

Charting the fate of the Weimar Republic 1923-33

Tasks

- Using **four** different coloured pens, colour-code the events in the table below into the following categories: politics, foreign relations, the economy and unemployment.
- Decide how 'good' each event is for the Weimar Republic and give it a success rating out of ten (10 = brilliant news: a success; 1 = a complete disaster: a failure).

		Score (10 = success, 1 = failure)
1923	Gustav Stresemann becomes Chancellor (although he later switches role to become Foreign Secretary).	
	Stresemann introduces a new currency, the Rentenmark, to replace the worthless Mark.	
	Stresemann orders the striking workers in the Ruhr to go back to work.	
	Stresemann agrees that Germany should start paying the reparations.	
1924	Germany agrees the Dawes Plan with America, Britain and France. Under its terms America agrees to lend Germany 800 million gold marks.	
	Support for the extremist parties (e.g. Communists and Nazis) declines.	
	Support for the Social Democrats, a non-extremist party, grows.	
1925	All French and German troops are withdrawn from the Ruhr.	
	Germany and France sign the Locarno Pact. They agree never to change the border between them.	
	Approximately 750 000 people are unemployed (about 1.4% of the population).	
1926	Germany is allowed to join the League of Nations.	
	Approximately two million Germans are unemployed.	
1927	Industrial growth starts to slow down and there is a depression in farming.	
1928	Germany signs the Kellogg-Briand Pact with over 60 other countries. This agrees that these countries will never go to war against each other.	
1929	Stresemann is awarded the Nobel peace prize.	
	In October 1929 Stresemann dies.	
	The Young Plan extends the deadline for payments of the reparations for a further 59 years.	
	The Wall Street Crash cripples the American economy. America can no longer support Germany.	
1930	Unemployment rises to three million.	
1931	Just under five million Germans are unemployed.	
1932	Six million Germans are unemployed (around 10% of the population).	
1933	Hitler, the leader of the extremist Nazi party, becomes Chancellor.	



3. Use the scores you have given each event to plot it on this graph. You need a different coloured line for each category (politics, foreign relations, the economy and unemployment). Make sure you label your points with a brief explanation.
4. Look at your chart. What were the areas of the most success over the period 1923-1933?
5. Can you blame the Wall Street Crash of 1929 for all Weimar's problems, 1929-33? Explain your answer using the information from the chart and the table.