



d) What was the national response to the assassination of Rathenau?

### Evaluation

8. 'The Kapp Putsch shows Germany to be as disunited as ever.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Be sure to include the following:

- a) An **introduction** that provides an overview of the points you intend to make and your final judgement;
- b) A paragraph in which you **make your first point**;
- c) A paragraph in which you **make your second point**; (*and so forth...*)
- d) A **conclusion** which links back to the question, and which summarises your evidence and overall judgement.

Challenge: Hatred of Rathenau among Germany's right was **motivated in part by anti-Semitism**. Bolshevik Russia and a defeated Germany had sought closer diplomatic relations on largely pragmatic grounds, as Europe's two 'pariah states'. In the eyes of the far-right, however, Rathenau was an internationalist Jew and a **Bolshevik sympathiser**.

One of their chants, '**Knallt ab den Walther Rathenau! Der Gott-verfluchte Juden-sau!**' [Knock down Walther Rathenau / The God-forsaken Jewish sow!], speaks to the intensity of this sentiment.

**To what extent do you believe the growth of anti-Semitism in Germany around this time can be attributable to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?**

### Glossary

- Putsch – a violent attempt to overthrow a government; a coup.  
*e.g. The Kapp Putsch was an attempt to overthrow the democratically-elected German government.*
- Bolshevik – a Communist faction, mostly associated with the Russian Revolution.  
*e.g. The far-right suspected a Bolshevik influence in Government.*
- Pariah state – a nation considered to be an outcast in the international community.  
*e.g. Germany had become a Pariah state after the signing of the Treaty.*
- Anti-Semitism – hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.  
*e.g. Anti-Semitic attitudes became more widespread in the interwar years.*