**Weimar and Nazi Germany 20 mark Question arguments**

2

**Argument:** The success of the Stresemann period

**Exemplar question:** *How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the extent of German recovery in the years 1924-1929? Explain your answer using both interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context*

**Interpretation 2. From Weimar and Nazi Germany by E Wimlott (1997)**

German prosperity was built on quicksand foundations. The Weimar economy was dependent upon high-interest American loans, which usually had to be repaid or renewed within three months. In times of depression, US moneylenders could demand rapid repayment. Moreover, unemployment never fell below 1.3 million. Although big business grew in the 1920s, small firms struggled and many went bankrupt

**This interpretation suggests that the Weimar republic was not a success due to the reliance on Allmerica for loans, continuing unemployment and a struggling economy.**

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| Arguments to support the Stresemann period was a success | Arguments to suggest the Stresemann period was a failure  |
| * Stresemann was a popular leader with many supporters in Germany
* There was little support for extremist parties e.g. the Nazis only gained 12 seats in the 1928 election
* Hindenburg was the President of Germany from 1925 and was very popular.
* There was no fighting in the streets between the left wing and the left wing
* The new Rentenmark stabilised the German currency and brought an end to hyperinflation (1923)
* Loans from the United States helped the German economy grow
* New roads and railways were built and 3 million new homes
* Unemployment went down to about 1 million
* Stresemann brought in the Dawes plan it made reparation payments more manageable and loan 800 million marks this helped Germany meet reparation payments
* The Young plan reduced reparations from £6,600 million to £1,850 million. It extended the length of time to 59 years

Key people: Gustav Stresemann, Charles Dawes, Owen Young  | * Many nationalists (want a strong Germany) opposed the Dawes Plan
* The extremist parties did not go away and they still wanted to overthrow the Weimar Republic
* Extremists such as Hitler objected to the Young plan as reparations were still to be paid off in 1988
* There were lots of different governments – no government was in power for long and this caused problems
* The German economy was depending upon loans from the United States
* After 1927 the growth in industry began to slow down
* Farming suffered and there was a lot of poverty in the large farming community
* Unemployment remained a problem
* Commerce and small business, did not fully recover from hyperinflation in 1923, they felt their interests were being ignored by the Weimar Republic
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Although this question is asking about the Stresemann era it asking you to talk about **economic recovery**. Be guided by the sources.

Don’t forget that Weimar did recover in other ways for example:

* The Locarno Pact signed in 1925 improved international relations
* Germany joined the League of nations in 1926
* In 1928 Germany signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact in which 64 other nations agreed to keep their armies for self defence
* This boosted the popularity of Stresemann who seemed to be restoring Germanys reputation abroad

**Interpretation 1. From Weimar and Nazi Germany by F Reynoldson (1996)**

From 1924 to 1929 the Weimar Republic was much stronger than it had been just after the war. Led by Stresemann in the Reichstag, the different parties managed to work together. The extreme parties such as the Nazis gained fewer seats in the elections. The German people were better off and more contented. The Weimar Republic looked safe.

**This interpretation suggests that the Weimar republic was a success as it brought stability to Germany in an unstable political and economic era.**