5.1 Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1929-1934: The Nazi Rise to Power and the Creation of the Dictatorship: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Question 2 refers to Source A. Questions 3, 4 and 5 refer to Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

Source A, and Interpretations 1 and 2

Source A was written for Revision Library. It is an original text representative of the style, tone and typical themes of Nazi Party election leaflets during the July and November 1932 Reichstag election campaigns. It is not a reproduction, translation or close paraphrase of any surviving Nazi document, and no genuine slogan or quotation is reproduced. Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 were also written for Revision Library, in the style of history textbook extracts discussing why the Nazis were able to establish a dictatorship so quickly after January 1933; they are not the work of any real, named historian.

SOURCE A: an election leaflet written for Revision Library, representative of Nazi Party campaign material distributed during the 1932 Reichstag election campaigns.

Fellow German! Six million of your countrymen stand without work while the parties of the failed republic argue among themselves. Fourteen years of broken promises, foreign debt and a treaty that strangles our industry have brought Germany to its knees. Only a strong national government, united behind one leader, can restore order on our streets, put our people back to work, and win back the respect Germany deserves among nations. A vote for the National Socialist movement is a vote against division, against weakness, and against the men who have governed and failed. Join the millions who have already chosen a new path. Vote National Socialist on election day.

INTERPRETATION 1: from a history textbook written for Revision Library, discussing why the Nazis were able to establish a dictatorship so quickly after January 1933.

The speed of the Nazi takeover between January 1933 and August 1934 is best explained by Hitler's skilful use of legal and constitutional methods. The Reichstag Fire Decree and the Enabling Act each gave Hitler's government the appearance of acting within the law, making it far harder for opponents, at home or abroad, to resist or organise against what was happening. By the time many Germans recognised the true scale of the change, the legal framework of the dictatorship was already in place.

INTERPRETATION 2: from a history textbook written for Revision Library, discussing why the Nazis were able to establish a dictatorship so quickly after January 1933.

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Legal changes alone cannot explain how completely Hitler secured power by August 1934. What mattered more was his removal of every group capable of physically resisting him. Destroying the leadership of the SA in the Night of the Long Knives reassured the army, whose support was essential, and Hindenburg's death then removed the last figure with the constitutional authority to challenge Hitler. Without securing the loyalty of the army in particular, the legal changes of 1933 could still have been reversed.

1 Give two reasons why support for the Nazi Party increased between 1929 and 1932.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Give two things you can infer from Source A about the appeals used by the Nazi Party to win votes in 1932. Support each inference with a detail from the source.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 What is the main difference between Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 about why the Nazis were able to establish a dictatorship so quickly after January 1933? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Suggest two reasons why the authors of Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 might have different views about why the Nazis were able to establish a dictatorship so quickly.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Which interpretation do you find more convincing as an explanation of why the Nazis were able to establish a dictatorship so quickly after January 1933? Explain your answer, using Interpretation 1, Interpretation 2 and your own knowledge.

(Total for Question 5 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.1 Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1929-1934: The Nazi Rise to Power and the Creation of the Dictatorship: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

mass unemployment following the Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression made voters more likely to turn to extreme parties promising radical solutions **B2**

effective Nazi propaganda and campaigning, directed by Joseph Goebbels, and Hitler's own image as a strong, decisive leader (e.g. his 1932 'Hitler over Germany' flying campaign) reached voters across the country **B2**

Answer: Mass unemployment after the Depression, and effective Nazi propaganda/campaigning built around Hitler's image as a strong leader.

Question 2

inference 1, e.g. the Nazis appealed to voters' anger about unemployment and economic hardship **B1**

supporting detail for inference 1 from the source, e.g. the leaflet states 'six million of your countrymen stand without work' **B1**

inference 2, e.g. the Nazis presented themselves as offering strong, unified leadership as an alternative to a divided, failing political system **B1**

supporting detail for inference 2 from the source, e.g. the leaflet calls for 'a strong national government, united behind one leader' against 'the men who have governed and failed' **B1**

Answer: The Nazis appealed to anger over unemployment, and offered strong, unified leadership as an alternative to a divided political system.

Question 3

Interpretation 1 argues the main reason was Hitler's use of legal, constitutional-seeming methods, such as the Reichstag Fire Decree and the Enabling Act, which prevented effective resistance **B2**

Interpretation 2 argues the main reason was the removal of physical threats to Hitler's power, such as destroying the SA leadership and securing the army's loyalty, then Hindenburg's death, without which the legal changes could have been reversed **B2**

Answer: Interpretation 1 sees legal/constitutional methods (the Fire Decree, Enabling Act) as decisive; Interpretation 2 sees the removal of physical threats (the SA, then securing army loyalty) as decisive.

Question 4

the authors may emphasise different types of evidence: Interpretation 1 focuses on legislative and constitutional documents (the Fire Decree, the Enabling Act), while Interpretation 2 focuses on the political and military elite (the army, the SA, Hindenburg) **B2**

the authors may hold different general views about what makes political power secure, e.g. one emphasising legal legitimacy and formal authority and the other emphasising control of armed force, leading them to weigh the same events differently **B2**

Answer: They may draw on different types of evidence (legal documents vs the military/political elite) and hold different general views about what makes power secure.

Question 5

Level 1 States a simple preference for one interpretation, with little or no supporting reasoning or own knowledge. **1-4**

Level 2 Describes the content of one or both interpretations and gives a limited reason for a preference, with some own knowledge. **5-8**

Level 3 Explains reasons for a preference between the interpretations, using relevant own knowledge to support or challenge each one. **9-12**

Level 4 Evaluates both interpretations critically, using precise own knowledge to reach a sustained and well-supported judgement about which is more convincing, or how far each is convincing. **13-16**

Indicative content:

- Evidence supporting Interpretation 1: the Reichstag Fire Decree (February 1933) and Enabling Act (March 1933) gave Hitler's actions a legal appearance very quickly, within weeks of becoming Chancellor, and prevented the Reichstag from being able to block later measures such as the ban on other parties in July 1933.
- Evidence supporting Interpretation 2: the Night of the Long Knives (June-July 1934) was necessary because the SA, with several million members by 1934, was a potential rival power base, and securing the army's loyalty, confirmed by its personal oath to Hitler after Hindenburg's death in August 1934, was essential to prevent a military challenge to the regime.
- A convincing answer might note the two views are complementary rather than contradictory: the legal changes of 1933 created the framework for dictatorship, but the elimination of the SA leadership and the securing of army loyalty in 1934 removed the last groups who might have used force to reverse it.
- Own knowledge of the sequence of events, legal changes first in 1933, violent consolidation in 1934, completed only after Hindenburg's death, could be used to argue that both factors were necessary and neither alone was sufficient, though a judgement could still be reached about which was more decisive.
- A full answer reaches a supported judgement, drawing on the order and dependency of events to argue for one interpretation over the other, or for their combination.

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