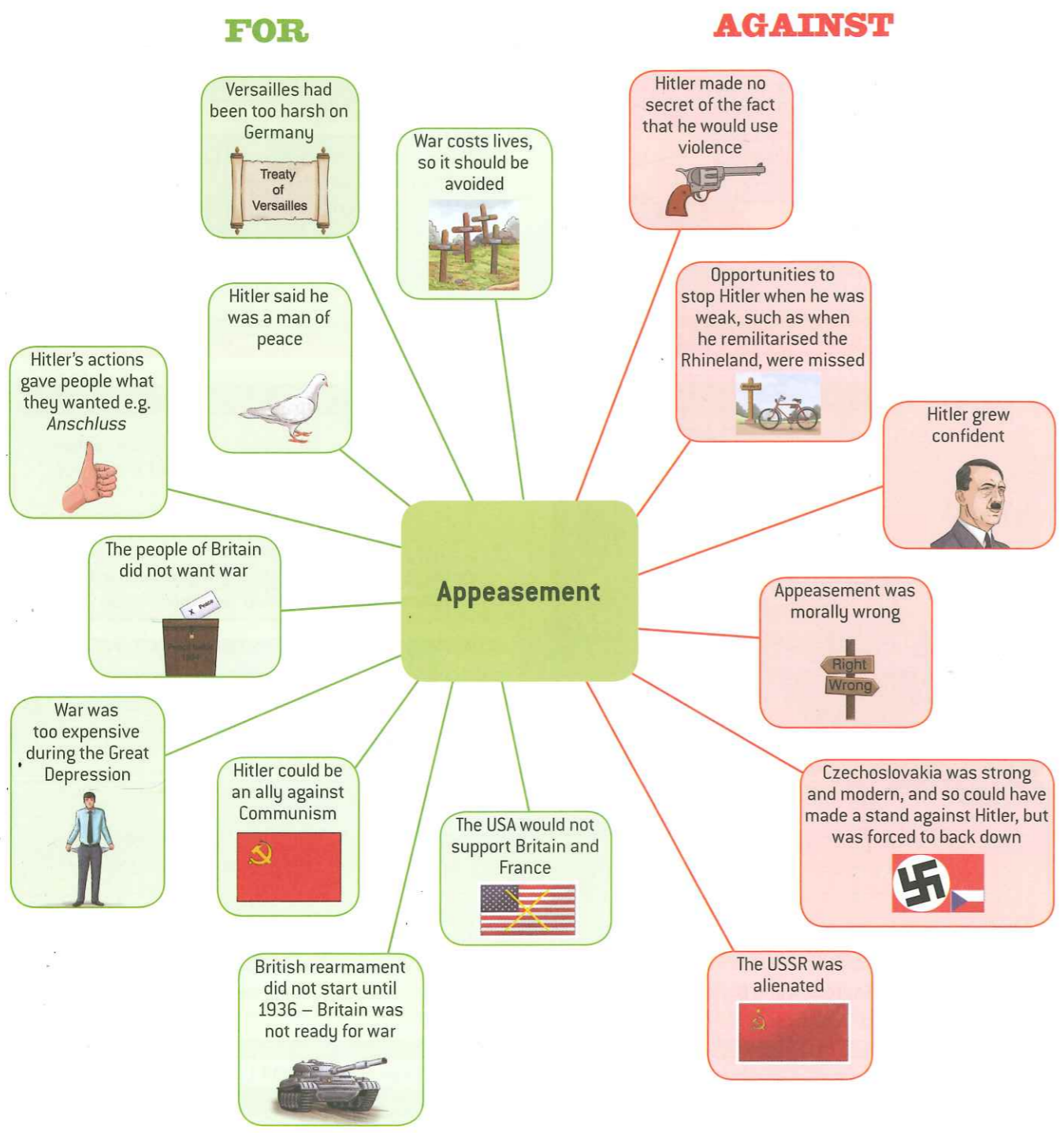
EXAMINER TIP Remember that the examiner is looking for positive evaluation – the sources will be useful. Work out how each source links to what you know about events, and make sure that you deal with both sources.

RECAP

The ending of appeasement

Hitler had grown confident that no one would stop him from taking over wherever he wanted. However, when he invaded Czechoslovakia other countries finally realised that appeasing him was not working. Many historians have argued that the policy of appeasement was a big mistake.

Arguments for and against appeasement



- SUMMARY**
- Hitler's foreign policy meant he would invade other countries.
 - However, Britain and France were reluctant to go to war, so followed the policy of appeasement.
 - This taught Hitler he could do as he wanted and so Europe got closer to war, as he remilitarised the Rhineland, forced *Anschluss* on Austria, invaded the Sudetenland, and then took the rest of Czechoslovakia.

APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE A A British cartoon from 3 October 1938; Chamberlain is facing Mars, the Roman god of war



- a Look at **Source A**. Why do you think Chamberlain is drawn with a hat and an umbrella?
- b **EXAM QUESTION** **Source A** supports the policy of appeasement. How do you know? Explain your answer using **Source A** and your contextual knowledge.

EXAMINER TIP

Whenever you have a source like this one look carefully at the provenance – the date will give you a clue about which event the cartoon is concerned with.

EXAMINER TIP

You will have to consider two sides of an issue when you answer the 'how far do you agree with the statement?' essay question in the exam. If you spend some time thinking about the types of things you may get asked and the evidence you would use to explain your ideas it will help prepare you for the exam. But be careful to always answer the actual question that is asked, not one you've prepared to answer before the exam.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

Make two flashcards summarising the arguments for and against appeasement.

REVISION SKILLS

Making revision flashcards is a good way of revising and creating a useful revision aid for later use. Jot down three or four things under a heading on each card. Try to include a factual detail with each point.

 RECAP

The Nazi-Soviet Pact

Hitler's next victim would be Poland – here he could take more *Lebensraum*, as well as continue to defy the terms of the Treaty of Versailles by invading land that was taken away from Germany in 1919. However, the USSR considered Poland to be part of its sphere of influence, so invading meant Hitler could face a war on two fronts – Britain and France in the west and the USSR in the east – which was one of the reasons Germany had lost the First World War. Hitler had to eliminate the threat of the USSR, so on 23 August 1939 Hitler and Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

What was in it for Germany?

- Hitler could invade Poland without facing a war on two fronts. Britain and France had promised to protect Poland, but the USSR would not interfere.
- Britain and France would now face war with Germany without the USSR as their ally.
- The USSR had a massive army, which would no longer be a threat to Germany.



What was in it for the USSR?

- Stalin felt Britain and France had snubbed him by leaving him out of the Munich Conference and he thought they were being weak by appeasing Hitler. He realised he could not trust them to help protect the USSR if Hitler invaded.
- Britain and France had sent minor diplomats with no real authority to meet with Stalin. Hitler had sent a senior Nazi; he seemed to respect the USSR.
- Hitler agreed that Stalin would be given Polish territory. Stalin would not even have to send troops.
- Stalin feared that Hitler would invade the USSR, but he was not ready to fight. Becoming allies bought him time to prepare.
- Land in Poland would act as a buffer zone if Hitler did decide to invade the USSR.



REVIEW

For more details on the Munich Conference revisit pages 50–51.

The invasion of Poland and the declaration of war

The Nazi-Soviet Pact meant that Britain and France realised that the policy of appeasement had failed. They had already agreed to protect Poland if Hitler invaded, and now they formalised this agreement; war seemed inevitable. Without the threat of war on two fronts, Hitler felt confident enough to invade Poland. On 1 September 1939, a German battleship attacked Danzig and the German army and Luftwaffe descended on Poland.

On 3 September 1939, the British sent an ultimatum – Hitler must leave Poland by 11.00am or Britain would declare war. Hitler sent no reply, so Britain, followed by France, declared war.

Poland was overrun within four weeks, and Hitler thought Britain and France would back down. He was wrong.

APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

- Make a timeline of the events that led to war between 1933 (disarmament conference) and September 1939.
- On your timeline, colour code events that could be used as evidence that the following factors led to war: Hitler's foreign policy; the Treaty of Versailles; the Depression; appeasement; the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

EXAM QUESTION

'The signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact was the main reason for the outbreak of the Second World War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

EXAMINER TIP

To be awarded the top level mark, you need to have a sustained judgement running all the way through your answer. To do this you will need to plan ahead. You might want to think about how the Nazi-Soviet Pact was the short-term cause, but that it wouldn't have been signed without other, long-term, causes. Can you explain a link between causes?

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE A 'Strange Bedfellows' by British cartoonist, Bert Thomas; published in a British newspaper, 18 September 1939



EXAM QUESTION

Sources A opposes the Nazi-Soviet Pact. How do you know? Explain your answer by using Source A and your contextual knowledge.

REVIEW

You will need to look back at Chapters 7, 8 and 9 in order to make a complete timeline of the road to war.

REVISION SKILLS

We remember information better when it is colourful or has images with it. Try adding pictures to your timeline to act as memory prompts. Use sketches, doodles, and pictures to help make your facts memorable. You do not have to be a good artist to do this!

