| **Focus Points** | What were the motives and aims of the Big Three at Versailles?  
|                 | Why did the victors not get everything they wanted?  
|                 | What were the immediate reactions to the peace settlement? 
|                 | Could the treaties be justified at the time? |

| **Content** | The peace treaties of 1919–1923 (Versailles, St Germain, Trianon, Sèvres and Lausanne);  
|             | the roles of individuals such as Wilson, Clemenceau and Lloyd George in the peacemaking process;  
|             | the immediate reactions to, and opinions about, the treaties, especially in Britain, France, Germany and the USA. |
Was Germany to blame for the Great War? Long-term Tensions.

(a) Empires:
The main European powers wanted large empires. Empires were a source of wealth and power.

Britain had a large Empire by the end of the 19th Century. France and Germany had also started to develop their own empires. In 1911 the French and Germans almost went to war over who should control Morocco.

(b) German Militarism:
The German army had a proud tradition and many of its officers were powerful in German politics. The German Kaiser (king) was heavily influenced by the army and when they began to call for military action the Kaiser was willing to listen. The top German officers felt that war going to break out anyway so it was best to strike the first blow.

(c) The Alliance System:
The great powers of Europe joined together into two rival alliances. The Germans, Austrians and Italians formed a group called the Triple Alliance. They all agreed that if one of them was attacked then the other two would join in the fight. The Russians, British and French formed a similar alliance in 1907 known as the Triple Entente. Each alliance felt threatened by the other and tensions ran very high.

(d) The Franco Prussian War: 1870-71
In 1870, France and Germany went to war. Both sides has upset each other by acting in a provocative manner. The Germans were victorious and France was humiliated. France lost land to Germany and was embarrassed by having to surrender the flags of her top army units to the Germans. The French wanted revenge and the return of the land. The Franco-Prussian war also made Germany into a major European power.

(e) The Balkans:
By the early years of the 20th Century two of the Great European powers, Russia and Austria-Hungary, were keen to have influence over the countries in the Balkans. When the Austrians moved into the area and took over Serbia in 1908 the Russians threatened war. Germany backed Austria and the Russians had to back down.

(f) The Arms Race:
Each of the major powers in Europe wanted to be more powerful than the others. To be the most powerful nation, they needed the most powerful armed forces. When one country built up its armed forces the others would build up their forces even more, forcing the other countries to build up their forces. This was known as “the arms race”. It meant that war was more likely and when it came, it would be a big one!

Key Questions
Which countries caused problems?
How much was Germany to blame?
Was Germany to blame for the Great War? Short-term triggers.

28 June 1914:
In 1908 Austria had invaded part of Serbia. In 1914, a Group of Serbs killed the heir to the Austrian throne.

28 July 1914:
The Austrians attacked Serbia. The Russians threatened to attack Austria.

1 August 1914:
Germany attacked Russia. France began to get ready for war.

5 July 1914:
The Austrians wanted to attack Serbia but were afraid that the Russians will help the Serbians. Austria did not want to fight Russia alone. The German Kaiser agreed to help Austria if Russia attacked.

31 July 1914:
Germany warned Russia to back off and leave Austria alone. The British and French did not get involved. The Kaiser had asked both the British and French if they objected to him attacking Russia and both governments gave very vague answers - the Kaiser felt they had given him permission to attack Russia.

3 August 1914:
Germany declared war on France and on the following day invaded Belgium. Britain had an agreement to protect Belgium and so declared war on Germany.

Key Questions
Which countries caused problems?
How much was Germany to blame?
Key Question

What is the message of these two British cartoons from 1914?
## The Big Three: The USA, Britain and France

