

SCHOLAR EYE

CSS & PMS EXAM PREPARATION SERIES



THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

A Complete Reference on the Peace Settlement
that Ended the First World War

28 JUNE 1919

SIGNED IN THE HALL OF MIRRORS, PALACE OF VERSAILLES

WHAT THIS GUIDE COVERS

Historical Background • Paris Peace Conference • The Big Four
Territorial, Military, Economic & Reparations Clauses
League of Nations • Article 231 • Global Reactions & Aftermath
Link to World War II • Glossary • CSS / PMS Exam Focus & MCQs

FIRST EDITION

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Prepared for Competitive Examination Aspirants

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PART 01 — ORIGINS

Historical Background — The Road to Paris

Understanding why the Allied Powers gathered at Paris in 1919 requires tracing the collapse of the old European order between 1914 and 1918.

The First World War (1914–1918) was the most destructive conflict the world had yet witnessed. By the time fighting ended, roughly nine to ten million soldiers and several million civilians had died, four great empires — the German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman — had collapsed, and the political map of Europe and the Middle East lay open for redrawing.

The war on the Western Front ended not through the invasion of Germany but through an armistice. Facing mutiny in its fleet, revolution at home, and the collapse of its allies (Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary all sought terms in the autumn of 1918), Germany requested an armistice based on U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points. The **Armistice of Compiègne** was signed on **11 November 1918**, halting hostilities but leaving the final peace terms to be negotiated separately.

Why This Matters for the Exam

- ◆ Germany was never militarily occupied at the point of surrender — this fact later fuelled the 'stab-in-the-back' (*Dolchstoß*) myth used by German nationalists.
- ◆ The Armistice, not a unilateral defeat, meant Germany entered negotiations expecting terms based on Wilson's Fourteen Points — expectations the eventual Treaty did not fully meet.
- ◆ This gap between expectation and outcome is a classic CSS essay theme: 'idealism versus realism' in peacemaking.

Wilson's Fourteen Points (January 1918)

President Wilson's programme, announced to the U.S. Congress in January 1918, proposed a liberal, rules-based peace: open diplomacy, freedom of the seas, free trade, arms reduction, self-determination for European nationalities, and — as the capstone, Point XIV — a 'general association of nations' to guarantee political independence and territorial integrity. It became the moral and diplomatic reference point around which the Peace Conference organised itself, even though the final settlement diverged from it considerably.

PART 02 — ORIGINS

The Paris Peace Conference, 1919

Delegates from 32 states met in and around Paris to design the post-war order.

The Paris Peace Conference formally opened on **18 January 1919** — deliberately chosen as the anniversary of the proclamation of the German Empire at Versailles in 1871, itself a symbolic reversal. Delegations from more than thirty Allied and Associated Powers attended, though the defeated Central Powers (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ottoman Empire) were excluded from the negotiations and presented only with a completed draft.

Key Features of the Conference

- ◆ Negotiations were dominated by the **Council of Ten** (later narrowed to the **Council of Four**), comprising the heads of government and foreign ministers of Britain, France, the United States and Italy.
- ◆ Germany was not permitted to participate in drafting; German delegates were summoned to Versailles only in May 1919 to receive the completed text.
- ◆ Soviet Russia, which had exited the war through the separate Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918), was not invited at all.

- ◆ The Conference simultaneously negotiated five separate treaties covering all the defeated Central Powers (see Section 17).
- ◆ The venue for signing the treaty with Germany was the **Hall of Mirrors** at the Palace of Versailles — the very room in which the German Empire had been proclaimed in 1871, making the choice of location a deliberate symbol of French vindication.

The Conference worked through numerous specialist commissions — on reparations, on the League of Nations, on responsibility for the war, on new states' boundaries — whose recommendations fed into the drafting committees supervising the final text.

PART 03 — ORIGINS

The 'Big Four' and Key Delegations

Four leaders shaped the settlement's core bargains, each pursuing distinct and often conflicting national interests.

Leader	Country	Principal Goals
Georges Clemenceau ('The Tiger')	France	Maximum security against future German aggression; recovery of Alsace-Lorraine; heavy reparations; permanent weakening of German military and industrial power.
David Lloyd George	United Kingdom	A settlement firm enough to satisfy British public opinion, but not so harsh as to destabilise Europe or eliminate Germany as a trading partner and counterweight to France.
Woodrow Wilson	United States	A liberal, self-determination-based peace built around the Fourteen Points and, above all, the creation of the League of Nations.
Vittorio Orlando	Italy	Territorial gains promised under the secret 1915 Treaty of London (South Tyrol, Trieste, and claims on the Dalmatian coast and Fiume).

