

The Democracies

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INTRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The First World War ended in November 1918 and the peace treaties were signed at Paris (Versailles) in 1919. After that, most people hoped that life could go back to what it had been before 1914. But this could not be. The war had changed Europe too much.
THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS LEFT BY THE FIRST WORLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Until 1914, Europe was the most industrialised and prosperous part of the world. The First World War changed that.• Most governments had borrowed heavily to pay for the war and after it these debts had to be repaid. The German government faced the added cost of reparations imposed on it by the Treaty of Versailles. These debts made it difficult to restart the European economy.• Before the war, other parts of the world bought industrial goods from Europe. During the war, when Europe was no longer producing these goods, these countries began to develop their own industries. When the war ended, they wanted to keep their new industries going, so they imposed tariffs on European goods (protection). This (a) reduced world trade and (b) made economic recovery more difficult.• These circumstances left the European economy depressed in the early 1920s. After a brief recovery in the late 1920s, the Wall Street Crash in 1929 began a global Depression that lasted into the 1930s.• In industrialised countries weak economies produced mass unemployment, misery and hunger. This led to social unrest and political instability, as well as the growth of both communism and fascism. In some countries democracy was strong enough to survive these tensions and where it was not, dictators took over.
FRANCE: THE THIRD REPUBLIC 1920-1940 THE THIRD REPUBLIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Third French Republic was set up in 1870 after Germany invaded France. It was a democratic state that guaranteed the freedom of its citizens.• Its parliament consisted of a Chamber of Deputies, elected by all men over 21, and a Senate elected by French local councils.• The government, headed by the Prime Minister, was answerable to parliament, which also had to approve all laws.• The President of the Republic was elected by the members of the Chamber and the Senate.
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THE COST OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1914, Germany invaded France again, starting the First World War. Although France and its allies won, the French paid a very high price for Victory.• Much of the fighting on the Western Front took place in the northeast of France. By 1919, large areas of farmland were scarred by trenches and filled with unexploded bombs. Towns and villages were flattened and mines and factories destroyed.• About 1.3 million French men were dead and another million were permanently disabled. Almost all of them were young men in their twenties and thirties (the most productive section in society).• Their loss and the loss of the children they might have had left France seriously short of workers and soldiers for the next 20 years.• The French government had borrowed heavily to pay for the war and these debts would make it difficult to rebuild or to develop its economy.
FRENCH POLITICAL PARTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• France had many political parties. This led to a series of weak coalition governments (18 between 1920 and 1940). They found it hard to deal with the country's economic and social problems.• French parties can be divided into:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right-wing (conservatives) who represented business men, devout Catholics, wealthy landowners and (later) fascist sympathisers. They were often anti-Semitic.• Left-wing parties who mainly represented industrial workers. After the Russian revolution they split into:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socialists who wanted to improve workers' conditions through democratic action.• Communists who wanted to imitate Lenin and belonged to Comintern.• The Radicals of the centre. They represented the middle classes of small businessmen and farmers.• All of the French coalitions of this period contained Radicals in alliance with either right-wing or left-wing parties.
1919-1924: THE BLOC NATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first post-war governments were centre-right coalitions called the Bloc National. They were nationalistic, anti German and anti communist.
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1919-1924: THE BLOC NATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Their main achievement was to reconstruct war torn areas of France. To make up for the manpower shortage caused by the war, they allowed two million immigrants from Italy, Spain and Poland to come to France.• They planned to use German reparations to pay for the reconstruction, partly to avoid raising French taxes and partly to keep Germany weak.• When Germany stopped paying reparations in 1923, the Prime Minister, Poincaré, sent French troops into the German industrial area of the Ruhr.• The policy was a disaster. No reparations were collected and the cost of the troops forced taxes up.• In 1924, a compromise was reached with the Dawes Plan. Germany agreed to pay reduced reparations and the French troops withdrew.
1924-1926: THE CARTEL DES GAUCHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dissatisfaction with this outcome led to the victory of the left-wing parties in the 1924 election. The Radicals formed a government with the support of the Socialists.• They faced a major financial crisis. The government had to increase borrowings to pay for reconstruction and the Ruhr occupation. Prices went up and the franc fell in value, making imports more expensive.• Failure to deal with these problems led to the fall of the left and its replacement by a government of national unity led by Poincaré and with some socialist members.
