



GCE AS/A level

1232/09

HISTORY – HY2

UNIT 2

IN-DEPTH STUDY 9

NAZI GERMANY c. 1933-1945

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 20 January 2010

1½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

The sources and quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

UNIT 2
IN-DEPTH STUDY 9
NAZI GERMANY, c. 1933-1945

Answer one question.

1. The sources used in this question are mainly focused on Nazi control of Germany.

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

‘The Nazi state which emerged was one which allowed no opposition and which not only sought to repress and destroy individual freedoms but also to mobilize the minds of the people behind the Fuhrer. The media were taken over by the agencies of the Ministry of Propaganda, which further organized the mass rallies and public celebrations of the Third Reich. The syllabuses of the schools and universities were transformed to reproduce the crude racist views of the Nazi leadership. The civil service was cleared of dissident elements, and in place of the trade unions the German Labour Front was created.’

[D. Geary, an academic historian and specialist in Nazi Germany, writing in a pamphlet for A level history students, *Hitler and Nazism* 1993]

Source B

‘I feel that the setting up of the new Ministry of Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda by the government is a revolutionary act in so far as the new government no longer intends to leave the people to their own devices. This government is in the truest sense of the word a people’s government. It is not enough for people to be more or less reconciled to our regime or to be persuaded to adopt a neutral attitude towards us, rather we want to work on people until they have given in to us.’

[Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Propaganda Minister, speaking at his first press conference
(March 15th 1933)]

Source C

‘Much has been written and more will be before the full truth is known, if ever it is. Van der Lubbe was personally involved, but what his motives were, who prompted him, whether he acted alone, is still disputed. Contemporary opinion was in no doubt whatever. It was known that an underground passage connected Goering’s office with the Reichstag itself. It was widely believed that the leader of the Berlin SA, Karl Ernst, had led a fire party through this passage to assist van der Lubbe in his work. Within hours the jokers of Berlin had made up a new joke: “Why did van der Lubbe take his shirt off?” “Because” was the answer, “it was a brown one.”’

[Sir John Wheeler Bennett, a former British diplomat who worked in Germany from 1927-1934,
writing in his memoirs, *Knaves, Fools and Heroes* (1974)]

Source D

‘On the radio, Goering reported very gravely on the dreadful murder plans of the Communists. A whole series of underground hiding places had been discovered. Proof was brought to light by the ton of their involvement in the Reichstag Fire. Hostages were to be taken and used as shields; all cultural monuments were to be destroyed, just like Russia. Fire had broken out in 28 places. Armed gangs were going to murder and to burn in the villages. If America and England were wise they would send us money to fight Bolshevism.’

[An extract from the diary of Frau Luise Solnitz, a Hamburg school teacher (March 1st 1933)]

Source E



[A satirical cartoon from the American magazine *The Nation*, entitled ‘In these three years I have restored honour and freedom to the German people (February 1936)]

- (a) Study Source A. Use the source **and your own knowledge** to explain the meaning of the phrase “German Labour Front”. [4]
- (b) Study Sources A and B. Use Sources A and B **and your own knowledge** to explain the importance of propaganda in the Third Reich. [8]
- (c) Study Sources C and D. How reliable are Sources C and D in explaining who was responsible for the Reichstag Fire? [16]
- (d) Study Sources A and E. How far does Source E support or contradict the interpretation of life in Nazi Germany given in Source A? [20]
- (e) How useful are the sources in understanding Nazi Germany between 1933-1939? [32]

(In your answer you are advised to use relevant background knowledge from the depth study, as well as information derived from the sources and the attributions).

2. The sources in this question are focused on economic and foreign policy in the Third Reich.

Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

‘The main priorities in Hitler’s economic policy were to maintain the support of as much of the population as possible while, at the same time, attempting to revive Germany as a military power. This involved balancing the needs of the consumer and the army. This meant that in the final analysis the German people had to reduce their consumption of everyday goods and food.’

[S.J. Lee, an academic historian, writing in a general book on European history, *The European Dictatorships 1918-1945* (1987)]

Source B

‘How tremendous indeed are the achievements of the new Reich in the economic sphere. How significant it was to take over a state, which stood on the brink of collapse, and then by means of this state and this economy, to bring about a recovery, to bring millions back in to work, to build up a modern army and at the same time secure bread for our people.’

[Rudolf Hess, a leading Nazi, writing in an article in a Nazi publication, *Volkischer Beobachter* (October 1936)]

Source C



[A satirical cartoon from the French radical newspaper, *L'Humanité*, published in 1934. The characters are saying: German worker: “Can I have more bread please?” Nazi official: “What! You want more bread! Don’t you know the National Socialist revolution is over?”]

Source D

“All the individual decisions which have been taken since 1933 represent the implementation of a previously existing plan, though perhaps not exactly according to the schedule which was envisaged. For example, I was not certain when the withdrawal from the League of Nations would occur. However, it was clear that this withdrawal had to be the first step towards Germany’s revival. We could see that the next step would have to be rearmament without the permission of the foreign countries. Finally it was clear that every further step must first involve the remilitarization of the Rhineland. It was also quite obvious that the Austrian and Czech problems would have to be solved.”

[Adolf Hitler, reviewing his foreign policy between 1933-1939, and recorded in the minutes of a private meeting with his senior officers (February 10th 1939)]

Source E

‘He gave his word that he neither wished nor intended to annex Austria: he broke it. He declared that he would not incorporate the Czechs into the Reich: he did so. He gave his word after Munich that he had no further territorial demands in Europe: he broke it. He gave his word that he wanted no Polish provinces: he broke it. He has sworn to you for years that he was the mortal enemy of Bolshevism: he is now its ally. Can you wonder that his word is not worth the paper it is written on?’

[Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister, addressing the German people in a speech broadcast on the radio to all of Europe (September 4th 1939)]

- (a) Study Source D. Use the source **and your own knowledge** to explain the meaning of the phrase “remilitarization of the Rhineland”. [4]
- (b) Study Sources A and B. Use Sources A and B **and your own knowledge** to explain the significance of Nazi economic policy. [8]
- (c) Study Sources D and E. How reliable are Sources D and E in explaining Hitler’s foreign policy up to 1939? [16]
- (d) Study Sources A and C. How far does Source C support or contradict the interpretation of the effects of Nazi economic policy on the German people given in Source A? [20]
- (e) How useful are the sources in understanding Nazi Germany between 1933-1939? [32]

(In your answer you are advised to use relevant background knowledge from the depth study, as well as information derived from the sources and the attributions).