Orlando walked out of the Conference in protest when Italy's claims over Fiume were denied, though he later

returned. Italy's dissatisfaction with its territorial gains — the 'mutilated victory' (*vittoria mutilata*) — became a significant grievance exploited by Italian nationalists and, subsequently, by Fascism.

The tension between Clemenceau's demand for security and severity, Wilson's insistence on principle, and Lloyd George's search for a workable middle path explains much of the Treaty's internal inconsistency: it was harsh enough to humiliate Germany, yet not harsh enough to permanently prevent German recovery — a combination critics on all sides considered the worst of both approaches.

PART 04 — ORIGINS

Timeline of Negotiations and Signing

Date	Event
11 Nov 1918	Armistice of Compiègne ends fighting on the Western Front.
18 Jan 1919	Paris Peace Conference formally opens.
Jan–Apr 1919	Commission work on League Covenant, reparations, boundaries and war guilt.
7 May 1919	Draft treaty presented to the German delegation at Versailles.
29 May 1919	German counter-proposals submitted, largely rejected by the Allies.
16 Jun 1919	Allies issue final terms with a short deadline for German acceptance.
20 Jun 1919	German Chancellor Philipp Scheidemann resigns rather than sign.
23 Jun 1919	German National Assembly votes to accept the Allied terms.
28 Jun 1919	Treaty signed in the Hall of Mirrors, Palace of Versailles.
10 Jan 1920	Treaty enters into force; League of Nations formally established.

The compressed timetable between the presentation of terms (7 May) and the deadline for signature was a deliberate Allied tactic: Germany was given no real opportunity to renegotiate substantive clauses, only to submit written objections, almost all of which were dismissed.

PART 05 — THE TEXT

Structure of the Treaty — The Fifteen Parts

The Treaty ran to 440 articles organised into fifteen parts, making it one of the longest and most complex international agreements ever negotiated.

Part	Subject
I	Covenant of the League of Nations
II	Boundaries of Germany
III	Political clauses for Europe (Alsace-Lorraine, Saar, Poland, etc.)
IV	German rights and interests outside Germany (colonies)
V	Military, naval and air clauses
VI	Prisoners of war and war graves
VII	Penalties (trial of the Kaiser and war criminals)
VIII	Reparations
IX	Financial clauses
X	Economic clauses
XI	Aerial navigation

Part	Subject
XII	Ports, waterways and railways
XIII	Labour (creation of the International Labour Organization)
XIV	Guarantees (Allied occupation of the Rhineland)
XV	Miscellaneous provisions

Sections 06–12 of this guide examine the most exam-relevant of these parts — the war guilt clause, territorial changes, military restrictions, reparations, and the League — in detail.

PART 06 — THE TEXT

The War Guilt Clause — Article 231

Article 231, commonly called the '**War Guilt Clause**', is the single most controversial provision of the Treaty. It states, in substance, that Germany and her allies accept responsibility for causing all the loss and damage suffered by the Allied governments and their peoples as a consequence of the war 'imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.'

Article 231 — Key Points for CSS/PMS Answers

- ◆ Legally, Article 231 was primarily a **technical foundation for reparations claims** (Part VIII), establishing German liability so that a bill of damages could be calculated.
- ◆ Politically and psychologically, it was read in Germany as a moral condemnation — a national humiliation ('*Kriegsschuldlüge*', the 'war guilt lie', in German nationalist rhetoric).
- ◆ Article 231 has a near-identical counterpart in the treaties with Austria and Hungary, showing the Allies intended a general liability clause rather than a uniquely punitive attack on Germany alone — though it was not experienced that way in Berlin.
- ◆ Historians remain divided: some view it as a reasonable legal mechanism; others as a serious diplomatic blunder that poisoned German public opinion for a generation.

For exam purposes, Article 231 is best analysed as the point where legal necessity (funding reparations) and political messaging (assigning blame) collided, producing consequences far larger than its drafters intended.

PART 07 — THE TEXT

Territorial Clauses — Europe

Germany lost roughly 13 percent of its 1914 territory and about 10 percent of its population.

