2.1: Germany Under the Weimar Republic

German economy 1919-1923:
- GER unable to pay reparations
- FR and BEL invade Ruhr territory- taking what they are owed in goods
- government called general strike on Ruhr area
- trade collapsed- no goods being made
- government printed more money- led to hyperinflation
- some people profited from crisis- able to sell goods for way higher than buying price
- people on wages could renegotiate every day
- people on fixed incomes/with savings were most badly hit

Uprisings and rebellions:
- communist uprisings:
  - Spartacist Uprising
    - communist
    - anti-communist freikorps stopped them
  - Bavaria
    - communists tried to seize power when Kurt Eisner died
- Kapp Putsch
  - right-wing
  - wanted dictator
  - Berlin- freikorps
  - army didn’t fire
  - German workers declared general strike- stopped uprising
- many rebellions- Nazis gained support
  - governments and democracy weak
  - fear of communism- people looked to right-wing e.g. Nazis
  - ideal opportunity to challenge government
  - Munich Putsch, 1923
    - Hitler hijacked government meeting
    - stopped by police etc.
    - gained public support during trial and in prison

How the Weimar government tackled these problems:
- Freikorps to stop communist uprisings (1919-1920)
- Army put down communist revolts of 1923
- Strikes- e.g. general strike to collapse Kapp Putsch
- Dawes Plan- financial support from USA etc. (1924)
- Inflation controlled by burning old currency (1923)
  - replaced by Rentenmark wh/ was backed by land
  - replaced again in 1924 by Reischmark, backed by GER gold reserve
- French persuaded to leave Ruhr (1924)
- Foreign Affairs improved- allowed into LoN
- Borrowed money to develop infrastructure- gave GER people jobs too
- Reforms and support to improve everyday life
  - increase in cultural activity