



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

Modern History – Germany

Purpose of task:

- To understand how Germany was unified by 1871 and the role that Bismarck played in forging a modern state.
- To develop skills in research, organisation and written communication.

Task: You are going to produce a research project exploring two key questions which are fundamental to the A level history course.

Your project should be thoroughly researched using **at least 5 different websites/books/articles etc** and these should be listed in a **bibliography** at the end of your project

Your project should be **written in your own words** and have a **colourful and creative layout** which engages the reader, including headings, images and annotated maps.

Part 1: How was German unified by 1871?

You need to research:

- a) The growth of German nationalism 1815-1850
- b) The Battle of Schleswig-Holstein 1863
- c) The Austro-Prussian War 1866
- d) The Franco-Prussian War 1870-71

Success criteria:

- ✓ For each war you need to explain: **the causes of the 3 wars, which states/countries were involved and what the consequences of the conflicts were** (with particular emphasis on German territory and power)
- ✓ You should **provide a conclusion**, directly answering: how was Germany unified by 1871?

Part 2: Why is Otto von Bismarck remembered as 'the Iron Chancellor'?

You need to research the life and legacy of Bismarck including:

- a) Early life
- b) Achievements
- c) Allies and enemies
- d) Death and legacy

Success criteria:

- ✓ You need to **provide a range of details** about each aspect of Bismarck's life and legacy
- ✓ You should **provide a conclusion**, directly answering the question: why is Bismarck remembered as 'the Iron Chancellor'?

Recommended resources:

Websites:

BBC Bitesize, Growth of Nationalism in Germany

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zqyrctdm/revision>

German unification <http://igcse-history.weebly.com/unification-of-germany.html>

BBC History - Bismarck

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/bismarck_otto_von.shtml

Video:

The Germans: Bismarck and the German Empire (42 mins)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqcGs_rnqll&t=1883s

Audio:

Radio 4 In Our Time: Bismarck

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00775pm>

Radio 4 Memories of a Nation: Bismarck the Blacksmith

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04k6sd7>



Deadline for Task: First lesson in week commencing 14th September 2026