1926-1932: THE UNION NATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World economic conditions improved after 1925, and this helped Poincaré deal with the main economic problems. From 1926 to 1930, France enjoyed economic prosperity. Unemployment fell and industrial output increased. By 1930, new industries like electricity, steel and car-making had been developed.
1932-1936: THE IMPACT OF THE DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Because France was an agricultural rather than an industrial country, the Great Depression did not affect it until 1931. But then overseas trade fell and a large gap appeared between imports and exports. Investment in industry declined, prices rose and the real value of wages fell.• Governments tried to deal with the Depression by cutting spending on wages, but that led to protests and strikes.
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1932-1936: THE IMPACT OF THE DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A number of semi-fascist 'Leagues' appeared. They included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Française, an anti-democratic group set up in 1905. It was very nationalistic, antisemitic and anti-communist. Its youth wing, Camelots du Roi. often engaged in riots with communists.• Croix de Feu, up of ex-soldiers, was very anti-communist and adopted.• Solidarité Française, who wore blue shirts, was financed by the millionaire perfume, Coty.
1934: THE STAVISKY AFFAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1927, Serge Stavisky, a Russian Jew, was charged with fraud but his trial was postponed nine times.• In January 1934, the police wanted to question him about another fraud, but he was found dead before they could.• It looked like suicide, but soon the press began to suggest that he was murdered to cover up his links to certain politicians, including the Prime Minister, who had to resign.• The Leagues used the fact that Stavisky was Jewish to stir up anti-semitism, and his links with politicians to attack democratic government.• In February 1934, they staged riots in which several people were killed and hundreds injured. Trade unionists responded with strikes and protests.
1936-1938: THE POPULAR FRONT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The riots and the existence of the Leagues aroused fears of a fascist coup. This helped to unite the left.• Stalin ordered French communists to co-operate with the Socialists to block a fascist takeover.• In 1936, Radicals, Socialists and Communists formed a coalition called the Popular Front. The Socialist leader, Leon Blum became Prime Minister.• They promised social reform, the abolition of the Leagues and '<i>Bread, Peace and Liberty</i>'.• Trade unionists expected immediate victory. They occupied factories and organised strikes.• Blum met with trade unions and employers and produced the Matignon Agreements promising pay rises, a 40-hour week and two weeks' paid holidays a year. He also outlawed the Leagues and raised the school leaving age to 14.• But prices continued to rise and there were still a million out of work. Blum had to end his reforms and was forced to resign in 1937.
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1936-1938: THE POPULAR FRONT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Popular Front survived until 1938, but achieved constantly attacked it, little more. The right both because it was supported by the communists and because Blum was Jewish.
1938-1940: THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A coalition, led by Edouard Daladier, took power in 1938. Though mainly concerned with the growing threat from Hitler, Daladier was able to restore economic stability by devaluing the franc and increasing government spending to create jobs.• Daladier was still in power when the Second World War began in 1939.
FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY, 1920-1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main aim of French foreign policy after 1918 was security against Germany, which had invaded France twice in 50 years.• At the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 they got (a) the reduction of the German army to 100,000 men, (b) the demilitarisation of the Rhineland and (c) the German promise to pay reparations.• Britain and the United States also promised to defend France against German aggression, but in 1920 the American Senate refused to ratify the relevant Treaties and the United States went into isolation. That left Britain as France's major ally, but the British were more to appease Germany than to challenge it.• The French tried to keep Germany weak by demanding high reparations payments and invading the Ruhr in 1923.• They also tried to isolate Germany by making alliances with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Romania. Known as the 'Little Entente', this system of alliances was weakened by quarrels among the members.• The French also began to build a huge line of trenches, known as the Maginot Line, along the border with Germany. They hoped it would protect someone over by giving them against another German invasion.
1926-1932: BRIAND AND RECONCILIATION WITH GERMANY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aristide Briand was Foreign Minister from 1926. He sought reconciliation with Germany and was helped by the German Foreign Minister, Gustav Stresemann.
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1926-1932: BRIAND AND RECONCILIATION WITH GERMANY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1925, in the Locarno Pact, both countries accepted the borders between them set by the Versailles Treaty. Britain and Italy agreed to act as guarantors of the Pact.• In 1926, France agreed to Germany joining the League of Nations. The two countries also participated in talks about disarmament and signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) outlawing war as a means of settling disputes.• In 1929, with the Young Plan, they reached a final agreement on reparations.
