### Key topic 1: The Weimar Republic 1918–29

1. **The origins of the Republic, 1918–19**
   - The legacy of the First World War. The abdication of the Kaiser, the armistice and revolution, 1918–19.
   - The setting up of the Weimar Republic. The strengths and weaknesses of the new Constitution.

2. **The early challenges to the Weimar Republic, 1919–23**
   - Reasons for the early unpopularity of the Republic, including the ‘stab in the back’ theory and the key terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
   - Challenges to the Republic from Left and Right: Spartacists, Freikorps, the Kapp Putsch.
   - The challenges of 1923: hyperinflation; the reasons for, and effects of, the French occupation of the Ruhr.

3. **The recovery of the Republic, 1924–29**
   - Reasons for economic recovery, including the work of Stresemann, the Rentenmark, the Dawes and Young Plans and American loans and investment.
   - The impact on domestic policies of Stresemann’s achievements abroad: the Locarno Pact, joining the League of Nations and the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

4. **Changes in society, 1924–29**
   - Changes in the standard of living, including wages, housing, unemployment insurance.
   - Changes in the position of women in work, politics and leisure.
   - Cultural changes: developments in architecture, art and the cinema.