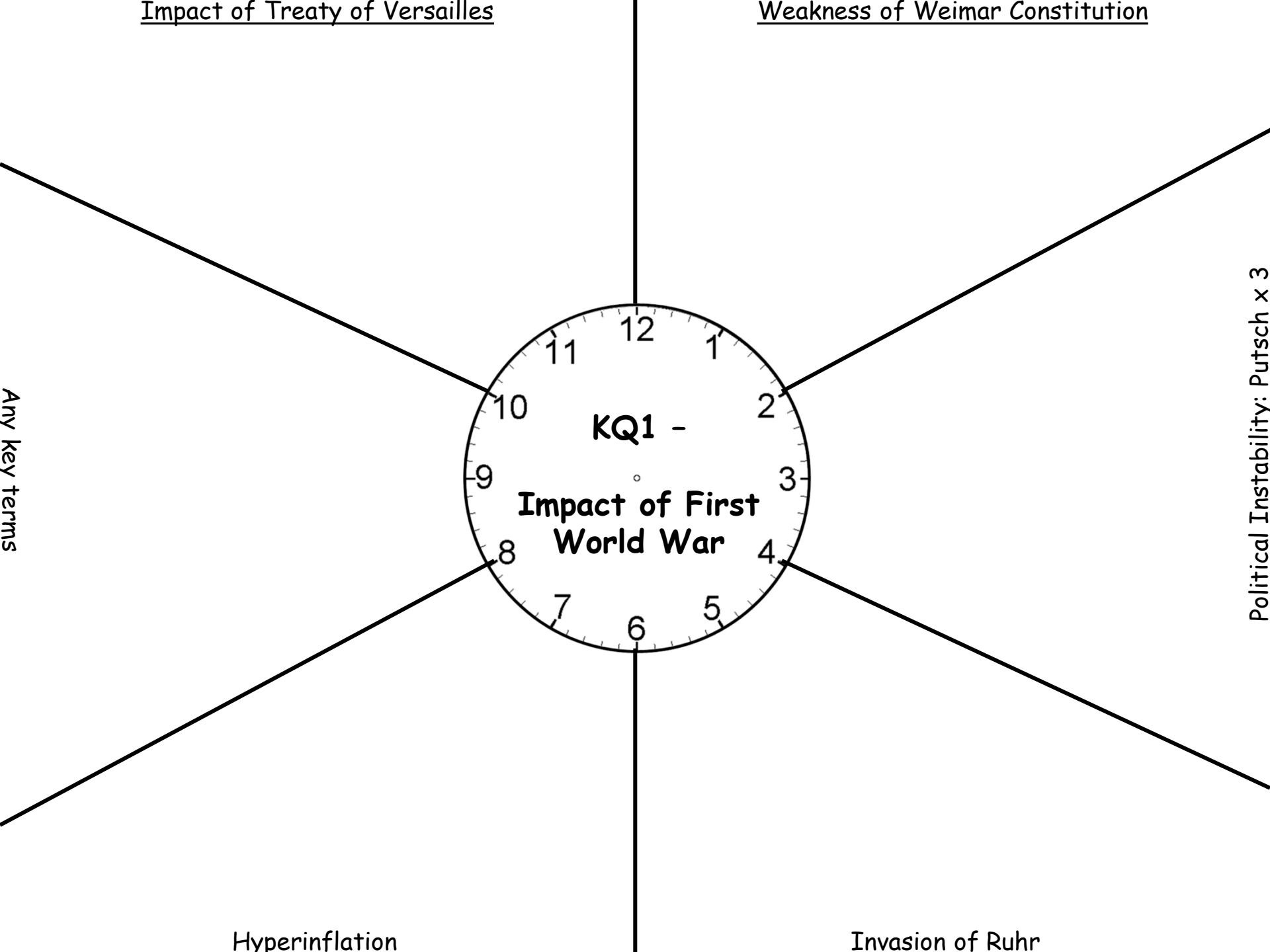


# GCSE Germany Introduction

You are to complete the mind map on the next slide using the information on the slides that follow.

