History
Paper 3: Modern depth study
Option 31: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Specimen assessment materials for first teaching September 2016
Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

You must have:
Sources/Interpretations Booklet (enclosed)

Instructions
• Use black ink or ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name,
centre number and candidate number.
• Answer all questions in Sections A and B.
• Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  there may be more space than you need.

Information
• The total mark for this paper is 52.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets
  use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.
• The marks available for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist
terminology are clearly indicated.

Advice
• Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
• Try to answer every question.
• Check your answers if you have time at the end.
Spend 5 minutes only on question 1

SECTION A

Answer both questions.

Study Source A below and then answer Question 1.

Source A: A Nazi poster published in 1937. The poster was published with the caption, 'The Nazi Party protects the national community'.

You can annotate the source on the exam paper, but don't spend too long on this question.

- Family scene, 4 children (only couples with 6 or more children were allowed to use the little family)
- Nurturing mother, Kinder, Kinder, Kuche,
- Traditional setting

For Question 1, you get 1 mark for each valid inference up to a maximum of two. The second mark is for supporting detail selected from the source.
1. Give **two** things you can infer from Source A about family life in Nazi Germany.

Complete the table below to explain your answer. Your inferences must be relevant to this enquiry in the question.

(i) What I can infer:

The mother was of great importance to the family in Nazi Germany.

Details in the source that tell me this:

The mother is shown in the centre of the poster feeding the baby.

(ii) What I can infer:

The Nazis encouraged married couples to have large families.

Details in the source that tell me this:

There are four children in this family.

(Total for Question 1 = 4 marks)

For a written source use "quotes" to support your inferences.

Remember to make two different inferences.

You could use the phrase:

"The source suggests..."

"I know this because..."
2. Explain why Hitler was able to create a dictatorship in the period February 1933 to August 1934.

You may use the following in your answer:
- the Reichstag Fire
- the Night of the Long Knives

You must also use information of your own. (12 marks)

One reason why Hitler was able to create a dictatorship after February 1933 was his use of the Reichstag Fire event. This was Hitler's first main step towards dictatorship because he used it to eliminate his political opposition by blaming the Communists for starting the fire. The fact that Marinus Van der Lubbe, a Dutch Communist, was found at the scene caused Hitler to claim that the Communists were about to stage a takeover. Therefore, he was able to persuade President Hindenburg to pass an emergency decree which allowed the Nazis to imprison large numbers of their political opponents. As a result, this was a key step towards dictatorship as it was a blow to democracy.

The next step that Hitler took to create a dictatorship was to pass the Enabling Act. This gave him and his government full power for the next four years. It provided the legal foundation for his dictatorship as he did not need the support of the Reichstag to pass laws. Therefore, he could ban all other political parties as well as trade unions. Consequently, this eliminated democracy and brought more aspects of German life under Nazi control in March 1933.

[The live question paper will contain two more pages of answer lines.]

(Total for Question 2 = 12 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 16 MARKS
Lastly, the Night of the Long Knives was the final factor that enabled Hitler to cement/secure his dictatorship of Germany in June 1934. This event involved the murder of potential rivals both inside and outside of the Nazi party. Members of the SS shot Ernst Röhm, Gregor Strasser and two others. Röhm had disagreed with Hitler over the 20 point programme and was leader of the SA. By removing opposition, Hitler had greater political control but this also gained the support of the German army who disliked Röhm and the SA. Therefore, with internal threats eliminated and an oath of loyalty from the army, after the death of Hindenburg, Hitler had a secure dictatorship.

Remember you must write 3 paragraphs of explanation.

They give you two factors; you must think of a third.
SECTION B

For this section, you will need to use the sources and interpretations in the Sources/Interpretations Booklet.

3 (a) Study Sources B and C.

How useful are Sources B and C for an enquiry into the reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929–32? You must link your points to the bus.

Explain your answer, using Sources B and C and your own knowledge of the historical context. You must make a clear judgement.