In 1919 the major powers met in France to decide what to do with Germany and the other defeated nations. Britain, France and the USA were the strongest of these powers and became known as the Big Three. They had all suffered in different ways and had different aims and demands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Woodrow Wilson - USA</th>
<th>Georges Clemenceau - France</th>
<th>David Lloyd George - Britain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of men killed</td>
<td>The USA had joined the war late. They lost only 150,000 men.</td>
<td>France 1.4 million men.</td>
<td>Britain lost 1 million men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic cost of the war.</td>
<td>The USA spent very little on the war. Most of the money they spent was on loans to the British and French which they hoped to get back.</td>
<td>£5 billion. Also the war was fought mainly in France so many of France's factories and much of her farmland was destroyed.</td>
<td>£11 billion. Britain was heavily in debt at the end of the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical location.</td>
<td>The USA was many miles away from Germany. She had the Atlantic Ocean as protection.</td>
<td>France was an immediate neighbour of Germany. This made her worried about a future attack.</td>
<td>Britain was not a neighbour of Germany and had the Sea and a strong Navy to protect her from invasion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed forces.</td>
<td>The USA had a large army and navy to protect her.</td>
<td>France had a large army but her population was falling so future armies would be smaller.</td>
<td>Britain had a huge navy for protection - Germany had no navy by the end of the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The beliefs and characters of the Big Three.</td>
<td>Wilson was a religious man who believed God wanted him to bring peace to the world. He did not want to punish Germany as he felt it would lead to another war.</td>
<td>Clemenceau was a tough man who hated the Germans. He wanted them to be punished.</td>
<td>Lloyd George was a realist who believed in compromise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The people of the three countries.</td>
<td>The American public wanted a lasting peace which would keep the USA out of war.</td>
<td>The French people hated the Germans and wanted revenge for the War.</td>
<td>The British people wanted to make the Germans pay, Lloyd George disagreed, but had to listen to them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empires.</td>
<td>The USA did not have an empire.</td>
<td>France did have an empire.</td>
<td>Britain had a very large empire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why did the Big Three Disagree?

They had suffered differently:

The three leaders were very different:

The people of the three countries:

Geographical locations:
Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points

1) There should be no secret deals, alliances or treaties between states.
2) Countries should be free to send ships anywhere in the world without interference.
3) There should be free trade (buy and sell things as they please) between countries.
4) The level of armaments in each country should be reduced – disarmament.
5) Empires should be abolished.
6) Germany should leave Russian territory.
7) The Germans should leave Belgium.
8) Alsace and Lorraine should be returned to France.
9) The Italian borders should be adjusted to bring Italian speakers into Italy – this would mean Austria and France losing land.
10) The different people of Austria-Hungary should be given their freedom.
11) The invading armies should leave the Balkan states.
12) The non-Turkish people of the Turkish empire should be set free.
13) Poland should be given independence and access to the sea.
14) A League of Nation should be set up to preserve the future peace of the world.

Woodrow Wilson made a speech in which he laid out his ideas for the world after the Great War. His Fourteen Points were his blueprint for a better world – but Lloyd George and Clemenceau were not totally happy with them.

Wilson hoped that his 14 Points would bring about World Peace – Which of the 14 Points would achieve this?

Wilson wanted “Self Determination”: People of different nationalities would be free to govern themselves and not be controlled by other countries. Which of the 14 Points would achieve this?

Which would Clemenceau have been happy with?

Which would Clemenceau have been unhappy with?

Which would Lloyd George have been happy with?

Which would Lloyd George have been unhappy with?
The Treaty of Versailles

War Guilt:
The treaty quite clearly stated that Germany was to blame for the war. When the Germans signed the Treaty they accepted the ‘war guilt’ clause which said Germany was solely responsible for starting the war.

Reparations:
Germany had to pay the allies £6.6 Billion. It was a fine for the damage done during the war. It was to be paid in agricultural equipment, gold, money, coal, steel and machines. It would have taken Germany until the 1980s to pay the full amount.

Military Restrictions:
- No aircraft
- No submarines
- No tanks
- 100,000 men in the army - all had to be volunteers.
- 6 battleships

Germany’s Empire:
The German empire was put under the control Britain and France. The German colonies were called mandates and were controlled by Britain and France on behalf of the League of Nations. This meant Britain and France had larger empires.
Loss of Land and Resources:

Germany lost a great deal of land under the Treaty.

**To France** - Alsace-Lorraine and the coalfields in the Saar for 15 years.

**To Denmark** - The north of Schleswig.

**To the League of Nations** - The important industrial land in the Saar, The city of Danzig, Memel.

**To Belgium** - Eupen/Malmedy.

**To Poland** - West Prussia, Posen and Thorn, and part of Upper Silesia.

Germany lost:
- 13% of its land
- 12% of its people
- 16% of its coal
- 48% of its iron production.

The Rhineland - Was kept by Germany but it had to be kept free of troops - it was demilitarised.

**Austria** - Germany and Austria were forbidden from uniting – the Anschluss.

League of Nations:

The League of Nations would be set up. It was meant to be a place where countries could talk over disputes rather than go to war.

Remember: **Longrat: LON**: League of Nations, **G**: Guilt, **R**: Reparations, **A**: Armed forces, **T**: Territory.
Aims of the Treaty of Versailles

- Weaken Germany/Keep the peace
- Punish Germany
- Reward/Compensate the Allies
Did the Big Three Get What They Wanted At Versailles?

Were the Big Three Happy at Versailles?

