5.5 Nazi Germany, 1933-1939: Propaganda, Censorship and the Churches: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Question 2 refers to Source A. Questions 3, 4 and 5 refer to Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

Source A, and Interpretations 1 and 2

Source A was written for Revision Library. It is an original text representative of a radio announcement of the kind broadcast to promote the cheap 'People's Receiver' radio set in the 1930s. It is not a reproduction, translation or paraphrase of any surviving broadcast script, and no genuine programme or named announcer is reproduced. Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 were also written for Revision Library, in the style of history textbook extracts discussing how effective Nazi propaganda and censorship were in winning genuine support for the regime; they are not the work of any real, named historian.

SOURCE A: a radio announcement written for Revision Library, representative of broadcasts encouraging German households to buy the low-cost 'People's Receiver' radio set during the 1930s.

Every German home deserves a place by the wireless. The People's Receiver brings you the Fuhrer's speeches, stirring music and the news of Germany's achievements, all at a price every family can afford. Gather your household each evening to listen together. Community listening points are also open in every town square and factory canteen, so that no citizen need miss an important broadcast. A nation united in listening is a nation united in spirit. Ask your local dealer about easy weekly payments today.

INTERPRETATION 1: from a history textbook written for Revision Library, discussing how effective Nazi propaganda and censorship were in winning genuine support for the regime.

Nazi propaganda was highly effective at building genuine enthusiasm for the regime, particularly in its early years. The cheap 'People's Receiver' radio put Goebbels' broadcasts within reach of almost every household, mass rallies at Nuremberg created a powerful sense of shared national purpose, and events such as the 1936 Berlin Olympics presented an image of a confident, successful Germany to millions of Germans and to the wider world. By constantly linking everyday improvements, jobs, order, national pride, to Hitler personally, propaganda succeeded in making many ordinary Germans genuinely grateful to the regime, not merely obedient to it.

INTERPRETATION 2: from a history textbook written for Revision Library, discussing how effective Nazi propaganda and censorship were in winning genuine support for the regime.

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Propaganda's main achievement was enforcing conformity rather than winning hearts and minds. Because censorship, the Reich Chamber of Culture and the book burnings of May 1933 removed almost all alternative sources of information and opinion, ordinary Germans had little way of testing Nazi claims against any other version of events. What looked like enthusiasm was often simply the absence of any visible alternative: attending a rally or displaying loyalty in public was, for many, a matter of prudence in a society where dissent was dangerous, rather than clear evidence of genuine, freely chosen belief.

1 Give two reasons why the Nazi regime treated the Christian Churches carefully rather than attacking them directly, despite wanting to reduce their influence.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Give two things you can infer from Source A about how the Nazi regime used radio broadcasting. Support each inference with a detail from the source.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 What is the main difference between Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 about how effective Nazi propaganda and censorship were in winning genuine support for the regime? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Suggest two reasons why the authors of Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 might have different views about how effective Nazi propaganda and censorship were.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Which interpretation do you find more convincing about how effective Nazi propaganda and censorship were in winning genuine support for the regime? Explain your answer, using Interpretation 1, Interpretation 2 and your own knowledge.

(Total for Question 5 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.5 Nazi Germany, 1933-1939: Propaganda, Censorship and the Churches: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

the great majority of Germans identified as Catholic or Protestant, so openly attacking Christianity risked alienating a large part of the population the regime needed to keep on side	**B2**
the 1933 Concordat with the Vatican gave the regime international respectability in its early months, an advantage it did not want to lose through open conflict with the Catholic Church	**B2**

Answer: Most Germans were practising Christians, so open attacks risked losing popular support, and the 1933 Concordat gave the regime valuable international respectability.

Question 2

inference 1, e.g. the regime wanted radio ownership to be widespread and affordable, so as many households as possible could hear its message	**B1**
supporting detail for inference 1 from the source, e.g. it advertises the set as being 'at a price every family can afford' with 'easy weekly payments'	**B1**
inference 2, e.g. the regime wanted listening to be a shared, collective experience rather than a private one, reinforcing a sense of national unity	**B1**
supporting detail for inference 2 from the source, e.g. it urges people to 'gather your household each evening' and mentions 'community listening points... in every town square and factory canteen'	**B1**

Answer: The regime wanted radio to be affordable and widespread; and it wanted listening to be a shared, collective experience reinforcing national unity.

Question 3

Interpretation 1 argues propaganda was highly effective at building genuine enthusiasm, through the radio, rallies and the 1936 Olympics, making Germans grateful to Hitler personally	**B2**
Interpretation 2 argues propaganda mainly enforced conformity rather than genuine belief, because censorship removed alternative viewpoints, so apparent enthusiasm could reflect prudence rather than real conviction	**B2**

Answer: Interpretation 1 sees propaganda as building genuine enthusiasm; Interpretation 2 sees it as mainly enforcing conformity, with apparent support often reflecting prudence rather than real belief.

Question 4

the authors may focus on different kinds of evidence: Interpretation 1 emphasises visible enthusiasm, such as attendance at rallies and radio ownership, while Interpretation 2 emphasises the absence of alternative information caused by censorship	**B2**
the authors may hold different views about how to interpret outward displays of loyalty in a dictatorship, e.g. one taking them at face value and the other seeing them as shaped by fear of the consequences of appearing disloyal	**B2**

Answer: They may focus on different evidence (visible enthusiasm vs the absence of alternative information) and interpret outward loyalty differently, taking it at face value or seeing it as shaped by fear.

Question 5

Level 1 States a simple preference for one interpretation, with little or no supporting reasoning or own knowledge.	**1-4**
Level 2 Describes the content of one or both interpretations and gives a limited reason for a preference, with some own knowledge.	**5-8**
Level 3 Explains reasons for a preference between the interpretations, using relevant own knowledge to support or challenge each one.	**9-12**
Level 4 Evaluates both interpretations critically, using precise own knowledge to reach a sustained and well-supported judgement about which is more convincing, or how far each is convincing.	**13-16**

Indicative content:

- Evidence supporting Interpretation 1: the Volksempfanger radio and community listening points brought Goebbels' broadcasts to a mass audience, and the carefully staged 1936 Berlin Olympics and Nuremberg rallies were genuinely popular spectacles that many Germans appear to have enjoyed and taken pride in.
- Evidence supporting Interpretation 2: the book burnings of May 1933 and the Reich Chamber of Culture from September 1933 removed almost all legal alternative sources of opinion, so it is difficult to know how much apparent support was genuine when disagreement could lead to arrest by the Gestapo.
- A convincing answer might note the two views can be combined: propaganda likely did build real enthusiasm among many Germans, particularly around visible achievements such as falling unemployment, while censorship simultaneously made it dangerous for anyone who was not persuaded to say so.
- Own knowledge that opposition, such as the Confessing Church founded in 1934, did exist despite propaganda and censorship could be used to argue that support, while widespread, was not universal, supporting a more balanced reading of Interpretation 2's caution about taking outward conformity at face value.
- A full answer reaches a supported judgement, weighing genuine popularity against the effects of censorship and fear to argue for one interpretation over the other, or for a combined view.

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