**Chapter review**

**Short-answer questions**

1. What were the different attitudes of world leaders in creating peace?

1. What were the specific conditions of the Treaty of Versailles?

1. What was Germany’s response to the Treaty of Versailles?

**Analyse the historian’s views**

In the following extract, historian Wolfgang Mommsen, from the University of Dusseldorf, explains the Treaty of Versailles from the German point of view.

*Mentally, Germany was not prepared in 1919, to accept defeat. In 1914, the Germans entered the war with quite unreal assumptions about its origins, about its nature and about its objectives. They had developed a huge assembly of claims which, in fact, would have meant that Europe could be dominated by German hegemony totally, and were mentally not willing to forfeit this all in 1918–1919.*

*All of a sudden, we are confronted with what the bulk of the Germans considered an entirely unjust treaty. So resistance against this Treaty was enormous.*

*The Treaty of Versailles created a political climate in Germany in which the right put all the blame on everything that went sour, onto the Treaty and the lost war. And that created this climate in which many people then began to think one had to fight the war once again.*

*Basically, I think one can say the Treaty was harsh, but understandable.*

Source: http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/historian/hist\_mommsen\_02\_versailles.html

1. According to Wolfgang Mommsen, what were Germany’s aims at the start of the war?

1. List two strong words that Mommsen uses to describe the German attitude to the Treaty.

1. What was the political climate created in Germany by the Treaty?

Extended-response question

Write a considered response to this statement about the Treaty of Versailles: *‘The Versailles treaty was dominated by the United States and was therefore poorly thought out.’*

Think about your response before beginning to write it. A strong essay will agree with some parts of the essay statement, and importantly, disagree with other parts of it. Disagreeing shows that the response contains original thought and a strong use of evidence. Consider the following prompts:

* Was the Treaty of Versailles dominated by the United States? Do you agree with this part of the essay statement?
* What were the demands of the United States? Consider the Fourteen Points published by President Wilson.
* What were the aims of French Prime Minister Clemenceau and British Prime Minister Lloyd George?
* In what ways did they impact on and change the demands of President Wilson?
* Do you agree that the conditions of the Versailles Treaty were ‘poorly thought out’ as claimed in the essay statement? Look back at the conditions placed on Germany. Do you think these conditions should have achieved the aim of peace in Europe?
* The statement links the two comments by using the words ‘and was therefore’. Do you think it is true that the United States influenced the Treaty to be poorly thought out? If not, then this is a good thing to state in your essay because it shows you are responding directly to the words in front of you in the essay question.