



## EDX.WN13 Nazi Party Reorganisation in the Lean Years, 1925-1928

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · Calculators not allowed · about 65 minutes

Total Marks

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 12 and 16. You are advised to spend about 65 minutes on this pack. Questions 11 and 13 contain contemporary sources; Questions 14-16 use two later interpretations. Four marks are available for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology in Question 16.**

- 1** Give the year in which the Nazi Party was refounded after its ban following the Munich Putsch.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** Name the body founded in 1925 to act as Hitler's personal protective unit and elite guard within the party.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

- 3** State the typical role of a Gauleiter in the Nazi Party's regional structure.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

- 4** Give the year in which the Hitler Youth movement was formally established under Nazi leadership.

(Total for Question 4 is 1 mark)

- 5** Give the town where the Bamberg conference of 1926, which resolved the dispute between Hitler and the Strasser faction, was held.

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

**6** State one early aim of the SS when it was first formed in 1925.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

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**7** Name the Strasser brother who led the party's left-leaning faction in the mid 1920s and took part in the Bamberg dispute.

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

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**8** State two organisational reasons the Nazi Party introduced a national Gau structure under Gauleiters between 1925 and 1928.

(Total for Question 8 is 2 marks)

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

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

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**10** State two features of the early Hitler Youth organisation established in 1926.

(Total for Question 10 is 4 marks)

- 11** Source A: From a typed report circulated within a Bavarian local party office, October 1926. The local secretary is describing a visit by an SS detachment and comments on its discipline and purpose.

"A small group of men arrived, smartly turned out, who introduced themselves as an SS unit. They refused to join the larger SA patrols and would not accept orders from our local SA leader. They stood aside during a noisy rally and kept our candidate safe. The men wore a plain black uniform and moved with a quiet, orderly discipline which impressed many of our members. They said they were answerable only to Herr Hitler and to no one else in the town."

Give two things you can infer from Source A about the role of the SS in 1926. In each box, write the inference and the detail in the source that supports it.

(Total for Question 11 is 4 marks)

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- 12** 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 12 is 12 marks)

**13** 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 13 is 8 marks)

- 14** Interpretation 1: From H. Kohler, *Rebuilding the Movement*, 2005. "The SS was created primarily as Hitler's personal loyal guard and a means to build an inner circle of unquestioning followers. Its early purpose was symbolic as much as practical, demonstrating a new model of disciplined loyalty within the party that was personally tied to Hitler rather than to the party apparatus generally."

Interpretation 2: From L. Becker, *Organisation and Power*, 2012. "The SS originated as part of a deliberate strategy to counterbalance the SA and to provide a reliable instrument of central control. While loyal to Hitler, the SS was above all an organisational response to the disorderly tendencies within the party and a tool for consolidating central authority over regional leaders."

Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about why the SS was created. What is the main difference between these views?

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

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

(Total for Question 15 is 4 marks)

- 16** How far do you agree with Interpretation 1 that the SS was created primarily as Hitler's personal loyal guard and a symbol of disciplined loyalty within the party? Explain your answer. Four marks are available for spelling, punctuation, grammar and the use of specialist terminology.

**(Total for Question 16 is 20 marks)**

# Mark scheme · EDX.WN13 Nazi Party Reorganisation in the Lean Years, 1925-1928

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## Question 1

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

## Question 2

- **B1** the Schutzstaffel (SS)
- **Answer:** The Schutzstaffel, abbreviated as the SS.

## Question 3

- **B1** identifies the role, e.g. senior regional party leader
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. responsible for organising party activity and enforcing central policies in a Gau
- **Answer:** A Gauleiter was the senior regional party leader in charge of organising party activity and enforcing central policy in a Gau.

## Question 4

- **B1** 1926
- **Answer:** 1926

## Question 5

- **B1** Bamberg
- **Answer:** Bamberg

## Question 6

- **B1** identifies an aim, e.g. to protect Hitler personally
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. to act as a loyal, controlled guard distinct from the larger SA
- **Answer:** To act as Hitler's personal protectors, a loyal guard separate from the SA.

## Question 7

- **B1** Gregor Strasser
- **Answer:** Gregor Strasser

## Question 8

- **B1** reason 1 identified, e.g. to improve local coordination of party activity
- **B1** reason 2 identified, e.g. to allow central leadership to control regional branches more effectively
- **Answer:** To improve local coordination of party activity, and to give central leadership more direct control over regions through appointed Gauleiters.

## Question 9

- **B1** 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
- **Answer:** The party expanded membership drives and local cell networks, and introduced more formal ranks and regional offices such as Gauleiters.