**Clemenceau - France**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He was Happy Because…</th>
<th>He Was Unhappy Because…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Germany lost land - He was happy that France got back Alsace Lorraine and that the Polish Corridor was given to Poland.  
• He was happy that some reparations were enforced.  
• Germany’s armed forces were reduced.  
• Germany was made to sigh the War guilt clause – this was humiliating for Germany – he saw this as part of the revenge.  
• He was happy with the idea of a dictated peace – Germany had to accept the Treaty in full.  
• France gained some of Germany’s colonies.                                                                                                    | • He wanted more land to be taken – he wanted the Rhineland and the Saarland to be given to France.  
• He wanted Germany to have no forces at all!  
• He wanted all German industry to be dismantled to prevent any future military production and to punish them even more  
• He wanted a much bigger reparations settlement.                                                                                       |
| **He was Happy Because…**                                                                                                                                  | **He Was Unhappy Because…**                                                                 |
| • Clementeau was never going to be happy until Germany was totally destroyed.                                                                                     |

**Wilson - USA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He was Happy Because…</th>
<th>He Was Unhappy Because…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Germany had to disarm – he felt this would meet his aim of world peace.  
• The League of Nations, one of his 14 Points, was set up.  
• Alsace Lorraine was returned to France – this met one of his other 14 Points – Self Determination.                                                                                           | • Land was taken from Germany (such as the Polish corridor) which meant Germans had to live in other countries – this was against the idea of self-determination.  
• The reparations and war guilt were too harsh – this made it more likely that Germany would want to start a war to get revenge.  
• Germany’s empire was not given its independence – it was put under the control of Britain and France. This was against the idea of self-determination.                                                                 |
| **Wilson did not get his 14 Points – this was a disappointment.**                                                                                                                                                           | **Wilson did not get his 14 Points – this was a disappointment.**                                                                                                                                                           |
Lloyd George – Britain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He was Happy Because…</th>
<th>He Was Unhappy Because…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Germany lost land - he was happy that Germany was no longer so strong – it made Britain the Great Power in Europe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• He was happy that some reparations were enforced – it made the British people happy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Germany's armed forces were reduced – this made Britain stronger in Europe and more able to concentrate on defending the Empire without having to worry about Germany. He was especially happy with the cutting of the German Navy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Germany was made to sigh the War guilt clause – this made the British people happy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Britain gained some of Germany’s colonies.</td>
<td>• He was unhappy at the way Germany was weakened by the loss of land and reparations because he wanted Germany to be rich and buy British goods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• He wanted Germany to have a reasonably strong armed force so it could defend Europe against an attack from Communist Russia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• He did not want such a harsh peace – he was worried that it would lead to Germany wanting revenge and so start another war.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Lloyd George and the British people wanted different things- this made the Treaty hard for him to negotiate.*
Was The Treaty of Versailles a Success Up to 1923?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success</th>
<th>Failure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• France and Britain got compensation for their losses.</td>
<td>• The Weimar Republic (the new Government of Germany) was blamed for signing the Treaty of Versailles. It was weak and had little support from the people for this reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It was a compromise – the three big powers all wanted different things, but they managed to compromise.</td>
<td>• Germany was also very poor because of the reparations and people blamed the government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The world was a safer place by 1923 – Germany was disarmed so France felt safer. Britain and France started to cut back their weapons. The League of Nations was also set up and solved some crises.</td>
<td>• Germany could not pay its reparations – Belgium and France had to invade the Ruhr in 1923 to enforce the payments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alsace and Lorraine was returned to France. Poland got access to the Sea and was therefore an independent nation.</td>
<td>• Because of the Reparations Germany was bankrupt by 1923 and started to print money for to pay its debts. This caused hyperinflation. This wiped out the savings of many Germans. The Weimar Republic was now even weaker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Treaty was seen as so unfair that even some people in Britain felt sorry for the Germans. Germany had not been the only country responsible for the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Germany was left so weak that it could never be a stable country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The League of Nations was set up by the Treaty – this was quite weak at the start – even the USA refused to join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• None of the Big Three got what they wanted they were all disappointed in some way.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why the Germans Hated the Treaty of Versailles

1) Limitations on its armed forces
The Germans hated the part of the Treaty of Versailles that limited their armed forces because it made them into a second rate power. The Germans knew they could not be a major power with only 6 battleships and only 100,000 men. Also they felt weak and open to invasion from enemies such as France and Russia that had much larger armies. Germany also hated the humiliation of having to lose its once large armed forces of which it had been so proud.

