5.14 Reasons for Limited Nazi Support, 1924-1928: 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 Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 above give different views about why the Nazi Party failed to win many votes between 1924 and 1928.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

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2 Explain why the Nazi Party failed to win many votes in national elections between 1924 and 1928.

You may use the following in your answer:
- the effect of improving economic confidence on voter preferences
- Germany's improved international standing after 1924

You must also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

3 Explain the importance of the Dawes Plan (1924) in reducing support for the Nazi Party between 1924 and 1928.

(Total for Question 3 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.14 Reasons for Limited Nazi Support, 1924-1928: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Offers a simple suggestion with little explanation, e.g. the two views focus on different kinds of evidence. **1-2**

Level 2 Offers a clearly explained reason why the interpretations differ, such as differing emphasis or focus, and supports the suggestion with reference to the interpretations' content. **3-4**

Indicative content:

- They may focus on different kinds of evidence: one emphasises economic and diplomatic developments, while the other emphasises the party's own organisation and internal politics.
- They may start from different questions: one asks what changed in Germany around the Nazi Party, the other asks what was happening inside the Nazi Party itself.
- Both views can be partly valid and are not mutually exclusive; different writers can reasonably give different weight to external and internal factors.

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies one or two simple reasons why the Nazis performed poorly, with little or no supporting detail. **1-3**

Level 2 Explains one or two reasons with some relevant detail, or gives several reasons with limited explanation. **4-6**

Level 3 Explains a range of reasons clearly, with relevant supporting detail and some analysis of how they reduced Nazi support. **7-9**

Level 4 Provides a well-developed explanation, linking several reasons together and showing how they combined to limit Nazi appeal, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- Economic improvement and calm reduced the attractiveness of radical parties: with wages rising and unemployment falling for many workers, voters preferred stability and the parties seen to deliver it rather than extremist alternatives.
- The Dawes Plan (1924), and the sense that reparations and economic crises were being managed, lessened the climate of crisis that extremist parties exploited, making voters less receptive to radical slogans.
- Improved international standing, shown by agreements such as Locarno and Germany's entry to the League of Nations, suggested that normal diplomacy and moderate parties could restore German prestige, reducing the appeal of nationalist extremists.
- Stresemann's role in building confidence, and the association of moderate parties with competent government, meant that many middle-class and business voters remained with centrist parties rather than turning to the Nazis.
- The party itself also had organisational and image limits in this period: it had not yet built the nationwide electoral organisation and safe middle-class image that came later, and its extremist reputation deterred some voters.
- In some regions, local politics and well-established conservative parties held the electorate, so the Nazis were further squeezed by existing party loyalties.

Question 3

Level 1 Makes a simple, undeveloped point about the Dawes Plan with little explanation of its importance. **1-2**

Level 2 Explains one or two ways the Dawes Plan mattered, with some relevant supporting detail. **3-5**

Level 3 Explains clearly how the Dawes Plan reduced Nazi support, using precise supporting detail and reaching a supported judgement about its importance. **6-8**

Indicative content:

- The Dawes Plan (1924) rescheduled reparations onto a lower, more manageable annual payment and arranged an initial loan of 800 million gold marks, helping stabilise the German currency and economy after the 1923 hyperinflation crisis.
- It also brought about the end of the Franco-Belgian occupation of the Ruhr, removing a major source of national grievance that extremist parties had exploited.
- The resulting economic recovery, and rising employment and wages, made voters more inclined to support moderate, established parties rather than radical alternatives, and the Nazi vote share fell over the period (from 6.5 per cent in May 1924 to 2.6 per cent in May 1928).
- A balanced answer should also note the Plan's limits: it left Germany reliant on foreign loans that could be recalled, and it did not by itself change the Nazi Party's own organisation; the fall in support also owed something to the party's internal weaknesses in this period.
- Good answers use precise dates and figures and reach a supported judgement about how far the Dawes Plan explains the limited Nazi support of 1924-1928.

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