

## WRITING DEVELOPMENT

**RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.**

### How did the Weimar Republic survive, 1919-29?

#### 11. Explaining I – simple explanations

EVERY answer you write should include an element of explanation – explaining HOW what you are writing is actually answering the question.

When you addressed the subordinating conjunctions ('because', 'so', 'so that', 'which caused', 'which led', 'as a result') you found it easy to identify the effect of a cause, or a cause for an effect. But what makes explanation in an exam answer so difficult is that you have to link a *specific* cause to a *specified* effect, and that is cognitively harder, and many students struggle to do so effectively.

**NOTE: the sections that follow say nothing about providing facts or examples in your answer; we will deal with that in the Writing Development exercise #13.**

Let's take the question:

"Explain one reason the Weimar Republic survived."

So let's say you choose the Freikorps. Now you need to **explain how** they helped the Republic to survive, thus:

CAUSE	EXPLANATION	CONSEQUENCE
FREIKORPS →	EXPLANATION OF → <b>HOW</b> → THE FREIKORPS SAVED THE REPUBLIC	→ WEIMAR SURVIVED

I am going to call this sequence of explaining **how**, from the cause to the effect, an 'explanation pathway'.

1. Consider this answer:

"One reason the Republic survived were the Freikorps. They were right-wing and the SPD Defence Minister, Gustav Noske, used them to put down the Spartacist and Bavarian rebellions. As a result, the Republic survived the Communist threat of 1919-20."

Identify the sentence which gives the explanation of **how** the Freikorps saved the Republic, and underline the subordinating conjunction which signals the effect.

2. Use the following sentence stems to write good 'as a result' paragraphs explaining **how** each of these other reasons the Republic survived:

- Another reason the Republic survived was the Army. <Explain **HOW**>. As a result \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another reason was the General Strike of 1920. \_\_\_\_\_. As a result \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another reason was Gustav Stresemann. \_\_\_\_\_. As a result \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another reason was the Dawes Plan. \_\_\_\_\_. As a result \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another reason was the Economic growth. \_\_\_\_\_. As a result \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another reason was reforms and social change. \_\_\_\_\_. As a result \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another reason was the Great Coalition. \_\_\_\_\_. As a result \_\_\_\_\_.