



EDX.WN12 Hitler's Trial, Imprisonment and Mein Kampf, 1924

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · Calculators not allowed · about 60 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 13 to 18. Spend about 60 minutes on this pack.

- 1** Give the year in which Adolf Hitler was brought to trial for his role in the failed 1923 putsch.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** Name the prison where Hitler served the sentence handed down after his trial.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

- 3** Give the formal charge for which Hitler was tried in 1924.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

- 4** State how long Hitler was sentenced to serve, and state roughly how long he actually remained in prison.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

- 5** Name the book Hitler wrote while imprisoned at Landsberg.

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

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

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

7 Give the German term for the idea of absolute leadership emphasised by Hitler in Mein Kampf.

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

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

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

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

(Total for Question 9 is 1 mark)

10 Give one group explicitly targeted by the anti-Semitic arguments in Mein Kampf.

(Total for Question 10 is 1 mark)

11 State two ways in which Hitler used his trial to benefit the Nazi movement.

(Total for Question 11 is 2 marks)

12 Give the legal outcome, other than imprisonment, that many contemporaries noted as unusually lenient in Hitler's sentence.

(Total for Question 12 is 1 mark)

13 Give two things you can infer from Source A about how Hitler presented himself at his trial. For each inference, quote the detail in the source that supports it.

(a) Inference 1: state the inference and the supporting words from the source. (2)

(b) Inference 2: state the inference and the supporting words from the source. (2)

(Total for Question 13 is 4 marks)

14 Source A: Extract from a courtroom address reportedly given by Adolf Hitler during his trial at Munich, February 1924. "I stand not as a criminal but as a defender of Germany. I speak for those who feel their nation humiliated and desire a rebirth. Let it be known that our movement seeks to restore Germany's strength, to cleanse its politics of corrupt influences, and to demand land where Germans can live and prosper. I accept the consequences of my actions, but history will vindicate our purpose."

(Total for Question 14 is 0 marks)

- 15** 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 15 is 12 marks)

- 16** 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."

(Total for Question 16 is 0 marks)

- 17** 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."

(Total for Question 17 is 0 marks)

- 18** 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 18 is 8 marks)

- 19** Study Interpretations 1 and 2 below. They give different views about the significance of Hitler's time in prison and the writing of Mein Kampf for the Nazi movement. What is the main difference between these two views?

(Total for Question 19 is 4 marks)

- 20** Interpretation 1: From J. Bauer, The Shadow of the Putsch, 1990. "Hitler's trial and the publicity surrounding it were the decisive moments in making him a national figure. The court room became a stage in which he performed the role of national saviour. Mein Kampf, begun in prison, was above all a vehicle for that performance: a mix of autobiography and headline slogans designed to reach readers and build a following. Its concrete policy proposals were secondary to the book's success in publicising Hitler's name and stirring popular resentment."

(Total for Question 20 is 0 marks)

- 21** 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."

(Total for Question 21 is 0 marks)

- 22** Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the significance of Hitler's time in prison and Mein Kampf.

(Total for Question 22 is 4 marks)

23 How far do you agree with Interpretation 1 about the significance of Hitler's trial, imprisonment and Mein Kampf for the Nazi movement? Explain your answer. 4 marks are available for spelling, punctuation, grammar and the use of specialist terminology.

(Total for Question 23 is 20 marks)

Mark scheme · EDX.WN12 Hitler's Trial, Imprisonment and Mein Kampf, 1924

Question 1

- **B1** 1924
- **Answer:** 1924

Question 2

- **B1** Landsberg Prison
- **Answer:** Landsberg Prison

Question 3

- **B1** treason
- **Answer:** Treason

Question 4

- **B1** identifies sentence length as five years
- **B1** identifies actual time served as under nine months (released late 1924)
- **Answer:** He was sentenced to five years, but he served under nine months before release.

Question 5

- **B1** Mein Kampf
- **Answer:** Mein Kampf

Question 6

- **B1** leben sraum, the policy of territorial expansion to the east
- **B1** Aryan racial superiority and virulent anti-Semitism
- **Answer:** Lebensraum, and Aryan racial superiority with virulent anti-Semitism.

