

Nazi economic policies**Question 1**

Study both the following documents, A and B, and answer the question which follows.

- A** *In his first cabinet meeting, in which government ministers discussed spending policies, Hitler gives his view of priorities.*

The Reich Chancellor said that the next five years in Germany had to be devoted to rendering the German people capable of bearing arms once again. Every publicly sponsored measure to create employment had to be considered from the point of view of whether it was necessary with respect to rendering the German people capable of bearing arms for military service. This had to be the dominant thought, always and everywhere.

The Reich Chancellor stressed that for the next 4–5 years the main principle must be: everything for the armed forces. Germany's position in the world was decisively dependent upon the position of the German armed forces. The position of the German economy in the world was also dependent on that.

Minutes of cabinet meeting, February 1933.

- B** *In a confidential memorandum to military leaders, Hitler gives his view about economic policy.*

We must extend the living space of our people and/or the sources of its raw materials and foodstuffs. It is the task of the political leadership one day to solve this problem. It is, therefore, necessary to increase German production of iron and coal to the utmost. It is further necessary to increase Germany's output of light metals to produce a substitute for certain other metals, and it is necessary for rearmament to make use whenever possible of those materials. In short: I consider it necessary that a 100 per cent self-sufficiency should be attained in all those spheres where it is feasible, and that not only should the national requirements in these most important raw materials be made independent of other countries but that we should also thus save the foreign exchange which in peacetime we require for our imports of foodstuffs. The German army must be operational within four years. The German economy must be fit for war within four years.

Memorandum, August 1936.

Compare and contrast the evidence in Documents A and B about Nazi economic policy. You should analyse the content and provenance of both documents. [10]

Nazi Propaganda

Question 2

Study all the following documents C, D, E and F and answer the question which follows.

- C** *In a speech to the representatives of the press, the minister for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda sets out his vision.*

Propaganda is a much maligned and misunderstood word, but the propagandist must be the man with the greatest knowledge of human souls. Modern political leaders have a duty to tell the masses what they want but also to make it so clear that the masses understand. The concept of the limited intelligence of the people must disappear from Germany. The people only become unreasonable when they do not understand something. We do not want to make the radio boring or old-fashioned. The creation of the right mood does not have to be boring. Listeners have not switched off their sets since 30 January (1933). On the contrary, millions of new listeners have emerged because they have been involved in the atmosphere of mass meetings. Every listener has been a participant in events. I have a vision that the whole nation must listen in and become a part of events. I do not see the banning of newspapers as the ideal state of affairs. The press must not merely inform but it must instruct the public.

Goebbels, *The Tasks of the Ministry of Propaganda*, 15 March 1933.

- D** *The local paper of Neu-Isenburg near Frankfurt announces a forthcoming speech by Hitler.*

Attention! Attention! The Führer is speaking on the radio. On Wednesday 21 March (1934) the Führer is speaking on all German stations from 11.00 to 11.50 am. According to a regulation of the Gau headquarters, the district Party headquarters has ordered that all factory owners, department stores, offices, shops, pubs and blocks of flats put up loudspeakers an hour before the Führer's speech so that the whole workforce and all national comrades can participate fully in the broadcast. The district office expects this order to be obeyed without exception so that the Führer's wish to speak to his people can be implemented.

Announcement, 16 March 1934.

- E** *An SPD agent reports on public opinion in South-West Germany.*

When I tried to show a low-ranking government official that anti-Semitic propaganda was lies he replied: 'You don't imagine I am a Nazi! Not at all. I have many doubts about what is happening. But I must say one thing. It's quite right now that it is not the interest of the individual but of the whole community that matters. I used to reject the loud clamour of the anti-Semites and even now don't like the propaganda excesses, but I have become convinced that it would be good for Germany to get rid of the Jews.' And yet he was able to recognise the dangers of other elements such as rearmament. Discontent often focuses superficially on matters people find unpleasant but stops short of open opposition. Most people have two faces: one they show to good and reliable acquaintances, and the other for the Party, keen Nazis and strangers. The private face shows criticism; the official one beams with optimism and contentment.

Report to the SPD party in exile, 1937.

F *A modern historian gives a view of propaganda in the later years of the Nazi regime.*

The final two years of the war were in general a period of decreasing propaganda effectiveness and the regime became increasingly dependent on substituting myth for reality. During this period, the credibility of the press declined rapidly. Radio programmes which had proved so popular in the early part of the war were now openly derided. Instead, the civilian population turned increasingly to foreign broadcasts for their information, despite the heavy penalties if discovered. Nazi propaganda encountered growing criticisms because of war weariness and also because the press and radio announcements failed to measure up to the sacrifices and the common experience of ordinary Germans.

David Welch, *The Third Reich, Politics and Propaganda*, 1993.

How convincing is the evidence provided in this set of documents for the view that there was a highly effective propaganda machine in Nazi Germany? In evaluating the documents, you should refer to all the documents in the set (C–F). [30]

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.