



# Lesson 1

CHALLENGES FACING  
GERMANY AT THE END OF  
THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

# Overview

This is the first in a series of lessons written for GCSE, National 5 and IBMYP about Germany from 1918-1945.

This lesson will help pupils to understand the context in which German citizens were living at the end of the First World War.

This lesson covers the political, social, economic and military challenges facing Germany from 1918.

The lesson includes a short video which is ideal for use as a flipped classroom experience. Watching the video could be required of pupils before they arrive at the lesson. Additional materials include a cloze reading task and a quiz. A comprehensive lesson plan is also included.

# Learning Objectives

Pupils will understand:

- The political challenges facing Germany from 1918
- The social challenges facing Germany from 1918
- The economic challenges facing Germany from 1918
- The military challenges facing Germany from 1918

# Resources required

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Video



Video notes



Ordering task



Cloze reading  
task



Extension task

Parliament

Kaiser

Revolution

Lenin

Reichstag

Chancellor

Armistice

Allies

Blockade

Anarchy

Influenza  
pandemic

Demobilised

## Key words

# Core activities

1. Pupils can be given the video link to watch in advance of the lesson. This works as a 'flipped classroom' experience.
2. On arrival, pupils can be asked to note three ideas that they can recall from the video.
3. The teacher can ask the class for their initial recollections in an open class forum.
4. The video is replayed to the class.
5. Pupils are grouped into pairs to discuss the most significant challenge facing Germany at the end of World War One. They are given the video notes sheet. This provides them with the exact text used in the video.
6. Pupils should complete an ordering task to arrive at their decision. They should be prepared to justify their decision and explain why they did not choose the other three challenges.
7. Each pair links with another pair to compare their findings and discuss.
8. A whole class teacher-led discussion follows in order to hear a range of informed opinions. Pupils should be encouraged to challenge their peers on their judgements.
9. The cloze reading task is now handed out to all pupils to complete without the support of the video notes sheet.
10. Once complete, the teacher can read out the text and ask each pupil in turn to complete the blanks.
11. The extended response question can be given to pupils as an extension task to be completed in class or for homework. The teacher could provide the key words as a prompt or instruct that these key words must feature in their response.