## Question 10

- **B1** feature 1 identified, e.g. emphasis on physical training and paramilitary drills
- **B1** supporting detail for feature 1, e.g. activities were designed to develop discipline and loyalty
- **B1** feature 2 identified, e.g. political and ideological instruction for young people
- **B1** supporting detail for feature 2, e.g. lessons and meetings promoted Nazi values and loyalty to Hitler
- **Answer:** Emphasis on physical training and paramilitary drills to build discipline, and political instruction to inculcate Nazi values and loyalty to Hitler.

### Question 11

- **B1** Inference 1, that the SS acted as a separate, disciplined protective unit, supported by detail about refusal to join SA patrols, standing aside to keep candidate safe, and the 'quiet, orderly discipline' observed
- **B1** Inference 2, that the SS were directly loyal to Hitler rather than local leaders, supported by the line that they said they were answerable only to Herr Hitler and to no one else in the town
- **B1** Inference 3, that the SS presented a distinctive uniformed identity, supported by detail that they wore a plain black uniform which impressed members
- **B1** Inference 4, that their presence could influence local perceptions and morale, supported by detail that their discipline 'impressed many of our members' and their role in protecting the candidate

### Question 12

- **Level 1** (1-3): Limited or generalised reasons offered, with little supporting factual detail about the reorganisation.
- **Level 2** (4-6): Some relevant reasons explained, supported by accurate factual detail, but explanation lacks breadth or full development.
- **Level 3** (7-9): Explains a range of relevant reasons for reorganisation, with clear, accurate supporting detail and some analysis of links between reasons.
- **Level 4** (10-12): A well-developed explanation that analyses several reasons in depth, with precise supporting detail and clear connections drawn between causes and consequences.
- **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.



### Question 13

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies very limited utility of one or both sources, with little or no use of provenance or contextual knowledge.
- **Level 2** (3-5): Explains the utility of the sources using content and some provenance or contextual knowledge, but analysis is partial or unbalanced.
- **Level 3** (6-8): 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.
- **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 14

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies a limited or partial difference between the interpretations, with limited supporting explanation.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Clearly identifies and explains the main difference between the interpretations, supported by accurate reference to the texts.
- **Indicative content:**
  - Interpretation 1 emphasises the SS as a personal, symbolic inner circle devoted to Hitler and the cultivation of unquestioning loyalty to him.
  - Interpretation 2 emphasises the SS as an organisational instrument designed to control and discipline the party, especially to counter the SA and to increase central authority.
  - The main difference, therefore, is whether the primary purpose was personal loyalty to Hitler and symbolic demonstration of discipline (Interpretation 1) or an administrative, control-oriented response to intra-party disorder (Interpretation 2).

### Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-2): Offers a simple, plausible reason with limited explanation.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Offers a clear reason and explains how it could lead to different interpretations, supported by reference to sources or provenance.
- **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.

### Question 16

- **Level 1** (1-4): Limited knowledge and a simple assertion of agreement or disagreement with little supporting evidence or reasoning.
- **Level 2** (5-8): Some relevant knowledge is used to support a viewpoint, but argument is unbalanced or lacks depth; engagement with the interpretation is limited.
- **Level 3** (9-12): Good knowledge and a balanced argument that engages with the interpretation, using evidence to support a reasoned judgement; some evaluation of alternative views present.
- **Level 4** (13-16): Excellent, detailed knowledge and a well-argued, balanced evaluation that directly addresses the interpretation, weighs alternative explanations and reaches a sustained, supported judgement.
- **Indicative content:**
  - Agreeing points: early evidence shows the SS were positioned as Hitler's personal followers and guards, with strict membership requirements and loyalty tests that supported the idea of an inner circle devoted to him; contemporary reports show SS units answering directly to Hitler.
  - The SS's black uniform and careful selection produced symbolic effects emphasising discipline and personal loyalty, which supports Interpretation 1's emphasis on symbolism and personal devotion.
  - Counter-arguments: organisational records and correspondence show the SS was also justified as a practical means to impose order, to provide a reliable instrument distinct from the unruly SA, and to strengthen central control, which aligns with Interpretation 2.
  - The creation of the SS can be seen as both personal and organisational: Hitler benefited from a personally loyal guard, but that same organisation served practical functions in consolidating discipline and central authority across regions.
  - A balanced judgement might argue that Interpretation 1 is persuasive about the SS's symbolic and personal role, but incomplete without recognising the SS's administrative and control functions that historians emphasising structure identify.
  - A high level answer will weigh contemporary evidence, consider both provenance and the later development of the SS, and reach a judgment that recognises dual motives, concluding how far Interpretation 1 alone explains the SS's origins.