5.8 Formation of the Nazi Party and Hitler's Rise to Leadership, 1919-1921: 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 Name one rival within the party or associated groups whom Hitler outmanoeuvred in this early period.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the causes of Hitler's rise to leadership.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Explain why Adolf Hitler rose to become the leader of the DAP/NSDAP between 1919 and 1921.

You may use the following in your answer:
- his oratory and public speaking
- the party's reorganisation and renaming in 1920

You must also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 3 is 12 marks)

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4 Source B: Extract from a Munich local newspaper, February 1920, reporting on a NSDAP rally. "Hitler spoke for nearly an hour. The audience, initially sceptical, were soon on their feet; cheers and shouts followed each violent paragraph. Those present said his words stirred them more than any before. Observers noted men pressed forward to greet him after the meeting."

Source C: Army memo, January 1920, from the officer responsible for monitoring political groups in Bavaria: "The corporal who observed the DAP has proved useful. He draws crowds, organises meetings and commands attention. Recommend we keep contact while he gains influence; he may be useful as a controlled intermediary."

(Total for Question 4 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.8 Formation of the Nazi Party and Hitler's Rise to Leadership, 1919-1921: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Anton Drexler (or another named early DAP figure) **B1**

Answer: Anton Drexler

Question 2

Level 1 Gives a simple plausible reason with little explanation. **1-2**

Level 2 Offers a clearly explained reason why the interpretations differ, supported by appropriate reference to differences in emphasis or source use. **3-4**

Indicative content:

- They may use different sources: one may rely on eyewitness accounts and contemporary press describing speeches, while the other uses party records and internal memos showing organisational change.
- They may emphasise different second-order concepts: one focuses on significance of individual agency, the other on structure and contingency.
- They may have different historiographical aims, one writing a biography-style account, the other a study of party development and institutions.

Question 3

Level 1 Identifies one or two simple reasons, with little or no supporting detail. **1-3**

Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain reasons, with some relevant factual detail. **4-6**

Level 3 Explains several reasons clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, showing some links between factors. **7-9**

Level 4 Provides a well-developed, balanced explanation of why Hitler rose to leadership, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail and analysis of connections between factors. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- Hitler's exceptional oratory, energy and drama as a speaker won him rapid popularity at DAP meetings and made him the obvious choice to give the party a public face.
- As an army informant he had the chance to meet party members and to be noticed by leaders who could give him speaking opportunities, helping his early rise.
- The party's renaming to NSDAP and adoption of the 25-point programme in 1920 aimed to broaden appeal; Hitler seized this moment to present himself as the party's leader and organiser.
- Hitler's willingness to outmanoeuvre rivals, sideline founders such as Anton Drexler and centralise control helped him take decisive positions inside the party leadership.
- His sense of timing, using public meetings and mass rallies in Munich's beer-halls, and the use of propaganda, badges and organised membership drives, turned popularity into organisational control.
- Structural factors, such as the small size of the party in 1919-20 and the flexibility of its organisation, made it possible for a forceful individual to gain dominance quickly; detail and examples should be used.

Question 4

Level 1 Makes a simple judgement about the usefulness of one or both sources, with little supporting reasoning. **1-2**

Level 2 Begins to assess usefulness, addressing content and provenance of the sources with some relevant contextual knowledge. **3-5**

Level 3 Provides a balanced, well-supported judgement about the relative usefulness of both sources for the enquiry, analysing content, provenance and context in detail. **6-8**

Indicative content:

- Source B is a contemporaneous Munich newspaper report of a 1920 rally describing the crowd's response to Hitler's speech; it provides direct evidence of the immediate effect of his oratory on audiences, which is useful for assessing public impact.
- However, a newspaper may be partisan or aimed at a particular readership; its report may exaggerate or downplay effect depending on political leanings, so provenance must be considered.
- Source C is an internal army memo from Hitler's time as an informant, noting that he was effective at gaining attention and organising meetings; as official correspondence it is useful for showing how army and party insiders perceived him.
- But the army memo may focus on political reliability or security concerns rather than purely on oratory, so its usefulness for proving oratory was the main reason has limits; it may instead point to organisational competence or connections.
- A balanced answer weighs the direct, eyewitness content of B against the official, possibly detached view of C and uses contextual knowledge about party reorganisation and internal rivalries to judge how much oratory alone explains his rapid rise.

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