Question 7

- **B1** Fuhrerprinzip
- **Answer:** Fuhrerprinzip

Question 8

- **B1** Lebensraum
- **Answer:** Lebensraum

Question 9

- **B1** 1925
- **Answer:** 1925

Question 10

- **B1** Jews
- **Answer:** Jews

Question 11

- **B1** he used courtroom speeches to present Nazi ideas to a national audience
- **B1** newspaper coverage of the trial gave him publicity and helped to spread his name beyond Bavaria
- **Answer:** He used courtroom speeches to present Nazi ideas to a broad audience, and press coverage gave him national publicity.

Question 12

- **B1** a lenient sentence and early release despite conviction for treason
- **Answer:** That he received a lenient sentence and was released early despite a treason conviction.

Question 13

- (a) **B1** one valid inference about Hitler's self presentation
- (a) **B1** quotation or specific detail from Source A that supports the inference
- (b) **B1** a second valid inference about Hitler's self presentation
- (b) **B1** quotation or specific detail from Source A that supports the inference

Question 14

Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-3): Identifies basic consequences of Hitler's imprisonment and release with little explanation or supporting detail.
- **Level 2** (4-6): Explains one or two consequences and begins to link them to the development of the Nazi movement, with some supporting detail.
- **Level 3** (7-9): Explains several consequences in a clear way, supported by accurate and relevant detail, showing how imprisonment and release helped the party develop.
- **Level 4** (10-12): 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.
- **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.

Question 16

Question 17

Question 18

- **Level 1** (1-2): Makes simple, general comments about usefulness with little reference to provenance or content.
- **Level 2** (3-5): Makes valid points about the usefulness of one or both sources, with some consideration of content and provenance and limited evaluation of limitations.
- **Level 3** (6-8): 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.
- **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.

Question 19

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies a simple difference between the interpretations with little explanation.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Explains clearly the main difference between the interpretations, supported by reference to their content.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Interpretation 1 emphasises the publicity and propaganda value of the trial and prison period, arguing Mein Kampf primarily functioned to make Hitler a national figure and to attract attention to the movement.
 - Interpretation 2 stresses the intellectual and organisational consolidation that took place in prison, arguing Mein Kampf was a substantive ideological blueprint that clarified goals such as lebensraum and racial policy and so fundamentally shaped later Nazi actions.
 - The main difference is that Interpretation 1 sees the period mainly as providing public exposure and propaganda advantage, while Interpretation 2 sees it as producing the core ideological programme that guided future policy.

Question 20

Question 21

Question 22

- **Level 1** (1-2): Offers a simple reason for the difference with little explanation or support.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Offers a clear reason, with explanation, why the interpretations differ, such as differences in sources used or in emphasis on publicity versus ideology.
- **Indicative content:**

Question 23

- **Level 1** (1-4): Simple, generalised statements with little supporting evidence and an insecure or no judgement on Interpretation 1.
- **Level 2** (5-8): Some relevant knowledge and explanation with a limited judgement on how far Interpretation 1 is accurate.
- **Level 3** (9-12): Good range of relevant knowledge and analysis, with a clear, supported judgement on the extent to which Interpretation 1 is accurate.
- **Level 4** (13-16): A well-developed, analytical answer showing precise knowledge and evaluation, reaching a sustained and balanced judgement on Interpretation 1.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Arguments supporting Interpretation 1: Hitler used his trial as a platform, gaining national media attention; newspaper reporting and his dramatic courtroom style raised his profile and made him a known figure beyond Bavaria, which helped recruitment and publicity.
 - Interpretation 1 evidence includes contemporary reports of his speeches and the fact that Mein Kampf circulated as a mix of autobiography and slogans that appealed to resentful audiences, supporting the view that publicity was a major effect.
 - Arguments against Interpretation 1: Mein Kampf also set out systematic ideological claims, such as lebensraum, Aryan supremacy and the Führerprinzip, which provided a durable ideological framework that influenced later policy and organisation, supporting Interpretation 2.
 - The lenient sentence and early release allowed Hitler to resume political activity quickly and to spread the ideas from Mein Kampf in speeches and party organisation; this suggests both publicity and substantive ideology mattered.
 - Balanced judgement: a strong answer will argue that Interpretation 1 is partly correct in highlighting the publicity value, but that this does not exclude the book's role as an ideological blueprint. The most persuasive conclusion is that the period combined publicity, organisational opportunity and ideological consolidation, so Interpretation 1 is accurate in emphasis but incomplete without the ideological dimension.