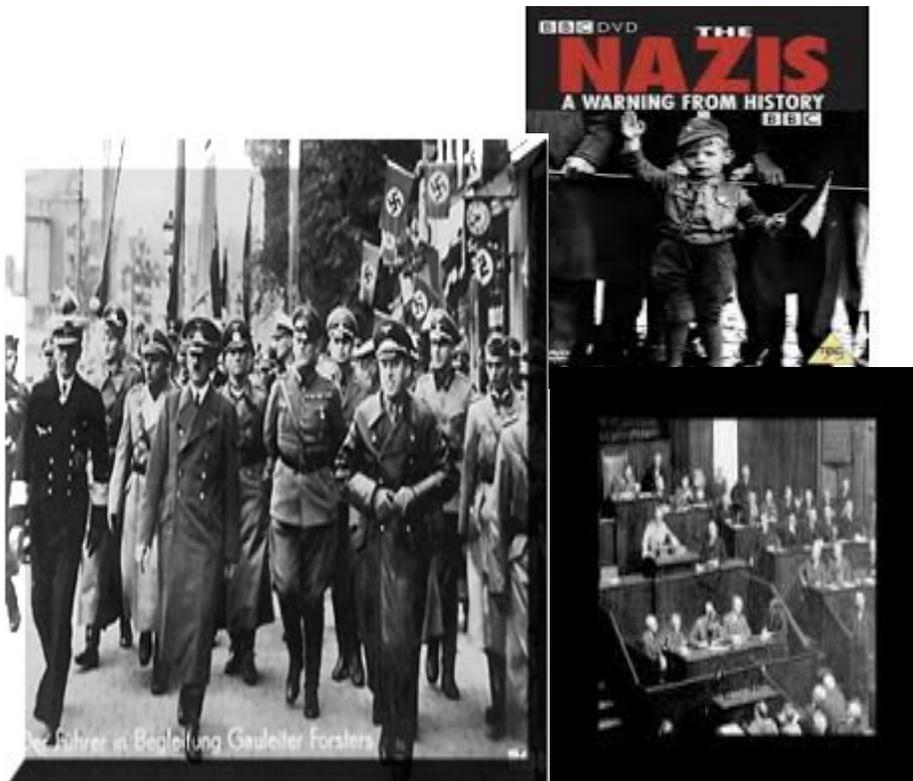


Germany 1918-39

Revision Guide



Exam Structure & Timings

Question format; allocated marks & suggested timings.

- Q1 (a). What can you learn from Source A about.....? **4 marks (6mins)**
 One supported inference
 Source A suggests.....because it states.....
- Q1 (b). Describe the key features of..... **6 marks (8 mins)**
 Two developed (factually detailed) statements
 One key feature.....
 Another key feature.....
- Q1 (c). Explain the effects(consequences) of..... **8 marks (12mins)**
 Two or three well developed statements showing links between each one
 One effect of
 Another effect of.....
 A third effect of.....
- Q1 (d) Explain why (reasons for)..... **8 marks (12mins)**
 Two or three well developed statements and prioritise
 One reason
 Another reason.....
 A third reason.....
 However the main reason.....
- Q2 Answer **EITHER** (a) **OR** (b) **8 marks (12mins)**
 a) Explain how.....
 b) Explain how.....
- Q3 Answer **EITHER** (a) **OR** (b) **16 marks + 4 SPaG (25mins)**
 a) Was the main reason for.....
 Use the following in your answer: gives two factors you **MUST** add another
 b) Was the main effect of.....
 Use the following in your answer: gives two factors you **MUST** add another
- Develop each factor with as much detailed/relevant factual detail as possible.
 - Try to show links between each factor and prioritise (prioritise means to show why one factor was more important/significant than the other two)

The timings shown are approximate. Make sure you have sufficient time for the last question.

Germany exam from June 2015

Question 1 – you must answer all parts of this question.

Study Source A.

Source A: From a modern world history textbook, published in 1999.

In 1925, Hitler persuaded the German government to lift the ban on the Nazi Party and set about reorganising it. However, he then made a speech that was so critical of the government that he was banned from public speaking for two years. Nevertheless, by the end of 1926, the Nazi Party had 50,000 members and had become a nationally-known party. But in the 1928 election, the Nazis won just 12 seats and were only the eighth-largest party in Germany.

