

A-level HISTORY

Component 20 Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918–1945

Wednesday 3 June 2020 Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/20.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a record of a private meeting between the SPD National Executive and representatives of the Free Trade Unions, 5 February 1933.

The SPD leader, Wels, summoned the meeting to discuss measures of defence. There were heated demands from the factories about when to go on strike and forming a united front with the Communists. Nazi arrests and intimidation were increasing and there was a danger that some incident could provoke more drastic government action. If there was a general strike and the avalanche started, he said that the SPD and Trade Unions should try to guide it. The Trade Union leader raised the question of what the aim of a general strike would be, arguing that those in work would be afraid of losing their jobs and therefore be reluctant to join a general strike. The Nazi SA would also probably occupy the factories and even if the Communist workers joined in, there would still be a split because the SPD and Unions would be fighting for the constitution and the Communists against it and we should have to tell them straight out that our aim is not a Soviet Germany.

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Source B

From the memoirs of Rudolf Diels, head of the Prussian Political Police, later known as the Gestapo, recalling reactions to the Reichstag Fire, published 1950.

When I arrived, van der Lubbe's interrogation had already begun. There was a wild triumphant gleam in his burning eyes. Göring strode towards me, his voice heavy with the emotion of the dramatic moment: 'This is the beginning of the Communist revolt, they will start their attack now!' Hitler interrupted him, shouting uncontrollably as if he was going to burst: 'There will be no mercy now. Anyone who stands in our way will be cut down. The German people will not tolerate leniency. Every Communist official will be shot where he is found. The Communist deputies must be hanged this very night. Everybody in league with the Communists must be arrested'. Telling Hitler that I thought van der Lubbe was just a lone maniac, he ridiculed my childish view, saying: 'This is something really cunning, prepared a long time ago'. After midnight, police headquarters was buzzing with detectives, armed with registers prepared many years before, waiting as vans arrived full of rounded up, dazed prisoners.

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Source C

From a private diary entry by Erich Ebermeyer, concerning the 'Day of Potsdam', 21 March 1933. Ebermeyer was a writer of liberal views, unsympathetic to Nazis.

A sea of flags in the street. All cleverly done, impressive, spell-binding even, at any rate for the masses. We must not shut our eyes in the face of what is going on. Today and here, the marriage took place between the masses led by Hitler and the 'Spirit of Potsdam', the Prussian values, represented by Hindenburg. How marvellously it has been staged by that master producer Goebbels. The procession of Hindenburg and the Government goes from Berlin to Potsdam past a line of cheering millions. The whole of Berlin seems to be on the streets. The radio announcer almost weeps with emotion. Hitler speaks. A true statesman appears to be developing. Not a word of hatred, not a word of racial ideology, no threat aimed at home or abroad. Hindenburg lays wreaths on the graves of Prussian kings and shakes hands with Hitler, who bows deeply. Cannons thunder over Potsdam, over Germany! No one can escape the emotion of the moment. Mother has tears in her eyes.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Nazi establishment of power between January and March 1933.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'Germany was politically and economically stable in the years 1924 to 1928.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 To what extent did the Nazis achieve an 'economic miracle' in the years 1933 to 1939?

[25 marks]

0 4 'Nazi terror created a totalitarian State in Germany in the years 1933 to 1939.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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