
HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/59

Paper 5i Special Subject: Germany, 1919–1945

May/June 2017

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 in Section A.

Answer **one** question from Section B.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.



Section A

Nominated topic: The creation of the Nazi Dictatorship and Hitler's role as dictator

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *A dramatist and son of a former public prosecutor describes the Day of Potsdam Ceremony on 21 March 1933.*

The 'Day of Potsdam'. The marriage took place between the masses led by Hitler and the Prussian values represented by Hindenburg. Hindenburg reads his speech. There stands a man who united in himself generations of German history, who fought in the war of 1866, who was there at the Imperial Coronation of 1871, who became a national hero between 1914 and 1918. Hitler has grown in stature. Not a word of hatred for the opposition, not a word of racial ideology. He speaks of the maintenance of the great tradition of our nation, firmness of government. No one can escape the emotion of the moment.

Erich Ebermayer, *People and Politics of the Seizure of Power*, 1935.

- B** *An SPD deputy from Bavaria gives a first-hand account of the debate in March 1933, in the Kroll Opera House in Berlin, then used as a meeting place for the Reichstag.*

The majority of the Centre Party was willing to let Hitler have his Enabling Act. If they refused, they were afraid of a Nazi revolution. Our leader, Otto Wels, read out our reply, a farewell to the fading epoch of human rights and humanity.

Hitler jumped up furiously. He said that if the National Socialists had not had a sense of justice, the Social Democrats would not be here in the hall. But the National Socialists had resisted the temptation to turn against those who had tormented them. He said, 'You gentlemen are no longer needed. I do not even want you to vote for the Enabling Act. Germany shall become free, but not through you.' We tried to dam the flood of Hitler's unjust accusations with interruptions of 'No!' 'An error!' and 'False!' But it did us no good. The SA and SS people, who surrounded us in a semi-circle along the walls of the hall, hissed loudly and murmured 'Shut Up!' 'Traitors!' 'You'll be strung up today!'

Wilhelm Hoegner, *The Troublemaker*, 1963.

- C *The head of the newly formed National Socialist Office for Enlightenment on Population Policy and Racial Welfare offers a view of changing racial and population policy under Nazi rule.*

The eternal voice of the blood in the stream of History.

The Nazi revolution that has just begun not only creates new political forms, but also new human beings and a new understanding of history. New values and judgements change our views of not only the future but also the past. The transformation of values marks our times and justifies the change as a genuine spiritual revolution. It reflects the longing of the blood for its own state and justice – liberation from the alien spirit that has trapped it for so long. There must be a battle by those who are racially fit against careless breeding and uncontrolled childbirth, against the racially unfit and against falling birthrates. The rose that does not bloom will be pulled up and tossed into the fire and the gardener will chop down the tree that bears no fruit.

Walter Gross, Radio Broadcast, July 1933.

- D *A Jewish professor who studied the use of language in Germany at first hand, after the Nazis came to power, comments in a journal he kept (and which he subsequently published) on changes in language brought about by the Nazis.*

The mechanisation of the individual first manifested itself in *Gleichschaltung* [Coordination]. You observe, you hear the switch flipped that sets in motion not only institutions and offices but also individuals. Nazi phrases like 'Hitler weather' for 'a sunny day' and 'Führer good fortune' for 'luck' glide smoothly into everyday conversation. That the Nazis have changed values by their use of language is shown by how frequently words are used in everyday speech which were previously only used by individuals or tiny political groups.

They have confiscated words for the party, saturated words and sentences and phrases with their poison. They have made language serve their terrible system and made it their strongest advertising and propaganda tool.

Victor Klemperer, Journal, published in 1995.

- E *A modern historian comments on the continuity between Weimar Germany and the Nazi regime after January 1933.*

For all the political upheaval, many Germans and foreigners commented on the continuity between Weimar and Nazi Germany. Elections took place, city councils met and Reichstag deputies debated. After the Nazi revolution, civil servants who had no Jewish ancestors or strong ties to the Marxist parties went to work in the same offices as before. The national legal code and Weimar constitution were contravened, but never officially revoked. After Storm Troops ousted Communist Party organisers from their headquarters, the renamed Horst Wessel house did not look much different from the Karl Liebknecht house, similarly named after a slain figure. Film directors avoided overt ideology and drew on popular themes of the 1920s. American culture remained popular. Germans read American authors, sipped Coca Cola, danced to swing music and flocked to Hollywood movies like *'Gone With the Wind'*. On the surface, the Nazi dictatorship seemed to function within the framework of the public culture it destroyed.

Claudia Koonz, *The Nazi Conscience*, 2003.

- (a) How far does Document C corroborate the evidence in Document D about the impact of the Nazi regime? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that there was not a Nazi revolution in Germany in 1933? In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Section B

Answer **one** of the following questions. Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied, as well as contextual knowledge.

- 2 How far does the Hitler myth explain the lack of effective resistance within Germany to the Nazi regime? [30]
- 3 Which was more significant in the development of racial policy by the Nazis: the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 or *Kristallnacht* in 1938? [30]
- 4 'It had little realistic chance of success.' How valid is this judgement on Nazi Germany's war against the USSR? [30]

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