(a) What can you learn from Source A about the development of the Nazi Party in the years 1925–28? (4)

(b) Describe the key features of the French occupation of the Ruhr in 1923. **(6)**

(c) Explain the effects of Stresemann’s foreign policy on Germany in the years 1924–29. **(8)**

d) Explain why the Nazis wanted to control education and youth movements in the years 1933–39. **(8)**

EITHER

2 (a) Explain how culture and the arts changed in Germany in the years 1933–39. **(8)**

OR

2 (b) Explain how Nazi policies towards the Churches in Germany changed in the years 1933–39. **(8)**

EITHER

3 (a) Was the Munich Putsch the most threatening uprising faced by the Weimar Republic in the years 1919–23? Explain your answer. **(16)**

You may use the following in your answer.

- The Munich Putsch
- The Spartacist uprising

You **must** also include information of your own.

OR

3 (b) Was the Great Depression the main reason why Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in January 1933? Explain your answer. **(16)**

You may use the following in your answer.

- The Great Depression
- The role of the *Sturmabteilung* (SA)

You **must** also include information of your own. **(Total for spelling, punctuation and grammar = 4 marks) (Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)**

Weimar Germany - 1919-1933

The end of WWI

- Germany was in a very poor state: the blockade of Germany had led to a lack of food and supplies. People were starving. **Riots** were breaking out. The navy had mutinied (rebelled) against **the Kaiser** (king of Germany).
- **Kaiser Wilhelm II** realised the situation was hopeless and abdicated (quit his job) November 9th, 1918. Germany was left without a leader and in a mess. Many people in Germany liked the strong autocratic leadership of the Kaiser, they were used to it. Many were not going to like the weak and indecisive governments formed during the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) which were coalition governments often made up with as many as 9 different parties.
- The biggest political party in Germany was the **Social Democrats**. Their leader, **Friedrich Ebert**, (first president of the Weimar Republic) took on the job of running Germany. He tried to improve people's lives by giving them better working conditions and freedom of speech. Politicians had to flee Berlin because of the many uprisings on the streets. They went to Weimar where the new constitution (laws by which Germany would be governed) was created and the new government, a democratic one was formed. It became the Weimar Republic.
- **Political Unrest**: streets of Germany (and especially the capital Berlin) were full of angry mobs. Communists who were inspired by the revolution in Russia, and Nationalists who were angry at the betrayal by the **November Criminals** - the politicians who had signed the armistice agreeing to Germany's surrender. **Freikorps** were ex-soldiers who felt they had been 'stabbed in the back' (**Dolchstoß**) by the Weimar politicians - they wanted strong leadership, not what they saw as weak democracy.
- **Economically** - Germany was virtually bankrupt after WWI; cost of war; war pensions to 600,000 war widows; banks & businesses bankrupt; rising unemployment.
- **Social problems** - divides between the rich & poor were growing; workers angry at industrialists who profited from the war whilst they were starving; people saw working women as a bad sign of the breakup of the traditional German society.



Germany was in turmoil.

The Spartacist Revolution January 1919



- In January 1919, the German communist party (**the Spartacists**) decided that they wanted to take over Germany from Ebert. They started a revolution attempt on 6 January. It was not successful - in a week, Ebert with the help of his Freikorps (ex-WWI soldiers paid to help the government keep order) had stopped the rebellion and killed many communists. The Spartacist leaders, **Rosa Luxemburg** and **Karl Liebknecht**, were murdered.
- It was helpful for Ebert that the Spartacists were no longer a threat. However, he had to rely on the Freikorps to keep order - that made him look weak to the public, and it was risky as the Freikorps could turn on him at any point. The Freikorps helped Ebert only because they hated communism more than they hated the Weimar politicians.

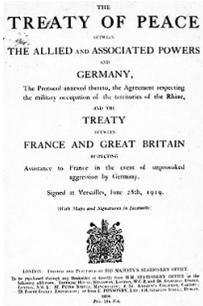
The Weimar Constitution

- The Social Democrats won the January 1919 elections. They held the first meeting of their new government in a town called Weimar - and got the nickname "The Weimar Government". Their first job was to write a new constitution (set of rules) for Germany.
- Their new rules included: everyone over the age of 20 could vote, people voted for MPs who would sit in the Reichstag, the Reichstag would suggest and vote on new laws, the Chancellor would be head of the Reichstag and would be voted for every 4 years, there would be a President who would choose the Chancellor and keep control of the army and he would be voted for every 7 years.



