EUROPEAN HISTORY

Unit 10

The Unification of Italy and Germany

Form 4
1. The Early Phase of the Italian Risorgimento, 1815-1848

The settlements reached in 1815 at the Congress of Vienna had restored Austrian domination over the Italian peninsula but had left Italy completely fragmented in a number of small states. The strongest and most progressive Italian state was the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont in north-western Italy. At the Congress of Vienna this state had received the lands of the former Republic of Genoa. This acquisition helped Sardinia-Piedmont expand her merchant fleet and trade centred in the port of Genoa. There were three major obstacles to unity at the time of the Congress of Vienna:

- The Austrians occupied Lombardy and Venetia in Northern Italy.
- The Papal States controlled Central Italy.
- The other Italian states had maintained their independence: the Kingdom of Sardinia, also called Piedmont-Sardinia, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (ruled by the Bourbon dynasty) and the Duchies of Tuscany, Parma and Modena (ruled by relatives of the Austrian Habsburgs).

During the 1820s the Carbonari secret society tried to organize revolts in Palermo and Naples but with very little success, mainly because the Carbonari did not have the support of the peasants. Then came Giuseppe Mazzini, a patriotic writer who set up a national revolutionary movement known as Young Italy (1831). Mazzini was in favour of a united republic. His ideas spread quickly among large segments of the Italian population. Young Italy revolutionary cells formed throughout the Italian peninsula.

A new Pope, Pius IX, was elected in 1846 who promised reforms in the Papal States. Other Italian princes made some liberal reforms which were intended to weaken the revolutionary movements. But instead these reforms were to bring about revolutions in 1848 in Sicily, Naples, Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice and Turin.
2. The Revolutions of 1848 in Italy

The first revolt took place in the Kingdom of Sicily, which resulted in a constitution for the whole kingdom. An revolt in Rome forced Pope Pius IX to flee Rome and a republic was proclaimed. King Charles Albert of Sardinia mobilized his army and attacked Lombardy to drive the Austrians from Northern Italy.

It looked as if the independence and unity of Italy had become a possibility. But then the Austrians defeated the Piedmontese and Charles Albert had to abdicate. His son, Victor Emmanuel II succeeded him in 1849. A new revolutionary leader, Giuseppe Garibaldi, could not hold Rome against a French army, sent to restore the Pope in Rome. An Austrian army invaded Italy and suppressed the revolts in Venice and Milan. Only in Sardinia did Victor Emanual II held firm and kept a liberal constitutional government.

3. Cavour and the Final Stages in the Unification of Italy, 1852-1870

Count Camillo di Cavour became prime minister of Sardinia-Piedmont in 1852. Cavour started by transforming Sardinia-Piedmont into a modern state by developing the economy on the British model of free trade. The country became a constitutional monarchy and many liberal reforms were introduced. Through his diplomatic skills, he achieved the political unification of Italy in less than a decade. At the secret Pact of Plombieres, Cavour was able to persuade Emperor Napoleon III to a secretly planned war against Austria. By early 1859, Cavour had caused a crisis that provoked the Austrians to send an ultimatum demanding Piedmontese disarmament. Cavour rejected the ultimatum and the Austrians declared war. The French came to the aid of the Piedmontese and the Austrians were defeated in the two major battles. The Austrians then surrendered Lombardy to Napoleon III, who handed it over to Victor Emmanuel II.

In elections held in 1859-1860, all the northern states voted in referenda to join the Kingdom of Sardinia. At this point, Napoleon III concluded a separate peace with Austria (Treaty of Villafranca) and left Cavour to continue to fight the war against Austria alone. Napoleon became concerned about the large size of the new Italian state close to the French border. Napoleon also insisted that Cavour had over the provinces of Savoy and Nice to France, as was agreed by the Pact of Plombieres. Napoleon left a French garrison to help the Pope stay in control of Rome.

Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-82) was the other great Italian national hero. Garibaldi’s dream of a united Italian republic made him come out from his retirement in the island of Caprera. In 1860 he sailed from Genoa with the Thousand Red Shirts (an army of patriotic volunteers) and freed Sicily and Naples from the Bourbon King Francis II. Garibaldi met Victor Emmanuel at a secret meeting and gave these two kingdoms the King to avoid a possible civil war between royalist and republican patriots. The first Italian Parliament met in 1861 and declared Victor Emmanuel as the first king of a united Italy. But the new Italian Kingdom was still without Rome, (still ruled by the Pope) and Venetia (still controlled by the Austrians).

