5.13 Nazi Party Reorganisation in the Lean Years, 1925-1928: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 State two ways the party's membership organisation changed between 1925 and 1928.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

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2 Source B: From a report by a Gauleiter to the national party office, March 1927. "Since my appointment I have reorganised local branches, appointed reliable Ortsgruppen leaders and begun weekly training for our activists. Central instructions arrive by courier and are enforced. We need clear authority to prevent local squabbles and to ensure every meeting reflects the line set from Munich."

Source C: From a diary entry by a rank and file party member in Saxony, June 1928. "The new Gauleiter seems strict and speaks about orders from Berlin. He has set up regular meetings and insists our local men learn the standard slogans and wear a badge. Some welcome the discipline, others say it feels remote from our community."

How useful are Sources B and C for an enquiry into the role of Gauleiters in strengthening central control over the Nazi Party?

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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3 Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about why the SS was created.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Explain why the Nazi Party undertook a programme of reorganisation between 1925 and 1928.

You may use the following in your answer:
- the need to control rival factions after the Bamberg conference
- the aim of building disciplined, loyal local structures under Gauleiters

You must also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 4 is 12 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.13 Nazi Party Reorganisation in the Lean Years, 1925-1928: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

change 1 identified, e.g. membership drives and local cell networks were expanded **B1**

change 2 identified, e.g. more formal ranks and offices such as Gauleiters and party secretaries were introduced **B1**

Answer: The party expanded membership drives and local cell networks, and introduced more formal ranks and regional offices such as Gauleiters.

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies very limited utility of one or both sources, with little or no use of provenance or contextual knowledge. **1-2**

Level 2 Explains the utility of the sources using content and some provenance or contextual knowledge, but analysis is partial or unbalanced. **3-5**

Level 3 Shows clear and balanced analysis of the usefulness of both sources, using content, provenance and contextual knowledge to support judgements about their value and limitations for the enquiry. **6-8**

Indicative content:

- Content utility: Source B gives direct evidence of administrative measures taken by a Gauleiter to reorganise branches, appoint reliable leaders and enforce central instructions, showing active central control in practice.
- Source C provides a local perspective on how a Gauleiter's orders were experienced by rank and file members, including immediate effects like meetings, badges and enforced slogans, and indicates mixed local reactions.
- Provenance matters: Source B is an official report from a Gauleiter to national office, so it likely emphasises successful enforcement and alignment with central directives; it may be biased to present effective control.
- Source C is a private diary entry by an ordinary member, offering candid views on the feel of central control and potential local resentment, but it is limited to one locality and personal opinion.
- Limitations: both sources reflect specific local contexts and times; Source B is likely to present organisational success, and Source C may exaggerate local resentment or be unrepresentative, so neither alone gives a full national picture.
- Together they are useful: Source B shows what Gauleiters reported doing, Source C shows local reception, allowing a more complete judgement about how Gauleiters strengthened central control and where limits existed.

Question 3

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

Level 2 Offers a clear reason and explains how it could lead to different interpretations, supported by reference to sources or provenance. **3-4**

Indicative content:

- Different emphasis may come from the historians using different types of sources: one might rely on personal testimonies and symbolism in propaganda that highlight loyalty to Hitler, while the other might use administrative reports and organisational records that emphasise central control motives.
- Alternatively, the historians may be focusing on different moments or functions in the SS's early development: early ceremonial duties versus later administrative uses, leading to contrasting explanations.
- A sound answer links the suggested reason to how source choice or focus on different aspects of the SS would produce different interpretations.

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Question 4

Level 1 Limited or generalised reasons offered, with little supporting factual detail about the reorganisation. **1-3**

Level 2 Some relevant reasons explained, supported by accurate factual detail, but explanation lacks breadth or full development. **4-6**

Level 3 Explains a range of relevant reasons for reorganisation, with clear, accurate supporting detail and some analysis of links between reasons. **7-9**

Level 4 A well-developed explanation that analyses several reasons in depth, with precise supporting detail and clear connections drawn between causes and consequences. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- After the party's refounding in 1925 there were internal disputes, notably between Hitler and Gregor Strasser; the Bamberg conference of 1926 allowed Hitler to assert ideological and organisational control, reducing the influence of left-leaning factions and making unity a priority.
- The creation of the Gau system and appointment of Gauleiters provided a clearer hierarchy so the centre could control regional activity, reduce independent local power bases and ensure consistent messaging and discipline across Germany.
- Founding an elite, tightly controlled bodyguard in the SS provided Hitler with a force personally loyal to him, useful to protect his person and to act as a focal point of central authority distinct from, and more controllable than, the SA.
- Establishing the Hitler Youth aimed to recruit and politically socialise young people, strengthening long-term support and producing disciplined activists loyal to party goals, which supported the party's organisational depth.
- Practical administrative needs also mattered: as the party expanded membership drives, paperwork, training and local organisation required a bureaucratic structure and defined roles that the Gau system and new offices supplied.
- These factors were connected: factional resolution at Bamberg made centralisation possible, centralisation required a regional administrative framework, and new organisations like the SS and Hitler Youth helped enforce loyalty and build a reliable social base.

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