

2 Germany 1789–1848

Turning assertion into argument

Below is a sample question and a series of assertions.

- An assertion or statement is an opinion which is not supported by a reason.
- An argument is an assertion which is supported or justified by a reason.

Read the question and then add a justification to each of the statements to turn it into an argument.

Assess the effects of the Vienna peace settlement on Germany in the period 1815–40.

The Vienna peace settlement helped encourage German unification because ...

However, it could be argued the Vienna peace settlement might have hindered German unification because ...

The German Confederation had little effect because ...

Metternich opposed German unification because ...

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Support or challenge

Below is a sample exam question that asks how far you agree with a specific statement.

Below this is a series of general statements that are relevant to the question. Use pages 13–22 of your textbook to decide whether each statement supports or challenges the main statement and tick the appropriate box.

'Metternich dealt successfully with the challenges posed by the rise of nationalism and liberalism in Germany in the period 1815–48.' How far do you agree?

	Support	Challenge
Metternich achieved his aims at the Congress of Vienna.		
The German Confederation disappointed those Germans who hoped for greater national unity.		
Monarchical rule was restored almost everywhere in Germany after 1815.		
Austria remained on good terms with Prussia.		
Austria remained on good terms with Russia.		
Metternich created an efficient information-gathering system.		
German nationalism continued to grow.		
German liberalism continued to grow.		
Metternich was able to repress the forces of nationalism.		
The German states became more unified economically.		
Nationalists, liberals and radicals had not achieved much by 1847.		

Using your completed table, write your own view about how well Metternich dealt with the situation in Germany in the period 1815–48.
