5.12 Hitler's Trial, Imprisonment and Mein Kampf, 1924: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Source B: From the diary of a Landsberg Prison warder, August 1924. "He sits often at the window, writing with ferocious energy. He receives visitors with an air of assurance and speaks little of regret. The other inmates whisper that he has plotted a new path for politics in Germany and that his book is already taking shape. Outside, local papers still print his words from the trial. The administration treats him with odd leniency, allowing visitors and receiving gifts on his behalf."

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2 Source C: Extract from a national newspaper editorial, November 1924. "Whether one agrees with him or not, Hitler has proved himself a skilful performer in court and a skilful self-publicist. His memoirs and political tracts, now serialised and discussed in many towns, are creating a following among those who resent the settlement after the war. We should not dismiss this as mere provincial agitation; the ideas have found an audience across several German regions."

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3 Interpretation 2: From L. Reinhardt, Ideas and Organisation, 2003. "What mattered most about Hitler's time in Landsberg was the consolidation of a coherent ideological programme. Mein Kampf set out the racial theory, the demand for lebensraum and the Fuhrerprinzip in a way that could be taught to followers and used to direct organisational policy. The book provided the movement with a durable blueprint, not merely a publicity stunt, and its ideas informed Nazi strategy long after the immediate news coverage of the trial had faded."

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4 Give two main ideas associated with Mein Kampf, naming each idea in a separate line.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Give the term Hitler used in Mein Kampf to describe living space he argued Germany needed to acquire.

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

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6 Give the year the first volume of Mein Kampf was published.

(Total for Question 6 is 1 mark)

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7 Explain why Hitler's imprisonment and early release mattered for the development of the Nazi movement between 1924 and 1925.

You may use the following in your answer:
- his use of the courtroom to gain publicity
- his writing of Mein Kampf at Landsberg Prison

You must also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 7 is 12 marks)

8 How useful are Sources B and C for an enquiry into how Mein Kampf and Hitler's time in prison helped to spread his ideas? In your answer you should consider the content of the sources, their provenance and the possible limitations of each source.

(Total for Question 8 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.12 Hitler's Trial, Imprisonment and Mein Kampf, 1924: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Lebensraum, the policy of territorial expansion to the east	**B1**
Aryan racial superiority and virulent anti-Semitism	**B1**

Answer: Lebensraum, and Aryan racial superiority with virulent anti-Semitism.

Question 5

Lebensraum	**B1**

Answer: Lebensraum

Question 6

1925	**B1**

Answer: 1925

Question 7

Level 1 Identifies basic consequences of Hitler's imprisonment and release with little explanation or supporting detail.	**1-3**
Level 2 Explains one or two consequences and begins to link them to the development of the Nazi movement, with some supporting detail.	**4-6**
Level 3 Explains several consequences in a clear way, supported by accurate and relevant detail, showing how imprisonment and release helped the party develop.	**7-9**
Level 4 Provides a well-developed explanation of multiple consequences, supported throughout by precise, accurate detail and showing clear links between imprisonment, Mein Kampf, publicity and the party's growth.	**10-12**

Indicative content:

- Courtroom speeches gave Hitler a national platform. Trial reporting meant his ideas reached a wider German audience beyond Bavaria, making him a figure of national controversy and interest.
- A lenient sentence and early release allowed Hitler to continue political activity sooner than a full prison term would have permitted, enabling the reorganisation of the party after release and maintaining momentum.
- Writing Mein Kampf at Landsberg allowed Hitler to convert his personal story and ideology into a published, coherent programme, which he used after release to indoctrinate supporters and to recruit new followers.
- Mein Kampf combined autobiography with ideological argument, setting out lebensraum, Aryan racial theory, anti-Semitism and the Fuhrerprinzip, which gave the movement a clear, radical ideological identity to attract supporters and funders.
- Early release also conferred a kind of martyr status among sympathisers and allowed Hitler to travel, speak and fundraise, accelerating the Nazi movement's recovery from the failed putsch.
- Candidates may link the publicity from the trial to later electoral and organisational strategies, and may note how Mein Kampf functioned as both propaganda and a blueprint for future policy, helping to stabilise support and clarify party aims.

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Question 8

Level 1 Makes simple, general comments about usefulness with little reference to provenance or content. **1-2**

Level 2 Makes valid points about the usefulness of one or both sources, with some consideration of content and provenance and limited evaluation of limitations. **3-5**

Level 3 Provides a balanced, detailed evaluation of the usefulness of both sources, discussing content, provenance and limitations, and reaching a supported judgement on their value for the enquiry. **6-8**

Indicative content:

- Usefulness of Source B: as a prison warder diary it offers an eyewitness, immediate observation of Hitler at Landsberg, showing he wrote energetically and received visitors, which supports the idea that he could work on Mein Kampf and keep contacts; provenance gives direct access to internal prison life.
- Limitations of Source B: the warder may be biased, reporting gossip about inmates, may exaggerate for interest, and has limited perspective beyond interactions within the prison and local area.
- Usefulness of Source C: as a national newspaper editorial it indicates wider public discussion and serialisation of Hitler's writing, showing the reach of his ideas beyond Bavaria; provenance suggests a contemporaneous public reaction and the perception that his ideas found an audience.
- Limitations of Source C: editorial tone may seek to shape opinion, may exaggerate influence for effect, and cannot provide precise evidence of actual numbers of followers or long-term impact.
- A balanced judgement might argue that together the sources are useful because they combine internal prison detail with evidence of public dissemination, but each on its own has limitations that require corroboration from other evidence such as circulation figures or party membership data.

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