Territory	Disposition
Alsace-Lorraine	Returned to France (annexed by Germany in 1871).
Saar Basin	Placed under League of Nations administration for 15 years; coal mines given to France; a plebiscite to decide final status to be held in 1935 (Section 12).
Eupen-Malmédy	Transferred to Belgium after a plebiscite.
Northern Schleswig	Transferred to Denmark after a plebiscite.
Posen & West Prussia	Ceded to the newly reconstituted state of Poland, creating the 'Polish Corridor' to the Baltic Sea and separating East Prussia from the rest of Germany.
Danzig	Made a Free City under League of Nations protection, not part of Germany or Poland (Section 12).
Upper Silesia	Divided between Germany and Poland following a 1921 plebiscite.

Territory	Disposition
Memel	Placed under Allied control, later annexed by Lithuania (1923).
Rhineland	Demilitarised; left under German sovereignty but occupied by Allied troops for up to 15 years (see Section 09).

Germany was also forbidden from ever uniting (*Anschluss*) with the newly formed Republic of Austria, a prohibition Adolf Hitler would violate in 1938.

PART 08 — THE TEXT

Colonial and Overseas Clauses — The Mandate System

Germany was stripped of all its overseas colonies, which were redistributed not as outright annexations but as **League of Nations Mandates** — a compromise between old-style imperial annexation and Wilsonian self-determination.

◆ **Class A Mandates** (former Ottoman territories such as Iraq, Palestine and Syria) were considered close to readiness for independence and were administered by Britain and France under League supervision.

◆ **Class B Mandates** (former German territories in Central Africa, e.g. Tanganyika, Cameroon, Togoland) were placed under closer administrative control by Britain, France and Belgium.

◆ **Class C Mandates** (South-West Africa, German Pacific islands) were governed almost as integral parts of the administering power — South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Critics, then and since, have observed that the mandate system functioned in practice as a relabelling of colonial rule rather than a genuine step toward self-government, since mandatory powers retained extensive

administrative and economic control.

PART 09 — THE TEXT

Military and Naval Restrictions on Germany

Part V of the Treaty aimed to permanently reduce Germany's capacity to wage offensive war.

- ◆ The German **Army** was limited to 100,000 men, with conscription abolished and the General Staff dissolved.
- ◆ Germany was forbidden tanks, military aircraft, and heavy artillery.
- ◆ The **Navy** was restricted to a small number of vessels, with submarines banned outright.
- ◆ The Rhineland was permanently **demilitarised**: no German fortifications or troops were permitted on the west bank of the Rhine or within 50 km of the east bank.
- ◆ Allied forces would **occupy** designated Rhineland zones for up to fifteen years as a guarantee of compliance, with phased withdrawal tied to German fulfilment of Treaty obligations.
- ◆ Germany was prohibited from possessing an air force at all in the immediate post-war years.

Exam Angle

- ◆ These restrictions were meant to give France lasting security in place of the Anglo-American security guarantee it had originally sought but which lapsed when the U.S. Senate rejected the Treaty (Section 15).
- ◆ Adolf Hitler's unilateral rearmament (from 1935) and remilitarisation of the Rhineland (1936) directly violated these clauses and are frequently cited as turning points that exposed the League's inability to enforce the settlement.

PART 10 — THE TEXT

Reparations and Economic Clauses

Reparations were the most economically consequential and politically explosive element of the settlement.

The Treaty itself did not fix a final reparations figure; it established the principle of German liability (via Article 231) and created a **Reparation Commission** tasked with determining the exact sum. In **1921**, the Commission set the total at **132 billion gold marks** (roughly \$33 billion at the time), to be paid in a combination of cash, goods, coal, and other resources.

- ◆ Germany was required to surrender merchant shipping, railway equipment, livestock, and substantial quantities of coal to France, Belgium and Italy.
- ◆ Repeated German default on payments led France and Belgium to occupy the **Ruhr industrial region** in 1923, triggering hyperinflation and passive resistance in Germany.
- ◆ The **Dawes Plan (1924)** and later the **Young Plan (1929)** restructured and reduced German reparations obligations, tying payments to American loans in a fragile financial cycle.
- ◆ Reparations payments were effectively suspended by the **Hoover Moratorium (1931)** during the Great

Depression and formally ended at the **Lausanne Conference (1932)**.

Beyond reparations, the economic clauses also stripped Germany of key patents, most-favoured-nation trading privileges, and control over important rivers such as the Rhine and Elbe, which were placed under international commissions.

PART 11 — THE TEXT

The Covenant of the League of Nations

Part I of the Treaty established the League of Nations, Wilson's central achievement at the Conference.