1933-1939: FRANCE AND HITLER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At first the French did not realise how dangerous Hitler was. As the threat became clearer, they began work again on the Maginot Line, which had been abandoned in the late 1920s.• Because of their loss of manpower in the First World War, they did not feel strong enough to take on Germany alone, so they depended for security on their alliances with Britain, Italy and the countries of the Little Entente.• For this reason they were willing to let Mussolini conquer Abyssinia. But many French people supported the League of Nations, and that forced the French government to agree to sanctions on Italy.• When Hitler's troops entered the Rhineland in 1936, in open violation of the Treaty of Versailles, the French did nothing because the British would not act with them.• The French and British also let Hitler take over Austria in 1938 without protest.• But when he threatened Czechoslovakia later that year, the Czechs appealed for help to their French ally. Daladier wanted to help, but felt it was impossible because the British Prime Minister Chamberlain was determined to appease Hitler.• The result was the Munich Agreement (September 1938) in which Hitler got the Sudetenland, but promised not to touch the rest of Czechoslovakia.• When Hitler broke that promise six months later, Daladier followed the British example and gave a guarantee to protect Poland.• When Hitler ignored them and invaded Poland in September 1939, France and Britain declared war.
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THE 'PHONEY WAR' AND THE FALL OF FRANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through the winter of 1939, Hitler concentrated on conquering Poland while the French and British waited for him behind the Maginot Line.• During this 'phoney war', divisions appeared among French politicians, with some wanting peace with Hitler.• In May 1940, the German tanks bypassed the Maginot Line, entering France through the Ardennes. The British army retreated towards the sea at Dunkirk. The French army fell back towards Paris, which surrendered to the Germans on 14 June.
FRANCE SURRENDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 22 June, the 84-year-old Marshall Pétain, France's most famous soldier, became Prime Minister and agreed to an armistice (truce) with the Germans.• France was divided into two zones:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Germans occupied two-thirds of France to the north and west, including the whole Atlantic coast.• The southeast remained under the control of Marshall Pétain. Because he had his headquarters at Vichy, it is usually known as 'Vichy France'. It was independent in name but in reality it only existed as long as Hitler let it.• The 1.5 million French soldiers captured by the Germans remained in prison camps, the French army was reduced to 100,000 men and France had to pay the cost of the German conquest.• At first Pétain's surrender was popular. Many French people were glad to be spared the slaughter of another war.
WHY DID FRANCE FALL?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sudden collapse of France shocked many. It happened because:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hitler's pact with Stalin allowed him to send all his armies into France without worrying about Russia on his eastern side.• French generals placed too much faith in the Maginot Line, which did not even extend along the whole frontier.• The French tanks were spread thinly along the front, rather than in massed battalions like the Germans.• There were many pro-fascist elements in France who welcomed a deal with Hitler and they were joined by the communists after the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939.
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BRITISH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS: 1920-1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although Britain was one of the winners in the First World War, the cost of victory was high.• Over 750,000 soldiers were dead and over a million badly wounded.
BRITAIN: THE COST OF VICTORY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To pay for the war, Britain had sold off 20% its foreign investments, its national debt was ten times higher than in 1914 and taxes had risen substantially.• Prices doubled between 1914 and 1918 and went on rising after the war, making life difficult for the poor.
THE BRITISH ECONOMY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before the war, Britain had the second biggest economy in Europe.• Its prosperity was based on exports of coal, textiles (cotton, wool and linen), steel and ships.• Most of these industries were situated in the north and west.• Even before the war, these British exports were losing out to foreign competition because;<ul style="list-style-type: none">• British industrialists had not invested in new machinery and processes, so their goods were more expensive.• American and European manufacturers were more up to date and productive.
THE ECONOMY AFTER THE WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When the war ended, many British people expected that life would get better but in fact it got worse. After a brief boom in 1919, the economy began to decline from 1920.• Soldiers returning from the war found it hard to get jobs. Unemployment rose to two million by 1921, and did not fall much below that level until the second World War.• The post-war depression was due to a decline in exports:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• American, Polish and German coal, produced with modern machinery, was cheaper than British coal dug out with pick and shovel.• China, India and other areas, which used to buy British war, now made their own textiles before the or bought from the Americans or the Japanese,• World trade declined after the war, cutting the demand for ships.• In 1925, Winston Churchill, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister), restored the link between Britain's currency, the pound (sterling)' and gold. The gold standard raised the cost of British exports by 10%.
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THE ECONOMY AFTER THE WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To reduce costs and improve exports, employers cut jobs and wages. Workers joined trade unions to resist this and strikes became common.