Strengths of the Weimar Constitution	Weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very fair, particularly the voting ➤ Allowed lots of people to have their say ➤ State governments would ensure local issues were addressed ➤ Wouldn't allow one person to take over - the Chancellor and President balanced each other ➤ A poor Chancellor or President would only be around for a limited time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proportional Representation meant that there were loads of different parties in the Reichstag - it was difficult to get them to agree on anything ➤ Article 48 could be abused so that the President stopped listening to the Reichstag ➤ State governments could pass laws that went against what the Reichstag wanted

The Treaty of Versailles - June 1919



- This punished Germany by giving them the war guilt, making them pay £6.6 billion in reparations, reducing their army to 100,000 men, taking away their tanks, submarines and planes, taking 13% of their land and 12.5% of their population away, taking all their overseas colonies, **demilitarising the Rhineland** (border with France) and forbidding them from uniting with Austria (Anschluss).

- The Germans were outraged. They called the Treaty a **"diktat"**

(dictated peace) and accused the Weimar Government of **"stabbing them in the back"** by agreeing to such harsh terms. People began to look to other politicians to rule Germany better than the Social Democrats.

Mnemonic for remembering the terms of the Treaty of Versailles: **GARGLE**:

G=Guilt Germany must accept War Guilt, responsibility for WWI

A=Army Germany's army reduced to 100,000 men; no air force; only 6 battleships

R=Reparations Germany was given a war fine of £6.6 billion (mainly to paid to France and Belgium)

G=German land Germany had to give back land e.g. Alsace & Lorraine to the French; lost 13% of land and approx. 12% of the German population Were now outside Germany

Le= League of Nations Peace keeping organisation was set up to ensure that war on such a scale was avoided. Germany were prevented from joining.

Many people in Germany, especially the Nationalists (right wing) were very angry with the Weimar Republic politicians for the following reasons:

- They signed the armistice (surrender the war which meant Germany was defeated)
- They were seen as weak
- They signed the Treaty of Versailles which left Germany very vulnerable

Other opposition to the Weimar Government

- The German communists continued to create riots around Germany, even after the Spartacist Revolution failed. Freikorps had to be sent round to fight them and stop them.
- The right wing also hated the Social Democrats. The **Freikorps** themselves went against Ebert in 1920 when they supported Wolfgang Kapp in his attempt to take over the country (**Kapp Putsch**). It was only the workers of Berlin going on strike and refusing to help the Freikorps that stopped the Putsch.

The Kapp Putsch, March 1920.

- Wolfgang Kapp - right wing journalist and politician was very angry that the Weimar government started to implement the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- He was especially angry that in early 1920 the government, under pressure from other countries began to reduce the size of the army. He felt betrayed by the government.
- With the support of the Freikorps in March 1919 he took control of some government buildings in Berlin. Weimar politicians fled to Dresden.
- The Reichswehr (regular army) refused to fight against the Kapp Putsch as they said they would not fire on their own kind i.e. the Freikorps.
- Friedrich Ebert called for Berlin's work force to go strike (most people had had enough of the political instability on the streets). Because the workers went on strike Berlin ground to a halt and the Kapp Putsch failed.
- No one was arrested and Kapp fled to Sweden. However, the putsch was more evidence of how the government was blamed for all of Germany's problems and how political extremism was rife throughout Germany.

Over 200 people connected to the Weimar Government were assassinated between 1919 and 1923. The most famous was **Walther Rathenau**, the politician who had been involved with the armistice and the Treaty of Versailles. These assassinations showed how much people disliked their new government and also made people feel that they were doing a bad job as they weren't stopping violence on the streets.

The beginnings of the Nazi Party

- **Anton Drexler** led a party called the German Workers Party (DAP). Hitler joined this in 1919 and soon had become its leader. He re-named it the **National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP/Nazi Party) in 1920 and became leader in 1921.**
- He gave the party a new flag and a new private army to protect it (**the SA/Brownshirts**). The SA (formed in 1921) was led by Ernst Rohm and was essentially Hitler's bodyguards.
- In 1920 Hitler and Drexler devised the 25 Point Programme - Nazi manifesto, setting out what they would do if they won power. It included: taking land off Germans (this was later changed to taking land off Jews); creating Lebensraum (Living space); only German nationalist would be allowed to edit newspapers; etc.
- The party was small and would meet in beer houses. It began to attract attention because of Hitler's powerful speeches, especially his rants against the Treaty of Versailles. The SA would also beat up opponents, especially the communists.