Source B is very useful because it suggests that the Nazis were targeting the unemployed for support because the slogan on the wall says ‘vote Hitler’ so this is a reason for growth in support for the Nazi party. Indeed, this is supported by the fact that a large increase in votes/s support for the Nazis occurred after the Wall Street crash in October 1929 when unemployment rates rose to over 6 million by 1932. The photo was taken in 1932 when the worst effects of the depression were being felt so it was probably used by the newspaper as evidence of the desperate situation of many Germans, who then turned to the Nazis for support. The length of the queue shows the large scale of unemployment but this might not be typical of every town therefore it could limit the usefulness of the source. However, the source demonstrates the fact that one of the reasons why the Nazis experienced growth in support is because they used different types of propaganda targeted at different types of people, such as ‘work and bread’ slogans aimed at workers which helped the Nazis increase electoral support from 12 seats in 1928 to 230 in July 1932.

Source C is also useful to a larger extent because it shows that Hitler’s personal charisma was a key reason for the growth in support of the Nazis after 1928. It shows that Hitler won support because

[The live question paper will contain one more page of answer lines.]
"he persuaded us that Germany could recover from all of its problems."

It suggests that Hitler was seen as a potential saviour against the rise of communism as well as providing useful evidence of the role of the SA in helping the Nazis gain support. Hitler had certainly developed his art of public speaking and his passion and having impressed his listeners as well as his unique promises to solve all problems. Being an Iron Cross winning war hero would also have made a positive difference in Hitler's role in the party gaining support.

The fact that the source was written many years later with the benefit of hindsight shows that Hitler must have been a very good speaker as the writer still remembers it so the source is useful in backing up the idea that Hitler's speeches were effective in winning support. However the author is writing about his own personal experience which might not be typical as others listening to Hitler spoke of him as being too loud or simplistic and being written by a former Nazi he would be inclined to agree with Hitler's views.

Focus on usefulness not reliability

Explain/focus on why the sources are useful rather than why they are not useful.
Spend no more than 5 minutes on this question

(b) **Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views on the reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929–32.**

What is the main difference between the views?

Explain your answer using details from both interpretations.

The main difference is that Interpretation 1 emphasises the central role Hitler played in increasing support for the Nazis in the years 1929–32, such as his speeches. "He was a powerful speaker with his timing, expression and the content of his speeches impressing listeners." Interpretation 2, on the other hand, emphasises the importance of chance events such as the Great Depression and unemployment in increasing support for the Nazis after 1929. "Events such as the Wall Street crash, which led to depression in Germany brought increased support for the Nazis in the years 1929–32." Use this phrase to show they are different.

You must state a clear difference.

You must prove the difference by selecting quotes from both Interpretations.
(c) Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929–32.

You may use Sources B and C to help explain your answer.

The Interpretations are different because they give different weight to different sources. For example, Source A provides some support for Interpretation 1 which stresses the importance of the part played by Hitler in bringing the Nazis to power while Source B provides some support for Interpretation 2 which emphasises the part played by unemployment in increasing support for the Nazis. = 6 marks

The Interpretations may differ because they are partial extracts:

Interpretation 1 focuses on only the role of Hitler especially his speeches in increasing support for the Nazis; Interpretation 2 focuses only on the part played by external events such as the depression in encouraging people to vote for the Nazis. = 6 marks

Here are 3 different ways of getting 6 marks.

You should only use one

One book might be a focus on an individual whereas the other interpretation might come from a book focused on social history.
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

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Sources/Interpretations Booklet

Paper Reference 1HI0/31

Do not return this booklet with the question paper.
Sources/interpretations for use with Section B.

Source B: A photograph published in 1933 in a German newspaper. It shows people from Hanover queuing for their unemployment benefits. The writing on the wall of the building says ‘Vote Hitler.’

Source C: From Inside the Third Reich by Albert Speer, published in 1970. Here Speer is remembering hearing a speech made by Hitler in 1931. Speer later became the official Nazi architect and a Nazi minister.

I was carried away on a wave of enthusiasm by the speech. Here, it seemed to me, was new hope. Here were new ideals, a new understanding and new tasks for Germany. The dangers of Communism, which seemed to be growing, could be stopped. Hitler persuaded us that Germany could recover from all of its problems. It must have been during this time that my mother saw an SA parade. The sight of discipline in a time of chaos, the impression of energy in an atmosphere of hopelessness, seems to have won her over to the Nazis as well.