THE COAL INDUSTRY AND THE GENERAL STRIKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coal mining was Britain's greatest industry. Over one million miners produced coal to power other industries, drive trains and heat people's homes.• Many coal mines were small and privately owned. The owners lacked the money to invest in new machinery.• After the war demand for British coal declined, especially after the return to the gold standard. In 1925, the mine owners announced that they would have to cut miners' wages.• When the miners went on strike in protest on 1 May 1926, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) called a general strike to support them. About three million workers, mainly in transport, the docks and electricity, joined it, paralysing the country.• The government overreacted. Claiming it was the start of a communist takeover, they sent in troops and tanks. Middleclass people volunteered to replace striking workers by driving buses, lorries, etc.• Realising they had little public support, the TUC called off the general strike after only nine days.• The miners remained out until October, but at last hardship forced them back to work on the employers' terms.• After the strike, membership of trade unions fell. In 1927, the government passed the Trades Disputes Act, which made a future general strike impossible.
THE GREAT DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Great Depression hit Britain in 1930. Exports fell by 50% and unemployment rose, reaching a peak of three million in 1932.• The government found its income from taxes falling, while the cost of helping the unemployed rose.• The Labour Party, led by Ramsay MacDonald, was in power. In 1931, it was advised to cut wages and spending on welfare to avoid a budget deficit (spending more than it earned).• The Labour Party split on the issue and MacDonald joined with the Conservatives to form a National Government.
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THE GREAT DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They cut wages and unemployment pay by 10% and increased income tax. This policy only made things worse by reducing what people had to spend on goods.
THE RECOVERY BEGINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Late in 1931, the government had to abandon the gold standard. This did some good because value of the pound fell by 25% and exports became more competitive.• The government also imposed a tariff on imports, which protected industries.• These measures led to a gradual improvement in the economy. This accelerated after 1936, when the threat from Nazi Germany forced Britain to rearm.
THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The effect of the Depression varied from place to place. In areas with the old industries people suffered badly, but in areas where new industries were developing living standards went up.
POVERTY IN THE OLD INDUSTRIAL AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the old industries existed – south Wales, western Scotland and northern England – unemployment was well above 30% and people suffered from extreme poverty.• When a worker had a job, he paid insurance which gave him an income if he was unemployed. But the payment only lasted for 26 weeks. After that workers had to rely on handouts from local councils.• In 1934 the government replaced the insurance system with unemployment pay based on need, but payments were subject to a strict means test.• Inspectors visited people's homes to check that no one in the house was working and that they had no hidden savings. Workers hated means testing because it was humiliating.• Unemployment pay was never enough to cover food, clothing and rent. In Liverpool, a survey found almost half of unemployed workers had less than the minimum needed for a decent life.• In many places people depended on charity-run soup kitchens for food. Hunger and malnutrition were common, leaving children undersized and sickly.
CASE STUDY: THE JARROW MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jarrow on the River Tyne was one of the worst affected areas. When the local shipbuilding• shipbuilding company, Palmer's, closed in 1935, unemployment rose to at least 70% of the workforce.
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CASE STUDY: THE JARROW MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local council and the local Labour MP, Ellen Wilkinson, decided to organise a march to London to draw attention to their plight.• The marchers were to carry a petition to establishment of new industry parliament asking for them in Jarrow.• On 5 October 1936, 200 men set out to march the 300 miles to London. They covered around 15 miles a day.• Well-wishers from all parties greeted them along the way and gave them food and shelter each night.• They reached London after 25 days, and presented their petition to parliament on 1 November. The Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, refused to meet them.• In spite of that, the march attracted a lot of attention. In 1938, an engineering works and a ship-breaking yard were set up in Jarrow as part of Britain's rearmament programme before the Second World War.
PROSPERITY IN THE NEW INDUSTRIAL AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life in the English midlands and around London was very different from the poverty of the north and west.• The economy there was based on making new consumer goods like motorcycles, cars, electric cookers and radios.• Jobs in these industries were plentiful. The number of people working in the car and electrical industries doubled between 1919 and 1939.• These jobs were relatively well paid, so people could afford better houses and house building also created jobs.• New techniques of mass production reduced the price of goods, so workers had more money to spend on them. They could afford better food and housing, while some were able to enjoy luxuries like radios, frequent visits to the cinema and even annual holidays.
