Explain why the Kaiser abdicated in 1918.

* German politicians hoped that if Germany was no longer led by the Kaiser then the terms of the peace treaty might be more lenient.
* The Allies would not agree to peace while the Kaiser still ruled Germany
* His army generals refused to support him any more
* The loyalty of the troops could not be relied upon
* Germany was facing defeat in the war
* The navy mutinied at the Kiel
* German towns and cities were taken over by revolutionaries/Kaiser realised he was losing his control of Germany
* Anti-Kaiser demonstrations taking place
* He was blamed for the hardships (eg starvation/Spanish Flu/loss of loved ones etc) suffered by many Germans

**Example Answer**

The Kaiser abdicated as he realised that he was becoming more unpopular – this was partly because he was being blamed for losing the war as he was in charge during the war. He also abdicated as the allies made it clear they would not deal with him as leader – he thought Germany would be treated better if he went. He also abdicated as the generals had turned against him and he knew it would be impossible to rule without the support of the army. The Kaiser also abdicated as the German people were becoming more angry at him as the situation was deteriorating and there were food and fuel shortages and the Spanish flu was killing thousands. He also abdicated as it was obvious that people were against him as there was a mutiny at Kiel which spread into riots and strikes across Germany. He abdicated as the situation seemed to be getting out of control and he feared his presence may make the situation worse. He also abdicated as he was terrified of a communist revolution – the Russian royal family had been executed by communists and he was desperate to avoid the same fate.

***Note how this answer fully EXPLAINS how these points led to him abdicating. Eg it is not enough to simply say ‘He abdicated because there was a mutiny at Kiel.’ – You must explain WHY this led to him abdicating.***