Hitler himself was central to the success of the Nazis in the years 1929–32. He provided charismatic leadership with his powerful message to build a new Germany. He was a powerful speaker with his timing, expression and the content of his speeches impressing listeners. He was able to identify with their emotions and gave people hope. Along with Goebbels, he realised the importance of propaganda. He used propaganda to target the specific grievances of many Germans.


There was nothing inevitable about Hitler becoming Chancellor of Germany in January 1933. Five years earlier the Nazis had been a small party in German politics with little support. Events such as the Wall Street Crash, which led to depression in Germany, brought increased support for the Nazis in the years 1929–32. Chance events, such as the depression and unemployment, played a much larger role than any actions of the Nazi leader himself in bringing Hitler to power.
Up to 4 marks of the total for part (d) will be awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology.

(d) How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929–32?

Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

I partially agree with Interpretation 2 because it suggests that external factors such as the Wall Street Crash and Great Depression brought increased support for the Nazis in the years 1929-32. Indeed, the subsequent unemployment crisis during the Great Depression helped to undermine the democratic republic with 6 million Germans out of work. There is evidence that many of these people turned to extreme groups like the Nazis for support, for example, large numbers of the SA were unemployed men. Moreover, before the Wall Street Crash in 1929, the Nazis only had 12 seats and were a minor party. Yet, in 1932 at the height of the depression, they had over 200. Therefore, it could be argued that Interpretation 2 is correct when it states that "five years earlier the Nazis had been a small party."

However, whilst I agree that there certainly wasn't anything 'inevitable' about Hitler becoming Chancellor, events such as the Crash also brought support for rival groups like the communists, so it doesn't fully explain why the Nazis experienced growth in support.

Interpretation 1 demonstrates that the Nazis' use of propaganda was a

[The live paper will contain three more pages of answer lines.]

(Total for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology = 4 marks)

(Total for Question 3 = 36 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 36 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 52 MARKS
key reason for the growth of support. This is because it enabled them to
capitalise/exploit the context of the Great Depression to gain support.
The Nazis were very skilled in their use of propaganda, in that they
targeted certain messages at specific areas and types of Germans, for
example in more middle class areas they would use propaganda that
encouraged the scapegoating of wealthy Jews or focus on the weakness of
democracy. In more working class regions their use of slogans such as
Arbeit und Brot (work and bread) would gain votes for the party, therefore this
shows that Interpretation 1 is correct in claiming that the Nazis 'used'
propaganda to target the specific grievances of many Germans.

Another reason why I partially agree with Interpretation 2 is that
Hitler's leadership was also a key factor in enabling support for the
Nazis to grow after 1929, whilst he had been in charge since 1921
during that time he had developed his speeches and during the presidential
election campaign of 1932 he spoke in as many as 5 cities everyday,
flying from one to the next showing how modern and unique the party was.

Goebbels was also skilled in his approach, ensuring that the Nazis
message was heard everywhere such as the radio, posters etc. It was his
skill that enabled the Nazis to capitalise/make full use of the
opportunity that the Depression provided for gaining greater support
between 1929-32. So Interpretation 2 puts too much emphasis on
the importance of events, as the Nazis propaganda skills were
The key factor that made the depression useful for the Nazis

Indeed, source B supports this as it shows that Hitler's speeches
and other forms of Nazi propaganda, such as SA parades impressed
geriously 'in a time of chaos' (depression) and were persuasive.

I partially agree with Interpretation 2 because the Great

depression 'brought increased support' for the Nazis in the form of
important businessmen and industrialists. For example, Fritz Thyssen
supported the Nazis as a way of preventing the communists from
taking over. This was vital because it helped persuade Hindenburg to
make Hitler chancellor. This support from the elite was more
important than popular support.

On balance I partially agree with Interpretation 2 about the
reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi party in the years 1929-
32. The interpretation is from a book about 'Hitler' but it downfall
Hitler's role in the growth of Nazi support preferring to focus on
big events like the depression whilst Interpretation 1 is on a broader
theme being from a book about Weimar and Nazi Germany but tells
us that Hitler's role was 'central' to the Nazis gaining support. In reality
both the context of theGreat Depression as well as Hitler's ability

to take advantage of it were essential in the Nazis gaining greater
support after 1929.

Therefore I partially agree with Interpretation 2.