FASCISM IN BRITAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Britain in the 1930s, like most European countries, had its fascist movement – the British Union of Fascists (BUF). Its leader was Sir Oswald Mosley, a wealthy landowner.
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FASCISM IN BRITAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The BUF was anti-communist, anti-Semitic and in favour of tariffs to protect British industry. At the start it had over 50,000 members. Mosley formed some of his followers into a paramilitary bodyguard who were dressed in black shirts.• The BUF was most active in London where there was a large Jewish population. Blackshirts intimidated them and riots were common through 1933 and 1934.• But as the nature of Hitler's regime became obvious, the BUF lost support and never won more than a few council seats.• In 1936, the government banned the wearing of uniforms, and when war began it interned Mosley and his wife.
WHY DID DEMOCRACY SURVIVE IN FRANCE AND BRITAIN?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democracy survived in France and Britain because:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a tradition of democratic government in both countries.• The fascist 'Movements lacked skillful and charismatic leaders like Mussolini and Hitler.• Economic conditions never got as bad as they did in Germany.
JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES (1883-1946)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The reasons for the Great Depression and the best way to deal with it were hotly debated by economists in the 1930s. The man who suggested the best remedy was John Maynard Keynes, the greatest economist of the 20th century.• Born in England, he studied economics and during the Paris Peace Conference was economic adviser to the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George.• He disagreed strongly with the way the Allied leaders handled the peace settlement, especially their demand for huge reparations from Germany, which would make it difficult for the German economy to recover.• He resigned and wrote a book called The Economic Consequences of the Peace, in which he made his criticisms public.• In 1925 he criticised Churchill's decision to take Britain back on the gold standard.• In 1936 he published his greatest work, The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money.
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JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES (1883-1946)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In it he argued against two ideas that were popular at the time:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That governments should not meddle in the economy.• That the way to treat a depression was to cut government spending and keep the budget balanced.• Keynes said that governments must manage the economy. In a depression, they should invest in the economy, even if they had to borrow to do so. Their investment would stimulate economic activity and speed up the recovery. After that they could pay back the money they borrowed.• During the Second World War, Keynes worked on plans for a post-war economic system that that would avoid the depression and misery that followed the First World War and that helped fascists to power.• In 1944, he led the British delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference in the United States, plans were laid for a new economic order after the war.• It succeeded in creating prosperity in the 1950s rather than the depression that followed the First World War, but Keynes died in 1946 before he could see the result of his ideas.
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EXAM QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the challenges facing France in peace and war, 1920-1945? (HL 2023)• What were the main social and economic challenges facing Britain during the period 1920-1939? (HL 2022)• From your study of Great Britain, 1920-1945, what did you learn about two of the following: J.M. Keynes; the success or failure of the Jarrow March, October 1936; life on the Home Front during World War II? (HL 2021)• Which had the greater social and economic problems during the inter-war period, Britain or Germany? Argue your case, referring to both. (HL 2020)• From your study of World War II, what did you learn about two of the following: wartime alliances; the Home Front; Vichy France? (HL 2020)• During the period 1920-1939, what social and economic problems faced Britain and how effectively were they tackled? (HL 2019)• What problems faced France in the years 1920-1945, and to what extent were these problems overcome? (HL 2018)• [DBQ] What were the aims of the Jarrow March and to what extent were they achieved? (HL 2017)• [DBQ] What did the Nuremberg Rallies and/or Joseph Goebbels contribute to Nazi propaganda? (HL 2016)• What were the economic and social problems of Britain during the inter-war years and/or what was the impact of World War II on its civilian population? (HL 2015)• How did the Jarrow March (1936) illustrate the social and economic problems facing Britain during the inter-war period? (HL 2014)• What were the challenges facing Britain in peace and war, 1920-1945? (HL 2013)• What were the main challenges facing France, 1920-1945? (HL 2012)• What did one or more of the following achieve in Britain during the period 1920- 1945: J.M. Keynes; those who took part in the Jarrow March, October 1936; Winston Churchill? (HL 2011)• Why was France unstable during the period, 1920-1940? (HL 2011)• What were the main social and economic challenges facing Britain, 1920-1945? (HL 2009)• Which had the greater social and economic problems during the inter-war years, Britain or Germany? Argue your case, referring to both countries. (HL 2008)• What was the impact of World War II on the civilian population of Britain and/or France? (HL 2008)• What problems did the Third Republic of France encounter between 1920 and 1940? (HL 2007)• What were the causes and consequences of the Jarrow March, October 1936? (HL 2007)• How successfully did Britain deal with the social and economic problems of the inter-war period? (HL 2006)

