 Proportional Representation and Article 48

Proportional representation made it difficult for one party to get a **majority**. Weimar governments were usually weak coalitions of parties who had different ideas about how the country should be run.

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|  | **Definition** | **Advantage** | **Disadvantage** |
| PR | Votes are counted and then converted into seats in the Reichstag |  |  |
| ARTICLE 48 | President can dismiss the Reichstag and rule alone if he declares a ‘state of emergency’ |  |  |

TASKS

1. Complete the table above identifying both advantages and disadvantages to both Article 48 & PR. Stick the finished consumable into your exercise books.
2. Explain why PR made it difficult for one party to get a majority of seats in the Reichstag
3. Explain the term ‘coalition government’. Add your definition to your glossary sheet. *Clue: the British government in 2011 is a coalition government.*
4. The UK does not use the PR system in elections. Our system is referred to as ‘first past the post’. What do you think this means? What advantages and disadvantages can you think of for this alternative voting system?
5. Do you think Article 48 is a sensible option for a country that is not used to democracy?
6. Make a judgment: Was PR a good idea for the Weimar Republic? Write a paragraph explaining your view.