- ◆ The League's stated purposes were to preserve peace through **collective security**, promote disarmament, and settle disputes through arbitration rather than war.
- ◆ Its principal organs were the **Assembly** (all member states), the **Council** (initially the major Allied powers plus four rotating members), and a permanent **Secretariat** based in Geneva.
- ◆ Article 10 committed members to respect and preserve the territorial integrity and political independence of all member states against external aggression.
- ◆ Germany was initially excluded from membership (it joined only in 1926) and Soviet Russia was excluded until 1934.
- ◆ Critically, the **United States never joined** the League after the Senate's rejection of the Treaty (Section 15), fatally weakening its authority from the outset.

Why the League Struggled

- ◆ It had no standing military force of its own and depended on member states to enforce its decisions.
- ◆ Major powers (Japan over Manchuria in 1931, Italy over Abyssinia in 1935) defied League resolutions without meaningful consequence.
- ◆ The absence of the United States removed the League's most powerful potential enforcer.

PART 12 — THE TEXT

Saar Basin, Danzig and Special Territorial Regimes

The Saar Basin

The economically valuable Saar coalfield was placed under League of Nations administration for fifteen years, with its coal output granted to France as partial compensation for the deliberate destruction of French mines during the German occupation. A plebiscite held in **1935** resulted in an overwhelming vote to rejoin Germany, and the territory was returned that year.

The Free City of Danzig

Danzig (now Gdańsk), a majority-German port city, was separated from Germany and made a semi-autonomous **Free City** under League of Nations protection, while its foreign affairs and customs administration were tied closely to Poland, which needed secure access to the Baltic Sea. This arrangement satisfied neither German nor Polish nationalists and became a flashpoint that Hitler exploited as a pretext for the invasion of Poland in **1939**.

Together with the Polish Corridor (Section 07), Danzig's status illustrates how the Treaty's attempt to reconcile self-determination with practical economic and strategic

needs frequently produced awkward compromises that satisfied no one fully.

PART 13 — REACTIONS & AFTERMATH

German Reaction and Domestic Crisis

- ◆ The German public and press near-universally condemned the Treaty as a '**Diktat**' — a dictated peace imposed without genuine negotiation.
- ◆ Chancellor Philipp Scheidemann resigned on 20 June 1919 rather than sign, declaring that 'the hand that signs this Treaty will wither.'
- ◆ The newly formed **Weimar Republic**, though not the government responsible for the war, was permanently associated with accepting the humiliating settlement — a burden that undermined its legitimacy throughout the 1920s and early 1930s.
- ◆ The '*Dolchstoßlegende*' (stab-in-the-back myth) — the false claim that Germany's army had not truly been defeated but was betrayed by civilian politicians — gained wide currency and was later exploited extensively by Hitler and the Nazi Party.
- ◆ Right-wing paramilitary violence, including the attempted **Kapp Putsch (1920)**, reflected the domestic instability the settlement helped fuel.

PART 14 — REACTIONS & AFTERMATH

Allied Reactions — France, Britain, Italy, Japan

- ◆ **France:** Many, including Marshal Ferdinand Foch, believed the Treaty was *too lenient*, famously remarking, 'This is not a peace; it is an armistice for twenty years' — a prediction that proved almost exactly accurate (WWII began 20 years and 65 days later).
- ◆ **Britain:** Opinion was divided between those who felt Germany had been treated too harshly (fuelling later policies of appeasement) and those who felt French security concerns justified the settlement's severity.
- ◆ **Italy:** Widespread anger over the denial of Fiume and other promised territories (the 'mutilated victory') discredited the liberal government and helped Mussolini's Fascists gain support.
- ◆ **Japan:** Secured Pacific mandates and a foothold in Shandong, China, but its proposal for a racial equality clause in the League Covenant was rejected, a grievance that coloured later Japanese attitudes toward the Western powers.

PART 15 — REACTIONS & AFTERMATH

The United States and the Senate's Rejection

Despite Wilson's central role in shaping the Treaty — especially the League of Nations — the **U.S. Senate refused to ratify it**, voting it down in November 1919 and again in March 1920. Opposition centred on **Article 10** of the League Covenant, which critics (led by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge) argued could commit the United States to war without Congressional approval, violating the constitutional separation of powers.