France Between the Wars

1918-26

1. Struggled immediately after the war:
 - 1 million men dead
 - Destruction
 - USSR reneged on its debts
 - Divided between right and left
 - Many parties made stable government difficult.
 - Large government debts - rampant inflation
2. 1923 occupied the Ruhr

1926-32

1. Things improved.
2. Strong centre-based coalition under Poincaré
3. Economy boomed (clothing, perfume, manufacturing and chemical industries)
4. Poincaré retired
5. Wall Street Crash caused economic crisis

1930s

1. France not hit as badly as other countries
2. Nine million people were employed in agriculture.
3. However - unemployment soared.
5. Rapid changes of governments.

The Stavinsky Affair

1. Stavinsky was a Jewish swindler - stayed out of prison many times because of connections with politicians.
2. He died in mysterious circumstances in 1934
3. The right blamed the left wing government for killing him in order to keep him quiet.
4. Right-wing rioting – 15 killed - over 1,000 injured
5. Communists organised counter-demonstrations
6. Crisis could have toppled the government and threatened democracy.
5. The government held firm and survived.

Popular Front

1. A coalition of left wing parties formed a government under Leon Blum in 1936.
2. It collapsed in 1938 but some think it saved France from Fascism.

Foreign Policy

1. During the Stresemann era (1923-29) a policy of reconciliation was followed.
2. 1925 - the Locarno Pact that confirmed France's borders with Germany.
3. 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact that outlawed war as a way of settling disputes.
3. Depended on collective security with Britain
4. Failed to take action against Hitler on several occasions.
5. Deladier signed the Munich agreement.

The Maginot Mentality

1. Not to defeat the enemy, but to prevent invasion.
2. Line only went to Belgium.
3. Generals believed that tanks and aircraft could not break the line
4. Only General De Gaulle and the Prime Minister Reynaud objected.
5. Germany attacked through Belgium
6. In 8 days the Germans had reached the Atlantic.
7. The British Expeditionary Force had to be evacuated from Dunkirk and Marshal Pétain surrenders

Armistice

1. Signed in the same railway carriage in 1918:
 - 3/5ths of France to be under German occupation
 - The South-East to be run from Vichy
 - Heavy reparations
2. 1.5 million men to remain prisoners of war.

Britain Between the Wars

Economy

1. **1918- 1920** - Post War Boom – Industrial Production up 20% - Low Unemployment
2. **1921-1922** – Economic bubble builds and economy crashes in Dec. 1922 – Prices fall, production slumps and unemployment hits 2 million.
3. **1923-1929** – gradual recovery
4. **1929-1932** – Great Depression – Exports halved – 3 million unemployed
5. **1932-1939** – slow economic growth. Domestic consumer demand grew – Rearmament boosted economy. 1.5 million still unemployed.

Unemployment

1. Major argument on how to solve unemployment problem
2. One side argues for cuts to balance the budget
3. **J.M. Keynes** argued that money should be spend on stimulating the economy.
4. Government tries to lessen impact of crisis by introducing Unemployment Insurance (1920 & 1927) and a dole scheme.

1926 General Strike

1. Lack of investment in coal mining and coal exports expensive. When French occupy the Ruhr coal prices collapse.
2. Mine owners blame high wages and impose wage cuts and longer working hours on coalminers.
3. The Samuel report recommends a temporary wage cut and the miners call a strike when the employers impose the cuts.
4. Mine owners lock out the workers on 1 May 1926.
5. Trade Union Congress (TUC) calls general strike in support of miners.
6. Transport, heavy industry, printing and power workers stop work in support of the miners.

Strike Collapses

1. Winston Churchill (Chancellor of Exchequer) claims that the strike was an attempt by a minority to hold the country to ransom.
2. TUC publishes its own paper to counter government propaganda.
3. Baldwin (Prime Minister) claims strike is unconstitutional
4. TUC leaders worried that union assets could be seized if the strike was declared illegal
5. Government uses troops and volunteers to keep supplies going.
6. 'Red Scare' used to undermine strike
7. Union leaders call of strike after 8 days.
8. Many workers remain on strike for up to six months.
9. Government brings in new laws to ban general strikes and sympathetic strikes.