EXAMINER TIP

Look carefully at the imagery used in the source. How does this show that the creator has a negative opinion? Once you've worked this out you need to link your ideas to what you know about the pact. Why did people question Hitler and Stalin's motives?

RECAP

Who was responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War?

The Second World War broke out on 3 September 1939, when Hitler ignored demands from Britain and France that he withdraw from Poland. This was the short-term spark that ignited war. In reality the possibility of war had been building throughout the 1930s, and several people could be held responsible to some degree.

Hitler

- Wrote in his book *Mein Kampf* that he would use violence to make Germany strong again
- Foreign policy aims included *Lebensraum*, building a greater Germany, uniting German speaking people, and destroying the Treaty of Versailles, which meant he had to invade other countries
- Broke the Treaty of Versailles, which was international law
- Invaded Poland, which prompted Britain and France to declare war



Chamberlain

- Missed opportunities to stop Hitler, because of appeasement
- Failed to act when Hitler remilitarised the Rhineland. At this stage the Nazis were not ready for war – if Chamberlain had acted Hitler would have been forced to stop
- Gave the Sudetenland to Hitler without consulting the Czechs, then allowed Hitler to invade a country he had no claim to, which enabled him to strengthen his army
- Excluded Stalin from the Munich Conference, which alienated Stalin and prompted him to sign the Nazi-Soviet Pact



Stalin

- Signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact despite Hitler wanting to destroy Communism
- The size of the USSR's armed forces meant Hitler had a huge and powerful ally
- The pact meant Hitler would not have to fight a war on two fronts, so he was able to invade Poland



Other factors

Japan

- Invaded Manchuria in 1931, walked out of the League of Nations in February 1933, and then mainland China in 1937 – which some historians say was the start of the Second World War
- Signed the Anti-Comintern Pact and Pact of Steel with Hitler

Mussolini

- Invaded Abyssinia which destroyed people's confidence in the League of Nations
- In 1938, did not intervene when Hitler carried out *Anschluss*, which convinced Hitler that he could do as he pleased
- Signed the Anti-Comintern Pact and the Pact of Steel with Hitler

The Big Three

- Treaty of Versailles was resented by Germany and inspired Hitler's foreign policy – to re-unite German speaking people, build a greater Germany and claim *Lebensraum*
- By the 1930s, many people felt that Versailles had been too harsh and turned a blind eye when Hitler started to break it

REVIEW

For more on the Abyssinian crisis see pages 36–37; for *Anschluss* see pages 48–49.

American isolationism

- This made the League weaker, so certain countries were prepared to act more aggressively and risk the outbreak of all-out war, because they didn't fear military action from the USA
- As a result of the USA's absence from the League, economic sanctions were useless because aggressive countries could trade with the USA

Fear of Communism

- Britain and France allowed Hitler to grow strong as they thought Germany could act as a buffer zone against Communism
- Their actions upset Stalin who agreed to the Nazi-Soviet Pact as he felt they would not support him if Hitler attacked

The Great Depression

- America demanded back loans from Germany as a result of the Depression; this led to the collapse of German industry and more people voting for Hitler, who was making many promises to them
- Some countries (such as Japan and Italy) acted more aggressively in order to secure supplies of raw materials and build empires

The weakness and collapse of the League of Nations

- Hitler saw that he could get away with invading other countries without being punished, just like Japan had done in Manchuria and Mussolini had in Abyssinia
- Major countries (such as the USA) were not members of the League, meaning it was not a forceful military or economic threat; the League did not have its own army

SUMMARY

- Hitler signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact, in spite of hating Communism, because it meant he could avoid a war on two fronts when he invaded Poland.
- Stalin signed it to gain territory and time to prepare for war with Hitler.
- Stalin knew Hitler would attack, but felt he could not rely on the USSR's old allies, Britain and France.
- The pact gave Hitler the confidence to attack Poland, but when he did Britain and France stood by their promise to protect Poland, and declared war. The Second World War started on 3 September 1939.

APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- Write out the names of the different people and factors that could be held responsible for the start of the war. Each one should be written on a different piece of paper. Put these in order of who/what you feel was most responsible.
- Next, rearrange your cards into groups to show how factors link to each other. For example, how could you link the Treaty of Versailles to Chamberlain?



Write an account of how events in the 1930s led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

EXAMINER TIP

Try to explain two or three different factors, deal with them in chronological order and, if you can, demonstrate how the factors link to each other.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



'Chamberlain was the individual who was most responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

- Look at the list of other factors that led to the war outlined on these pages. Write a sentence explaining why each factor led to the outbreak of war.
- Have a go at the exam question above.