1923 - The Invasion of the Ruhr, Hyperinflation and the Munich Putsch

- Germany paid her first reparation payment in 1921 but couldn't afford the 1922 payment.
- **France** and **Belgium** decided to invade Germany and take the payment by force. They invaded the Ruhr, Germany's main industrial area, to take goods.
- The Germans reacted with *passive resistance*. They went on strike and refused to make the goods that the French and Belgians wanted. They sabotaged factories and flooded mines.
- The French and Belgians reacted with violence: shooting some Germans and expelling some others.
- The Weimar Government supported the strikers by printing more money to pay them so that they could afford to keep striking.
- Too many notes in the economy meant that prices went out of control. **November 1923 was the worst month: bread cost 201,000,000,000 marks.**
- People had to carry their wages home in wheelbarrows. Prices went up so fast that a day's wages would just buy a cup of coffee the next day. The middle classes and the elderly suffered badly as their savings and pensions were wiped out.
- Hitler chose November 1923 as the moment to attempt his **Munich Putsch**. He thought people were so fed up of their situation that they would support another leader. The Putsch was easily stopped and he ended up in prison. He got very useful publicity from his trial and wrote *Mein Kampf*.
- **Hyperinflation** ended in November/December 1923 as Stresemann introduced the **Rentenmark**.



Munich Putsch: Causes of/Reasons why the Nazis attempted a putsch in November 1923

- They felt the army would support them: the army had shown little loyalty to the Weimar
- Hitler had the support of the war hero General Ludendorff who he felt might be able to persuade the army to support the Nazis
- Stresemann's introduction of the Rentenmark meant the French withdrew from the Ruhr and Germany started paying reparations again (this angered Hitler- many Germans saw it as a humiliating climb-down and Hitler thought he would get their support)
- Hyperinflation (caused by the government printing more money to pay the French)
- Anger at Weimar Constitution and the politicians.

Why did the Munich Putsch fail?

- Nazis only had 3000 supporters
- Von Kahr withdrew his support so Hitler acted alone
- The army and government were informed and were waiting for them (16 Nazis and 4 policemen were killed) von Kahr and von Lossow

Effects of the Munich Putsch (CONSEQUENCES)

- Hitler put on trial for treason (Feb 1924) which gave him national publicity
- Lenient prison sentence (9 months) was evidence of sympathetic judges to his views
- Prison sentence (in Landsberg) gave him time to think about what he wanted. Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* and became convinced he was the right man to lead Germany!

Rebuilding the Nazi Party, 1925

- When released from Landsberg Prison in December 1924 Hitler knew he had to change the Nazi Party if he was to become leader of Germany. He knew violence would not work, the Nazis would have to be elected into power. Therefore:
 - He divided the party into gaues (branches) led by gauleiters (branch leaders)
 - He befriended Germany's wealthy industrialists e.g. Krupp; Bosch and Thyssen - they shared Hitler's hatred of communism & hoped Hitler would limit the power of the trade unions.
 - He set up the Schutzstaffel (SS) as a protection squad later led by Heinrich Himmler. It became feared and hated.
 - The Hitler Youth were set up 1925 in an attempt (successful) by the Nazis to indoctrinate (brainwash) Germany's young people in the Nazi ideology.
 - Hitler sacked the leader of the SA Ernst Rohm. The SA continued and with the financial backing Hitler was able to increase the numbers in the SA to 400,000 by 1930.
 - Goebbels became head of Nazi propaganda: they blamed **THREE 3 SCAPEGOATS** for all of Germany's problems: **JEWS; COMMUNISTS & WEIMAR POLITICIANS.**
 - Promoted Hitler's voice - flew to five cities a day speaking 1000s; by the 1930s his speeches were reported in 120 daily or weekly newspapers; they used radio; cinema to keep Hitler in the public eye
 - The image of the Nazi Party was one of strength and power

1924-9 - The Economic Boom of the Stresemann Years

- **Gustav Stresemann** was **Germany's Chancellor in 1923-4** and Foreign Secretary after that.
- He helped Germany get back on her feet in two main ways:
 - *Economic measures*: introduced the new **currency** (the Rentenmark), the **Dawes Plan 1924** (800,000,000 mark loan from the USA), the **Young Plan 1929** (reduced Reparations payments by 67%)...
 - *International relations*: the **Locarno Treaties 1925** (Germany and France agreeing their border), Germany joining the **League of Nations 1926**, the **Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928** (over 60 nations agreeing not to go to war)...