Venetia was added to Italy in 1866 when Prussia defeated Austria in the Seven Weeks’ war. In that war Italy sided with Prussia and Venetia was its reward. When the Franco-Prussian War broke out in 1870, Napoleon III had to withdraw his troops from Rome. The Italian government sent troops at once to take over Rome from the Pope. The citizens of Rome voted for union with Italy which was declared the new capital city of Italy in 1871.
Unit 10.1 - The Unification of Italy

1. What did the Congress of Vienna do to Italy after 1815?

________________________________________________________________________

(2)

2. Identify the three obstacles to Italian unification in the first half of the 19th century.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

(3)

3. Match the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) Ct. Camillo Cavour</th>
<th>the French Emperor who helped the Italians against the Austrians.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b) Victor Emanuel II</td>
<td>the Prime Minister of Sardinia-Piedmont that achieved the unification of Italy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Giuseppe Mazzini</td>
<td>the first King of United Italy in 1861.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Giuseppe Garibaldi</td>
<td>the Pope who lost the Papal States and Rome to Italy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Pius IX</td>
<td>the leader of the Young Italy movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Napoleon III</td>
<td>the Italian patriotic leader who liberated Naples and Sicily from the Bourbon kings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(6)

4. Identify and name from the map the eight Italian states before the Unification of Italy. The first letter of each state is given to help in your answer.

<table>
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<th>S</th>
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(4)

5. (a) Draw the colours of the flag of the Kingdom of Italy using red, green, blue and golden yellow where appropriate.

(2)

(b) What changes were made to the Italian flag when Italy became a Republic in 1946?

(1)

6. The Seven Weeks' War between Austria and Prussia helped Italy add the province of ______________________ to the Kingdom of Italy.

(1)

7. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 gave the opportunity for the Italian Government to add ______________________ to the Kingdom of Italy.

(1)

(Total 20 marks)
Unit 10.2 - The Unification of Germany, 1862-1871

1. The German Confederation, 1815-1866

Germany is a relatively modern state. In the mid nineteenth century Germany was a collection of smaller states that were linked as a German Confederation. This confederation was dominated by Austria. In the 1860's the dominance of Austria was challenged by Prussia and the process of unification of Germany began. These events have been interpreted rather differently by historians.

2. The process of unification: The Zollverein

A gradual process of economic interdependence during the Industrial Revolution through saw the German states move towards economic unification. For example, the growth of the railway network in Germany led to easier access to different resources across the Confederation. Economic growth meant greater economic prosperity among the member states of the German Confederation. The Zollverein (customs union) was an agreement set up by Prussia and the North German states to reduce customs duties between them. This economic union excluded Austria and the South German States.

3. The Revolution of 1848 in Prussia and the Frankfurt Parliament

In March 1848 demonstrations in Berlin led King Frederick William IV grant a liberal constitution. The King transferred his court to Potsdam to be free from the Liberal Provisional Government. In the meantime an all-German Parliament met at Frankfurt to try to bring about the unification of Germany. But no agreement could be reached about who was to be proclaimed German Emperor between the King of Prussia and the Austrian Emperor. In the end Prussia and Austria withdrew their representatives from the Frankfurt Parliament, with the result that it lost its importance. By November 1848 the Prussian army took control of Berlin, the King suppressed the liberal constitution and dissolved the Frankfurt Parliament. The revolution was defeated and the King assumed absolute power again with the support of the army, the aristocracy and the bureaucracy. In 1850 Austria and Prussia agreed to restore the German Confederation.
4. Bismarck appointed Chancellor, 1862

In 1862 Otto von Bismarck was appointed Chancellor of Prussia by King William I. Bismarck had already made himself famous in a speech where he stressed that German unity would not be achieved by debates and resolutions but by **blood and iron**, i.e. by war and conquest. On his appointment Bismarck set out to reform the Prussian army, in view of the future wars for the unification of Germany. The new Prussian army was tested in the war against Denmark in 1863.

5. The Schleswig-Holstein Question and the War against Denmark, 1863-64

In 1863 King Christian VII of Denmark formally incorporated the Duchies of Schleswig-Holstein into the Danish Kingdom, breaking the terms of the Treaty of London of 1852. The German Confederation mobilised an army led by Prussia and Austria and invaded the duchies. Prussia took the administration of Schleswig and Austria managed the duchy of Holstein. But the two German powers clashed many times over the manner in which the duchies were to be administered. Historians still debate whether the German chancellor, Bismarck deliberately set out to provoke Austria. The result was a political division within the German Confederation with Austria and Prussia now fighting for dominance in Germany.

6. Austrian-Prussian War or Seven Weeks’ War, 1866

In 1866 arguments about the administration of Schleswig-Holstein led to war breaking out between Austria and Prussia. This war lasted seven weeks and resulted in a Prussian victory over the Austrians. In defeating the Austrians the Prussians assumed the leading state in Germany. Prussia then set up the **North German Confederation** and annexed those German states that had sided with Austria during the war (Saxony, Hanover and Hesse-Cassel). The South German states (Bavaria, Württemburg and Baden), allies of Austria, kept their independence for the time-being.