- ◆ The United States never joined the League of Nations.
- ◆ Washington instead negotiated a separate peace with Germany, the **Treaty of Berlin (1921)**, accepting most territorial and economic provisions but omitting the League Covenant.
- ◆ American absence significantly weakened the League's authority and removed a potential moderating influence on Anglo-French policy toward Germany during the 1920s and 1930s.

PART 16 — REACTIONS & AFTERMATH

Contemporary Criticism — Keynes and the Economists

The British economist **John Maynard Keynes**, who attended the Conference as a Treasury representative and resigned in protest, published *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1919), arguing that the reparations burden was economically unrealistic and would destabilise the entire European economy, Germany's included.

- ◆ Keynes argued Germany could not physically generate the trade surpluses needed to pay reparations of the scale demanded without collapsing its own economy and, by extension, its trading partners' economies.
- ◆ He warned that squeezing Germany economically would breed resentment and radical politics — a warning many historians consider prophetic given the rise of Nazism amid the later economic crises of the Weimar Republic.
- ◆ Critics of Keynes counter that reparations, though harsh, were repeatedly rescheduled (Dawes and Young Plans) and were not, by themselves, the primary cause of Germany's later economic collapse — the Great Depression (from 1929) played an equal or greater role.

PART 17 — WIDER CONTEXT

Companion Treaties of the Paris Settlement

Versailles was one of five treaties concluding WWI; together they are sometimes called the Paris Peace Treaties.

Treaty	Defeated Power	Year
Versailles	Germany	1919
Saint-Germain-en-Laye	Austria	1919
Neuilly-sur-Seine	Bulgaria	1919
Trianon	Hungary	1920
Sèvres (later revised by Lausanne, 1923)	Ottoman Empire	1920

Saint-Germain and Trianon dismantled Austria-Hungary, formally recognising new states such as Czechoslovakia and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) and drastically reducing Hungary's territory — a grievance ('Trianon trauma') that remains politically significant in Hungary today. Sèvres dismembered the Ottoman Empire but proved unworkable and was replaced by the more moderate Treaty of Lausanne after the Turkish War of Independence under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

PART 18 — WIDER CONTEXT

Long-Term Consequences and the Road to WWII

No single event is more frequently linked in exam essays to the outbreak of WWII than the Treaty of Versailles.

- ◆ **Economic strain:** reparations and territorial losses (especially industrial regions) contributed to Germany's post-war economic instability, culminating in the hyperinflation of 1923.
- ◆ **Political resentment:** the War Guilt Clause and the 'Diktat' narrative provided fertile ground for extreme nationalist movements, above all the Nazi Party, which built its early appeal substantially around promises to overturn the Treaty.
- ◆ **Territorial revisionism:** Hitler's foreign policy in the 1930s — remilitarising the Rhineland (1936), the *Anschluss* with Austria (1938), and the annexation of the Sudetenland and later all of Czechoslovakia (1938–39) — directly and sequentially violated Versailles provisions.
- ◆ **Institutional failure:** the League of Nations' inability to enforce the Treaty against a major power (illustrated by its passivity over Manchuria, Abyssinia, and German rearmament) demonstrated the settlement's lack of a credible enforcement mechanism.

◆ **Danzig and the Polish Corridor** became the immediate pretext for the German invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939, the event conventionally marking the start of the Second World War in Europe.

It is important for exam answers to avoid a mono-causal argument: historians generally treat Versailles as a **necessary but not sufficient** cause of WWII — the Great Depression, the failure of appeasement, and Hitler's own ideological ambitions were equally decisive contributing factors.

PART 19 — WIDER CONTEXT

Historiographical Debates

How historians have judged the Treaty has itself changed considerably over the past century.

- ◆ **The 'Carthaginian Peace' school** (following Keynes): the Treaty was excessively punitive, economically self-defeating, and a direct cause of both German extremism and WWII.
- ◆ **The revisionist school** (from the 1930s onward): broadly sympathetic to Germany, arguing the Treaty was unfairly harsh compared to historical norms of peacemaking.
- ◆ **The 'realist' or post-1960s reassessment** (associated with historians such as Sally Marks and Margaret MacMillan): argues the Treaty was, in comparative terms, no harsher than other contemporary settlements, that it was inconsistently enforced rather than inherently unworkable, and that its failures owed as much to subsequent Allied irresolution and the Depression as to the Treaty's own terms.
- ◆ This more recent view stresses that Germany retained substantial industrial and demographic strength after 1919 and was never rendered permanently weak — making its later resurgence a matter of enforcement failure rather than treaty design alone.