Mnemonic to remember what measures Stresemann introduced to help Germany recover:

Charlie Do You Like Lorraine Kelly

C= Currency
 D= Dawes Plan
 Y= Young Plan
 L=Locarno Treaty
 L= League of Nations
 K=Kellog-Briand Pact

- This increased the amount of money and foreign goods in Germany. People had more money to spend and the standard of living rose.
- This was an age of cinema, clubs, sex, modern art and architecture, industry, radios, cars. Many urban people loved it; many rural people deeply disapproved.
- On the surface, Germany was doing well. Underneath, there were problems: Germany was dependent on foreign loans and not making enough of her own money yet to stay afloat.



1929 - The economic Bust and the Wall Street Crash

- In 1929, the USA's economy collapsed. They recalled all their loans. Germany's money stopped and they spiralled into Depression.
- Unemployment rocketed. It peaked at 6,000,000.
- People lost their homes and had to live on the streets, scavenging on rubbish tips for food.



- The Weimar Government dealt with it poorly - they refused to print more money but raised taxes and cut wages instead. These increased people's suffering.
- Violence began to break out again as people got desperate. The Weimar Government failed to deal with it.

1929-33 - The increased popularity of the Nazis and Hitler becoming Chancellor

- The Depression played into the hands of the Nazis: people were desperate and wanted a saviour.
- The Weimar Government's inefficiency made people look for an alternative government. **President Hindenburg** had to start running Germany using **Article 48** which was unpopular.
- The Nazis used propaganda very well to advertise themselves as the party to solve all the problems: posters, meetings, radio broadcasts, the SA soup kitchens, the "Hitler over Germany" campaign.
- Hitler used his great speaking talents to promote himself as the Saviour of Germany.



He came across as dynamic and a powerful leader.

- The SA also beat up opponents, especially the **Communists** who would naturally appeal to the workers.
- Nazi votes rose. Election results:
 - **1928: 12 seats.**
 - **1930: 107 seats.**
 - **July 1932: 230 seats.**
 - **Nov 1932: 196 seats** (The SA's campaign of violence began to have a negative impact).
- Hitler asked to be Chancellor but Hindenburg (the President) refused. He chose **von Papen**, then **von Schleicher** but neither man could get a majority in the Reichstag to make the country run properly. Hindenburg had to keep ruling with Article 48. **Eventually, Hindenburg had no options left and made Hitler Chancellor on 30 January 1933.**

Describe how the Weimar government was organised (6 marks)

Describe the Spartacist Uprising of 1919 (6)

Describe the meaning of the term Hyperinflation (6)

Explain why people opposed the Weimar government (8)

Why did some people feel that the Weimar government had "stabbed Germany in the back"? (8)

Why did the people of Germany hate the Treaty of Versailles so much? (8)

Why was the period between 1924-1929 known as the "Golden Twenties"? (8)

Explain why the Wall Street Crash affected Germany so badly. (8)

Explain why did Hindenburg make Hitler Chancellor in 1933? (8)

Explain why the Munich Putsch failed. (8)

Explain how the Weimar government dealt with the uprisings of 1919-1920. (8)

'Germany is dancing on top of a volcano' - Gustav Stresemann said this about Germany in 1929.

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

How far can the collapse of Germany in the 1930s be blamed on the Great Depression?

'The Weimar Constitution was doomed from the start.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Explain why the Weimar government collapsed. (8)

Nazi Germany - 1933-39

1933-4 - Hitler's consolidation of his power and his rise to become Führer

- Hitler needed a majority to get things done. He called another election for March 1933.
- The Communist vote was crushed through the Reichstag Fire and the following Emergency Decree.

Reichstag Fire:

On the evening of 27th February 1933 the Reichstag was destroyed by fire. A Dutch communist **Marinus van der Lubbe** was found on the site with matches. He was found guilty and executed. Hitler saw the Reichstag Fire as an opportunity to attack the communists. Hitler claimed that **van der Lubbe** was part of a communist conspiracy against the government. Hitler used the fire to make Hindenburg declare a state of emergency. He also persuaded Hindenburg to call an election for 5th March 1933. Before the election Hitler used the SA and the police to arrest any political opponents and ban communist newspapers. Rich industrialists donated 3 million marks to the Nazi Party. Violent clashes led to 70 deaths. The Nazi Party gained 288 seats. Hitler banned the Communists from taking their seats in the Reichstag. With the support of other nationalist parties Hitler now had a two-thirds majority in the Reichstag. This was crucial as he now had enough support to change any laws he wanted and he quickly made use of his power.