7. The Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871

After 1867 relations between Prussia and France worsened. Emperor **Napoleon III** of France wanted compensation in Belgium and Luxemburg for having stayed neutral in the Austro-Prussian War. Then in 1870, frustrated by the Prussian candidate for the vacant throne of Spain, France declared war on Prussia. The resulting Prussian victory was both swift and decisive. The French Emperor was captured prisoner and removed from power. In Germany there was a wave of German patriotism bringing about the union of the South German States. As a result, King William I of Prussia was proclaimed **Emperor of Germany** on January 18th 1871. Bismarck remained Chancellor until his resignation in 1890. The **Second German Reich** came into being and it was to last until Germany’s defeat in World War I in 1918.
Unit 10.2 - The Unification of Germany, 1862-1871

1. How would you describe the state of Germany between 1815 and 1848?
_________________________________________________________________________ (2)

2. (a) What was the Zollverein? ____________________________________________ (1)

(b) How did the Zollverein help unite Germany economically? ___________________________ (2)

3. Where was the main centre of revolution in Germany in 1848? ______________________ (1)

4. Why did an all-German Parliament meet at Frankfurt in 1848-49?
__________________________________________________________________________ (1)

5. What turned out to be the major obstacle for the unification of Germany in 1848-1849?
_________________________________________________________________________ (2)

6. What important decision for the future of Germany did King William I of Prussia take in 1862?
__________________________________________________________________________ (1)

7. What political advantage did Bismarck take with the following:
   (a) the defeat of Denmark in the Schleswig-Holstein War of 1864. ____________________ (2)

   (b) the defeat of Austria in the Seven Weeks’ War of 1866. ___________________________ (2)

   (c) the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. ______________________ (2)

8. What post did the following leaders hold at the time of the Unification of Germany?
   (a) William I _______________________________________________________________ (1)

   (b) Otto von Bismarck ________________________________________________________ (1)

9. From 1871 onwards, Germany came to be considered as the most powerful Great Power on the
   European Continent, beside Great Britain. Give two reasons to prove the truth of this statement.
__________________________________________________________________________ (2)

(Total 20 marks)
1. List the 12 provinces that made up the German part of the Austrian Empire:

   Austria
   Styria
   Carinthia

2. List the 4 provinces that made up the Hungarian part of the Austrian Empire.

3. Name the two leading states that formed the German Confederation of 1815.

4. Looking carefully at the map of the German Confederation. How was Prussia in a better position to unify Germany than Austria.
Unit 10.4 - The Unification of Italy and Germany – Essay Questions

Read carefully the following essay titles and answer any ONE in about 200 to 300 words. Essays carry 20 marks each.

**PAPER 2A**

1. Garibaldi, Mazzini, Cavour and Victor Emmanuel II can be identified as four Italian patriots.  
   (a) Why did each one of them deserve this title? (4)  
   (b) How did the unification of Italy eventually come about? (4)  
   (c) Assess why Italy became a kingdom and not a republic. (8) (SEC 1997)

2. Explain the importance of the following in the struggle for Italian unification: (a) the Pact of Plombieres (b) Garibaldi and ‘The Thousand’ (c) the ‘Roman Question’. (Oxford GCE)

3. Why, in your opinion, was Piedmont successful in its efforts to achieve the political unification of Italy? (SEC 2000)

4. Trace the steps by which Bismarck achieved the unification of Germany under Prussian domination. Comment upon the view that in the process of unification ‘Coal and Iron’ were as significant as ‘Blood and Iron’. (Oxford GCE)

5. Discuss Cavour’s and Garibaldi’s roles in the process of Italian unification. (SEC 2011)

6. Discuss Bismarck’s unification of Germany. (SEC 2011)

**PAPER 2B**

1. What did Cavour achieve for Italy between 1850 and 1861 and what methods did he use? (Oxford GCE)

2. What part did the following play in achieving Italian unity: Count Cavour, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Giuseppe Mazzini. (5 x 4)

3. Describe the importance of two of the following for Italian unification:  
   (a) Napoleon III  
   (b) Camillo Cavour  
   (c) Giuseppe Garibaldi  
   (d) Otto von Bismarck  
   (SEC 1998) (5 x 4)

4. Account for the unification of Italy with reference to the years between 1848 and 1870. (SEC 2009)

5. (a) Why is the year 1861 a milestone in the history of Italy? (2)  
   (b) Who were the Carbonari? (4)  
   (c) What was Mazzini’s vision for Italy? (4)  
   (d) Explain the importance of Garibaldi and Cavour in the history of Italy. (10) (SEC 2011)

6. Discuss the German movement for unity between 1848 and 1871 under the following titles:  
   (a) the failure of the 1848 revolutions and the Frankfurt Parliament (6)  
   (b) the War against Denmark (4)  
   (c) the war against Austria (4)  
   (d) the war against France and the proclamation of the German Empire (6) (SEC 2012)