Politics in Britain

1. War coalition ends 1922
2. Conservatives 1922-1924 – Bonar Law and then Baldwin
3. Labour Jan-Nov 1924 – Ramsey MacDonald – minority government collapses over 'red scare'
4. Conservatives 1924-1929 – Baldwin
5. Labour 1929-1931 – MacDonald
6. National Government 1931-1935 – MacDonald
7. National Government 1935-1937 – Baldwin
8. National Government 1937-1939 – Chamberlain

Economic Reforms

1. Import Duties Bill 1932 – Government abandons free-trade and implements protectionism
2. Imperial Trading Preference attempted. Britain attempts to Commonwealth countries to reduce tarriffs on trade within Commonwealth – limited success
3. Revival of Steel Industry – Tarriffs imposed on foreign steel and new steelworks built
4. British Iron and Steel Federation criticised for opposing building of steel plant at Jarrow
5. Cheap loans to build luxury ocean liners – Queen Mary & Queen Elizabeth

Housing

1. Addison Housing Act 1919 provide money to local authorities to build houses for working class people
2. 213,000 houses built 1919-1922
3. 1924 – yearly grants – rents fixed at pre-war levels – by 1933 500,000 house built
4. Slum clearances begin in 1930
5. Some schemes suspended during economic crisis 1931-1934

Education

1. Fisher Education Act 1918 – compulsory education up to 14.
2. 'Continuation schools' up to 16
3. Nurseries to be opened for under-fives
4. Many provisions after 1921 due to government cutbacks
5. By 1939 only a small number of working class children finished secondary education

Britain Between the Wars

Economic Depression

1. North-East England badly affected
2. Ship-building, steel and coal industries in trouble
3. Rising unemployment
4. Falling Living Standards

Jarrow

1. Working class town with 35,000 people
2. Palmer's Shipbuilding Yard closed down in 1935
3. Massive Impact on the town

Unemployment

1. In 1934 the unemployment rate in Jarrow was 67.8%
2. 6,000 on the dole and 23,000 people dependent on Relief

Welfare Payments

1. High Unemployment means that dole payments are costing the government a lot of money
2. Means test introduced
3. This meant families had to break up as pensions counted
4. Old-age pensioners had to move out of family home
5. The alternative was the Poor Law where men had to work for his keep and take home very little

Hunger Marches

1. Protest against long-term unemployment
2. 'Hunger Marches' organised by National Unemployed Workers' Movement during 1930's
3. In 1932 over 2,000 people participated in a Hunger March
4. A National March in 1934
5. A further march planned for 1936
6. Jarrow Borough Council attempted to distance the Jarrow Crusade from NUWM because of its connections to the Communist Party.
7. The 'respectable' councillors wanted to maintain a 'cross-party' appeal

Jarrow Crusade

1. Jarrow was a staunchly Catholic town
2. Suggested that the word 'Crusade' had religious influence
3. Marchers convinced that if British public were made aware of the plight of Jarrow something would be done

The March Begins

1. On 5 October 1936
2. Local Labour M.P. Ellen Wilkinson walked some of the way to generate publicity
3. Decided women should not be asked to endure the hardship of the march
4. 200 fit men chosen to walk the 300 miles
5. £1,000 raised to cover the expenses
6. Religious service on the eve of the March

Disciplined March

1. Started 9.30am each morning
2. Marched for 25 days
3. Ten minutes rest after fifty minutes marching
4. Men with mouth organs lead the March
5. Massive support along the route
6. Overnight stops in Town Halls or local hospitals
7. Public Meetings held along the route
8. 90,000 people signed their petition on-route

London

1. Arrived in London after 25 days
2. On 1 November the marchers held a public demonstration at Hyde Park Corner
3. The Marchers decided not to go to the House of Commons
4. Ellen Wilkinson MP presented their petition to the House of Commons
5. Prime Minister Baldwin refused to meet Marchers

Impact

1. No immediate results
2. Long-term impact
3. Used in subsequent elections against Tories
4. Ship-breaking yard established in 1938 and steelworks in 1939
5. Jarrow prospered during WW2