Enabling Act, March 1933

- The Nazis got 288 seats in the election, **NOT** a majority. They had to join with the DNVP/ Nationalists to get the majority.
- Hitler then used this majority to quickly pass the **Enabling Act** which allowed him to make laws without consulting the Reichstag for the next 4 years.
- With the power of the **Enabling Act**, Hitler then:
 - **Banned opposing parties and put leaders in concentration camps.**
 - **Banned Trade Unions.**
 - **Put Nazis in charge of all state governments.**
 - **Used fear and intimidation to make sure people didn't challenge the Nazis.**



The Night of the Long Knives, 30th June 1934

The SA, under their leader **Röhm**, became a threat due to their numbers and military training and so Hitler had 400 leaders of the SA shot on **the Night of the Long Knives**. By 1934 Germany was a one-party state. Hitler wanted it to stay that way. He wanted to make sure his leadership was unrivalled. Ernst Rohm (leader of the SA) was feared by Hitler. Rohm had managed to increase the numbers in the SA to 3 million. With so many members loyal to him Rohm was in an ideal position to challenge Hitler. Rohm opposed Hitler's policies, he wanted to tax the rich and help the working classes.

The German Army (Reichswehr) was also worried about the power of Rohm. After the Treaty of Versailles the army had only 100,000 men. Rohm wanted the SA to replace it. Leaders of the SS like Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich hated Rohm too. They wanted to reduce the power of the SA so that they could increase their own power and the status of the SS.

In early 1934 leaders of the SS warned Hitler that Rohm was planning to seize power.

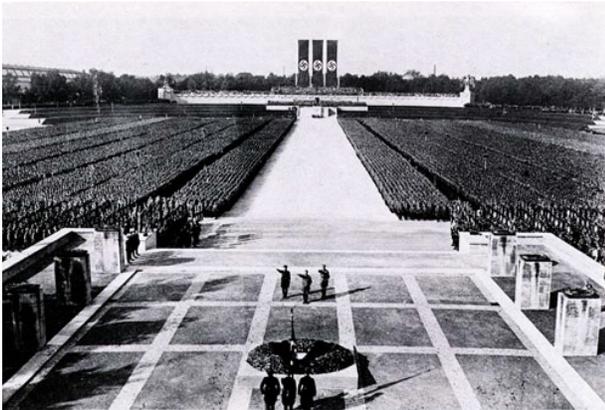
So, on June 30th 1934 Hitler arranged for Rohm and several other senior officers of the SA to be arrested, imprisoned and shot. This is known as the Night of the Long Knives. Rohm was taken to Stadelheim Prison where he was eventually shot, in his cell, by an SS officer. Over a period of 4 days about 400 people, including 150 senior members of the SA were shot without trial.

Hitler was now clearly acting illegally by murdering his rivals for power. He claimed to be doing this in the interests of Germany. Some objected to the violence but most were grateful that the brutal SA had been restrained.

- When Hindenburg died in August 1934, Hitler made himself Chancellor and President combined and called his new role **Führer**. The army were made to swear an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler.
- No major group remained to challenge Hitler: he had TOTAL POWER in his One Party State.

Propaganda - Keeping people supporting the Nazis

- Hitler set up the cult of the Führer, presenting himself as the greatest saviour of Germany. His image was used very carefully - he was only ever shown serving Germany.
- **Goebbels** (Hitler's Propaganda Minister) made sure that people were bombarded with information to keep them loyal to the Nazis.
- Posters, pictures, art exhibitions and films were all made to show how great the Nazis were.
- Hitler's speeches were regularly broadcast on the radio to remind people of how much the Nazis were improving their lives. Cheap radios were sold to people and



connected up to loudspeakers so that everyone could hear.

- The newspapers were banned from printing anything that hadn't been checked by the Nazis first (censorship).
- Great rallies were held, such as those at Nuremberg, to show people how organised and powerful the Party was.
- In 1936, Hitler used the **Olympic Games** to showcase to the world how efficient,

modern and advanced the German nation was.

