

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.