Entrance Scholarships

HISTORY

March 2012

Time allowed: 45 minutes

RADLEY

History Scholarship Paper 2012

45 minutes

This question is about the Treaty of Versailles, signed in June 1919.

Read the 'Useful definitions' before reading the sources.

Answer Questions 1 and 2.

1. **Study Source A.**
   What can you learn from Source A about reactions in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles?

   5 marks

2. **Study ALL the sources (A-F).**

   'The main reason for German opposition to the Treaty of Versailles was the fact that representatives from the German government were not allowed to take part in the discussions which decided the terms of the Treaty.'

   Using all of the sources, explain whether you agree with this view.

   20 marks

TOTAL: 25 marks

Useful definitions:

Treaty of Versailles:	This was a peace treaty signed in June 1919 after the First World War. It dealt with Germany, the defeated nation. Representatives of the British, French and American governments had decided the terms of the peace treaty. Representatives of the German government had *not* been allowed to attend the discussions.
Hall of Mirrors:	The room in the Palace of Versailles, just outside Paris, where the Treaty of Versailles was signed.
Annihilation:	To be completely destroyed.
Reparations:	The British, French and American governments demanded that Germany pay compensation for the cost of the War. Germany was asked to pay £6.6 billion to the victorious nations.
(Deutsch) Mark:	German currency
Vengeance:	Refers to wanting to seek revenge for something. It is the infliction of punishment in return for a wrong committed.

Sources A to F

Source A: From a popular German newspaper published on the day of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, 28 June 1919.

Today, in the Hall of Mirrors, the disgraceful Treaty of Versailles is being signed. Do not forget it! The German people will press forward to reconquer the place among nations to which it is entitled. There will come revenge for the shame of 1919.

Source B: A photograph of Germans demonstrating against the Versailles Treaty, July 1919. The messages on the posters read: 'We are Germans, removed from our homeland, protesting against the dictated peace and against the theft of our private possessions'.



Source C: From a newspaper report which appeared in the *New York Times*, July 1919.

The immediate effect of the signing of the Treaty was a blaze of protest in the German press and very low spirits among the German people. Several newspapers were published with black borders around articles about the Versailles settlement. They carried headlines such as 'Germany's Fate Sealed' and 'Peace with Annihilation'. There have been numerous protest marches. There was serious mob violence across Germany, especially in Berlin and Hamburg.

Source D: A German cartoon published in 1919 about the payment of reparations. The German mother is saying to her starving child 'When we have paid our compensation of billions of marks, I can give you something to eat'.



Source E: From a book about the First World War and the peace settlement, written in 1924 by a British journalist.

Versailles was a peace of vengeance and injustice. In the Hall of Mirrors the ideals for which millions of men had fought and died – freedom, fair play and a war to end war – were mocked. The Allies insisted that the Germans had to pay all the costs of the war, for the damage they had inflicted and the ruin they had caused. In effect, this meant that every German peasant, worker, mother, university student or child was being held responsible for the actions of the German government in 1914.

Source F: From a history of Germany 1918–45, published in 1991.

Germany also objected very strongly to the dictated nature of the peace as they were not invited to the peace negotiations. There were also strong objections to the military and territorial terms. Militarily, Germany was left with a very small army and lost land to several neighbouring countries.