Intimidation - Keeping people supporting the Nazis



- The concentration camps (Dachau opened in March 1933) were used to imprison anyone who went against the Nazi state. These were run by the **SS**. In the camps, people were expected to work to benefit Germany. They were often worked to death with very long hours and insufficient rations.
- The **Gestapo** (secret police) would go round checking that people were being loyal to the Nazis. People who weren't would often be taken off in the middle of the night for torture or to be taken to a camp. People lived in fear of them.
- Germany was subdivided into tiny blocks of about 30-40 houses. Each block would have a Nazi living (Block Warden) there who would keep an eye on all the families and report to the police and the Gestapo if they noticed anti-Nazi behaviour.
- Children in the Hitler Youth were expected to spy on their parents and neighbours.

1933-9 - How the Nazis changed the lives of young people

- Hitler wanted to *indoctrinate* young people to become perfect Nazis. He did this in two ways: **the Hitler Youth Movements** and through Education.
- The Hitler Youth Movements:
 - League of German Maidens for girls and Hitler Youth for boys
 - Boys trained to be soldiers: marching, camping, weapons training, fitness training.
 - Girls trained to be good mothers: domestic training, fitness training; making beds.
 - Both groups trained in utter loyalty to Hitler: listening to *Mein Kampf*, saluting the swastika, singing Nazi songs, reporting on "anti-Nazi" activities in their families and neighbourhoods.
- Education:
 - New curriculum. Maths questions promoted messages of war and getting rid of minorities, History focused on the Nazi Party, Geography focused on the "Greater Germany", Biology focused on recognising the Aryan race...
 - New resources: History books were rewritten without German defeats, Story books were written warning children of the dangers of the Jews.
 - Boys were educated to be soldiers, girls educated to be mothers. They had separate timetables.
 - Lots of PE lessons for everyone to keep everyone fit and healthy for their new roles.
 - Teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers' Association or lose their jobs.
 - Jewish pupils were persecuted in lessons. They had to leave German schools in 1938.
- Membership of the Hitler Youth became compulsory in 1939. About 7,500,000 children were members; about 1,000,000 refused (Some young people chose to join anti-Nazi groups like the Swing Movement and the Edelweiss Pirates).



1933-39 - How the Nazis changed the lives of women

kinder, kuche, kirche = children, kitchen, church

Before the Nazis came to power women were becoming more equal in society. Women over 20 could vote; there were 20 female members of the Reichstag; they were more likely to go out to work and have jobs in professions where they were paid equally to men. HOWEVER:

The birth rate in Germany was falling and the Nazis wanted to change this. They believed the best way women could serve Nazi Germany was



by being good housewives and mothers.

- Women were expected to be mothers. Many women were forced to leave their jobs as doctors, lawyers and teachers. This freed up jobs for men and reduced unemployment figures.
- Medals were awarded for women who had large numbers of children under the Motherhood Cross which were awarded every year on Hitler's mothers' birthday 12th April. **Bronze** was awarded for 4/5 children; **Silver** for 6 children and **Gold** for 8 children.
- The Law for the Encouragement of Marriage was set up in 1933: People were encouraged to get married and have children by being offered marriage loans which were reduced each time a child was born.
- Lebensborn Clinics were set up in 1935 to create genetically pure children. SS officers impregnated (made pregnant) single women, all in an attempt to create a superior race
- Women were discouraged from wearing make-up or dyeing their hair, smoking and dieting. There were radio programmes which taught 'good motherhood'.

1933-39 - How the Nazis changed the lives of workers

- The German economy was still suffering badly from the Depression. Hitler set up two 4-year plans to get the economy back on track. This had several results for ordinary workers.
- Unemployment was tackled by creating massive public works programmes such as the building of the autobahns. Millions of men were given jobs through this, although they were paid poorly.
- Men aged 18-25 were made to join the **RAD (Reich Labour Service)** for 6 months. They did hard manual labour such as tree felling and ditch digging.
- All workers joined the DAF (German Labour Front) which controlled the workers and settled disputes between them and their employers. It persuaded employers to improve working conditions in factories.
- The **KDF (Strength through Joy)** organisation was set up to organise the leisure time of the workers, providing them with cheap theatre tickets, cruises, skiing holidays and saving up for **VW Beetles - German workers paid 5 marks a week into the Volkswagen Scheme and eventually they would all get a car - this never happened.**
- The government took control of prices, wages, profits and imports which stopped big businesses from running their affairs in their own way.
- Jewish small businesses were closed down allowing other German small businesses to flourish.



