5.11 The Events and Failure of the Munich Putsch, November 1923: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 10 minutes on this pack.

1 Give the date on which the main march to the Feldherrnhalle took place during the Munich Putsch.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Name the Munich politician whose meeting at the Burgerbraukeller was interrupted by Hitler on 8 November 1923.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about who was most responsible for the rapid failure of the Munich Putsch on 9 November 1923.

Interpretation 1: From Dr Anna Becker, The Bavarian Crisis and the Putsch, 1999.
"The decisive factor in the putsch's failure was the withdrawal of support by Bavaria's leading officials. Kahr and his colleagues made clear by their actions that they would not legitimise an illegal seizure of power. Without that state backing the putschists were isolated and could not hope to seize control of Munich."

Interpretation 2: From Professor Markus Heller, Violence and Politics in Weimar Bavaria, 2014.
"The putsch failed because Hitler and his followers made a catastrophic tactical error by marching into the city centre against prepared police units. The shooting at the Feldherrnhalle destroyed the putsch's momentum and led directly to its collapse."

What is the main difference between these views?

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about who was most responsible for the rapid failure of the Munich Putsch.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.11 The Events and Failure of the Munich Putsch, November 1923: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

9 November 1923 **B1**

Answer: 9 November 1923

Question 2

Gustav von Kahr **B1**

Answer: Gustav von Kahr

Question 3

Level 1 Identifies a basic difference between the interpretations with limited explanation. **1-2**

Level 2 Explains clearly the main difference between the interpretations and uses comparative language to show how the emphases differ. **3-4**

Indicative content:

- Interpretation 1 blames the political withdrawal of Bavarian officials and the loss of official backing as the key cause; it emphasises political decisions and legitimacy.
- Interpretation 2 blames the putschists' tactical and military error in marching into a prepared police force at the Feldherrnhalle; it emphasises immediate violent confrontation and operational mistakes.
- A clear answer states that the main difference is whether responsibility lies with Bavarian officials withdrawing support or with Hitler's tactical decision to march on the Feldherrnhalle.

Question 4

Level 1 Offers a simple plausible reason with little explanation. **1-2**

Level 2 Offers a developed reason that explains how differences in evidence or emphasis could lead to the two views. **3-4**

Indicative content:

- They may be using different types of evidence: Interpretation 1 may rely more on official records and government correspondence showing withdrawal of support, while Interpretation 2 may draw on eyewitness accounts and police reports about the fighting at the Feldherrnhalle.
- They emphasise different aspects because of the historian's focus or theme: one studies political decision-making and legitimacy, the other studies violence and tactical events.
- Partial extracts or selective use of sources could lead each historian to highlight one decisive factor while downplaying the other.

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