A strong CSS/PMS answer typically references this historiographical range rather than presenting a single fixed verdict, showing awareness that the Treaty's 'success' or 'failure' depends heavily on the criteria and comparative framework applied.

PART 20 — REFERENCE

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Armistice	A formal agreement to stop fighting, not itself a peace treaty; the WWI armistice took effect on 11 November 1918.
War Guilt Clause	Common name for Article 231, assigning Germany and its allies responsibility for the war's losses.
Reparations	Compensation payments required from a defeated state for war-related damage.
Mandate System	League of Nations framework for administering former German and Ottoman territories as a step short of outright colonial annexation.
Demilitarised Zone	An area (here, the Rhineland) where military forces and fortifications are prohibited by treaty.
Self-determination	The principle that national/ethnic groups should be able to choose their own political status, central to Wilson's Fourteen Points.
Plebiscite	A direct popular vote used in several Treaty-mandated territorial decisions (e.g., Saar, Upper Silesia, Schleswig).

Term	Definition
Diktat	German term meaning 'dictated peace', used to describe the Treaty as imposed rather than negotiated.
Dolchstoßlegende	The 'stab-in-the-back' myth alleging the German army was undefeated but betrayed by civilian leaders.
Weimar Republic	The German government (1919–1933) that signed and had to implement the Treaty, later replaced by Nazi rule.
Anschluss	Political union of Germany and Austria, explicitly forbidden by the Treaty; carried out by Hitler in 1938.
Free City	An autonomous self-governing city-state under international protection, as with Danzig.

PART 21 — REFERENCE

CSS / PMS Exam Focus — Important Questions

Frequently examined themes and sample essay/short-question prompts for European History and Current Affairs papers.

Essay-Type Questions

- ◆ 'The Treaty of Versailles was less a peace settlement than a prelude to a second war.' Discuss.
- ◆ Critically examine the War Guilt Clause and its consequences for inter-war German politics.
- ◆ To what extent was the Treaty of Versailles responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War?
- ◆ Assess the reasons for the failure of the League of Nations to maintain collective security.
- ◆ Compare the peace settlements imposed on Germany and Austria-Hungary after WWI.
- ◆ 'The Treaty of Versailles satisfied neither the vanquished nor the victors.' Evaluate this statement.

Short/Precise Questions

- ◆ Define and explain the significance of Article 231.
- ◆ List the territorial losses suffered by Germany under the Treaty.

- ◆ What was the Polish Corridor, and why was it controversial?
- ◆ Explain why the United States did not ratify the Treaty of Versailles.
- ◆ What were the terms of military disarmament imposed on Germany?
- ◆ Name the four leaders who dominated the Paris Peace Conference and their key objectives.

PART 22 — REFERENCE

Quick-Revision Fact Sheet & Practice MCQs

Fact Sheet

Item	Detail
Signed	28 June 1919, Hall of Mirrors, Palace of Versailles
Entered into force	10 January 1920
Total articles	440, in 15 parts
Reparations sum fixed (1921)	132 billion gold marks
German army limit	100,000 men
Key clause on guilt	Article 231
League Covenant location in treaty	Part I
U.S. ratification	Rejected by Senate; separate Treaty of Berlin, 1921

Practice MCQs

1. The Treaty of Versailles was signed on:

- (a) 11 November 1918
- (b) 28 June 1919
- (c) 10 January 1920
- (d) 18 January 1919

Answer: (b) 28 June 1919

2. Article 231 of the Treaty is popularly known as the:

- (a) Reparations Clause
- (b) War Guilt Clause
- (c) Disarmament Clause
- (d) Mandate Clause

Answer: (b) War Guilt Clause

3. Which body was created under Part I of the Treaty?

- (a) United Nations
- (b) League of Nations
- (c) Reparation Commission
- (d) International Court

Answer: (b) League of Nations

4. The Saar Basin plebiscite that returned the territory to Germany was held in:

- (a) 1925
- (b) 1930
- (c) 1935
- (d) 1939

Answer: (c) 1935

5. Who famously called the Treaty 'an armistice for twenty years'?

- (a) Woodrow Wilson
- (b) David Lloyd George
- (c) Ferdinand Foch
- (d) John Maynard Keynes

Answer: (c) Ferdinand Foch

6. The 'Free City' created under League protection was:

- (a) Danzig
- (b) Königsberg
- (c) Memel
- (d) Trieste

Answer: (a) Danzig

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