You can either print out slide 2 and fill it in, or just copy it out on paper



# Treaty of Versailles

- Many people felt that Germany had received a very harsh deal and they resented the government, 'November Criminals', for signing it.
- LAND: Gave Alsace-Lorraine to France, a Polish corridor created to stop Poland being landlocked, lost control of all colonies and was forbidden to unite with Austria.
- ARMY: no more than 100,000 men and only small ships & no submarines, tanks or air force. The Rhineland was demilitarised.
- MONEY: Pay reparations of £6,600 million for the damage caused, and give the coal mines of the Saar to France & cattle & sheep given to Belgium & France,
- BLAME: Accept full responsibility for the causing the war (Article 231) and therefore the devastation and losses of the war.

# Weakness of Weimar government

- New - previously been a king with no government in place
- Lots of parties wanting to be in control
- Voting system = Proportional Representation (PR)
- President chose the Chancellor (meant to be leader of the largest party)
- Coalition government = difficult for one party to get an overall majority due to PR
- 9 elections in 12 years
- Article 48 - during times of crisis the president could pass laws without the Reichstag

# Putsch 1: Spartacist

- Spartacists became the Communist Party
- Led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht
- January 1919
- Wanted to overthrow President Ebert and the government to create a communist country
- Government used Reichswehr (army) and Freikorps (demobilised soldiers) to put down the rebellion
- Rising was over in a couple of days.
- No match for the army and Freikorps
- Leaders captured and killed
- Violence of the rising moved government to Weimar

# Putsch 2: Kapp Putsch

- Ebert faced opposition from the right in March 1920 because they were to reduce the size of the army & disband the Freikorps
- Wolfgang Kapp planned to take control of Berlin and form a new government
- Reichswehr led by Luttwitz supported Kapp
- Successfully seized control of Berlin.
- President asked people of Berlin not to support Kapp and go on Strike - which most did.
- Due to little support the Putsch collapsed.
- Very few were punished.

# Putsch 3: Munich Putsch?

- Hitler planned to march through Munich to gain support in a bid to seize power.
- Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 1923 Hitler burst into a beer hall in Munich, held 3 powerful figures at gunpoint until they agreed to support him, they did.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2 of these men changed their mind and organised troops to challenge Hitler and the NSDAP.
- Hitler was no match for the well-armed police force, incident was soon over.
- Hitler arrested & sent to prison for 9 months
- Event = a crucial part of the rise of Hitler and the Nazis.

# French Invasion of the Ruhr

- In 1922, Weimar Germany simply could not manage to pay another instalment towards reparations.
- In 1923, French and Belgium troops invaded the Ruhr; Germany's most valuable industrial area.
- The French and Belgium troops took over the iron and steel factories, coal mines and railways.
- Weimar's government responded by ordering the workers in the Ruhr to go on strike and it ordered all people in the Ruhr to passively resist the French and Belgium soldiers.
- This led to violence and over the next 8 months of the occupation, 132 people were killed and over 150,000 Ruhr Germans expelled from their homes.
- The order for workers to go on a general strike may have been patriotic but it had disastrous consequences for Germany as a whole.
- Germany's economy started to suffer. The striking workers had to be paid and the people expelled from their homes had to be looked after.



# Hyperinflation

- To solve the problems caused by the French invasion of the Ruhr the government printed more money.
- Combined with a weak economy ruined by the war led to hyperinflation.
- Prices ran out of control, e.g. a loaf of bread cost 250 marks in January 1923 rose to 200,000 million marks in November 1923.
- German's currency became worthless.
- Middle-class people with savings were particularly badly hit.

# Key terms

Research what these words mean & write the meaning

- Treaty of Versailles
- Reparations
- Coalition
- Putsch
- Communism
- Hyperinflation