2) Loss of raw materials and industry
Germany lost 16% of its coal and 48% of its iron production to countries such as France and Poland and this made the Germans hate the Treaty of Versailles. Losing so many raw materials and factories made Germany very poor and meant they could not rebuild themselves after the war. These losses created unemployment and poverty in Germany, which made the Germans very angry at the Treaty.

3) Loss of Land
Germany lost 13% of her land including Alsace Lorraine and West Prussia. With this land went 12% of its people. All of this was humiliating for Germany as some of the land went to her enemy France. Germany hated having to lose land because it meant families were divided and raw materials and wealth were also lost. Losing land made the Germans weaker and poorer.

4) War Guilt Clause
The War Guilt Clause made the Germans accept all responsibility for starting the Great War. Many Germans felt that this was unfair, as they felt other countries such as Russia, Serbia and Austria Hungary were also responsible for causing the outbreak of war in 1914. The humiliation of being blamed in this way angered the Germans. They were also angry that because they had to accept the blame they could also be punished in other ways such as reparations and loss of land.

5) The Reparations Settlement
The Reparations Settlement said that Germany had to pay £6.6 billion to the allies to compensate them for the damage done in the war. This was a massive amount of money that bankrupted Germany and caused unemployment and hardship. The Germans hated this because it destroyed their country’s economy and created unrest.

6) Loss of Empire
The loss of empire was a great embarrassment to Germany. Having an empire was a sign of great power and both France and Britain had a large one. Germany also made money from trading with her empire so when she lost it she was even poorer.
# How did people respond to The Treaty of Versailles?

**USA:**

The people of the USA were angry with parts of the Treaty. German-Americans felt their old country was harshly treated. Irish-Americans were upset that their country had not been given freedom from Britain.

Many Americans disliked Woodrow Wilson’s high-and-mighty attitude and felt he was arrogant – this made them hate the Treaty. They were also afraid that the Treaty was too harsh on Germany and would lead to the future wars.

The USA wanted to keep away from Europe’s problems so would not join the League of Nations.

Congress, the USA’s Parliament rejected the Treaty.

**Germany:**

The German people were angry – they felt they had been harshly treated. They did not like the fact they had been forced to sign the Treaty – they called this a Diktat. Germany was upset that they had not been allowed to negotiate with the allies and that the Peace was force upon them.

**Britain:**

The British were not happy with the fact that the Germans had not been punished enough. Some newspapers felt that Germany had got away with the war and that their complaints about the Treaty were faked. However, most British people were happy they had won the war and were one of the most powerful nations in the world.

**France:**

The people of France wanted revenge and compensation for the war. They hated the Germans and wanted Clemenceau to push for a harsh peace. They were not happy with what they saw as a soft peace – but in the end they just wanted to get back to their normal lives when the war finally ended.
Other Peace Treaties

As well as signing the Treaty of Versailles with Germany, the allies also signed Treaties with the other defeated nations.

These Treaties took land away from the defeated nations and gave it to new countries which were set up after the War. Yugoslavia, Poland and Czechoslovakia were all created after the Great War - they were supposed to allow self-determination for the people of Europe.

**Treaty of Saint-Germain: Treaty With Austria - 1919**

Austria lost land to: Italy, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. Huge amounts given to last three. Czechoslovakia gained Austria’s wealthiest areas and 3 million people.

Other terms: Austria not could ask for unification (Anschluss) with Germany. Austrian army limited to 30,000 men.

Immediate consequences: Austria was made into a small unimportant country with only 6.5 million people living in a mainly mountainous area. Austria was very poor. The Austrians hated being relegated in this way.

**Treaty of Neuilly: Treaty with Bulgaria - 1919**

Bulgaria lost land to: Greece, Yugoslavia and Romania.

Other terms: Bulgarian army was limited to 20,000 men.

Immediate consequences: Bulgaria had not really played a big role in the war and so it was not heavily punished. However, the Bulgarians hated losing their people to other countries.

**Treaty of Trianon: Treaty with Hungary - 1920**

Hungary lost land to: 66% of Hungary’s land was given to Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia. The population of Hungary fell from 18 million to 7 million.

Other terms: Army limited to 35,000 men.

Immediate consequences: The loss of so much land and so many people led to economic collapse in Hungary. This collapse and shame led the Hungarians to become angry and demand revenge.

**Treaty of Sevres: Treaty with Turkey - 1920**

Turkey lost land to: Greece, Britain and France.

Other terms: Hungary had to pay reparations.

Immediate consequences: The Turks were outraged and under their leader Ataturk, they used force to get the Treaty changed. By 1923, they had forced the allies to rewrite the Treaty.

**Treaty of Lausanne: Treaty with Turkey - 1923**

Here Turkey got back land from Greece and the reparations were cancelled.