- Farmers were given help in paying off loans but were given quotas for production to meet which limited their freedom.
- In the run up to WW2, German men began to be conscripted into the army and more and more factories were set up for arms production. Germany tried to achieve autarky (self-sufficiency) so that they could keep fighting when other countries stopped trading with them.
- Official unemployment figures were kept low BUT only because they didn't include Jews who were forced out of work; or women who were told to give up work; many more people were in the armed forces or in the RAD or in concentration camps.

1933-9 - How the Nazis changed the Churches

- In 1933, one third of German's Christians were Catholic - they owed their allegiance to the Pope not Hitler; they had their own Catholic schools. Hitler signed the Concordat (agreement) with the Pope and agreed that the Nazis and the Catholic Church would keep out of each other's' affairs. **BUT**, Hitler did not keep to the agreement: Catholic priests were harassed and arrested (400 priests were imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp; Catholic schools were brought in line or closed; Catholic youth league was banned. In 1937 Pope Pius XI issued a stinging criticism of the Nazi regime.
- The Protestant Church was reorganised into the Reich Church and given new Nazi bishops (Ludwig Muller was made Reich Bishop of Germany). Protestant pastors who opposed the Nazis were arrested and taken to concentration camps. The most famous of these was Martin Niemoller who set up the Confessional Church which opposed the Nazi Regime and he spoke out about Hitler. Niemoller was arrested and sent to a concentration camp along with approximately 800 Other ministers.
- The Faith Movement was set up as an alternative to Christianity. It was based on pagan rituals.
- Christmas carols and religious studies were phased out of schools. Church schools were closed.



1933-39 - How the Nazis changed the lives of minorities

- April 1933 - official 1 day boycott of Jewish shops; lawyers and doctors
- The Nazis believed in Aryan superiority. Anyone who didn't fit in with their idea of a top class human being had to be removed from society.
- Vagrants and the **homeless** were taken to camps to be re-educated and taught how to work so that they could become useful German citizens.
- **Homosexuals** were sent to concentration camps.

- **Blacks** and the mentally ill were sterilised so that they couldn't reproduce or killed.
- **Gypsies** were sent to concentration camps and later (during WWII) exterminated with the **Jews**. - These groups were known as **Untermensch**.
- Jews suffered badly in Nazi Germany: boycotts were placed on their shops, they were forbidden from using public services, they had to be identified by wearing a yellow Star of David and so on. Key moments of persecution were

1935: Nuremburg Laws. This took away their German citizenship and banned them from marrying or having sex with Germans

Nuremburg Laws, September 1935: significant because they affected every area of the life of Jews:

- Jews were not allowed to marry or have sexual relations with any German citizen
- Jews were not allowed to vote
- Jews could not have government jobs

Main effect of the Nuremburg Laws was that

Jews were no longer citizens of Germany; therefore they had none of the rights of German citizens.

1938: Persecution of the Jews:

- Jews had to register their possessions making it easier to confiscate it.
- Jewish doctors, dentists and lawyers were forbidden to treat Aryans.
- Jews had to have a red letter 'J' stamped on their passports.
- All Jewish women had to add Sarah to their first names and men had to add Israel.
- Jewish pupils were only allowed to attend Jewish schools.



1938: Kristallnacht(Night of the Broken Glass) 9th-10th November. This was a physical attack on Jewish businesses, homes and synagogues, causing colossal damage. Many Jews were arrested and taken to concentration camps. All triggered by the murder of a German diplomat in Paris, vom Rath by a Jew (7th Sept 1938). Goebbels seized on the murder to blame Jews. Propaganda all over Germany suggested that there was a Jewish conspiracy in favour of the downfall of the Nazis. As a result of this on the nights of the 9th and 10th of November 1938

- 20,000-30,000 Jews rounded up and sent to concentration camps
- 7000 Jewish shops; businesses and homes destroyed
- Approximately 300 synagogues burnt to the ground
- The Jewish community was fined 1 billion Reichsmark for the damage caused

Even though most of those sent to concentration camps were released this was the beginning of the attempted annihilation of Jews.

Previous Exam Questions

Source A: From a modern history book, published in 1999.

By the time the Nazis took power in 1933, the Hitler Youth had 100,000 members. Boys joined the 'Little Fellows', then went on to the 'Young Folk'. Aged 14-18, they became members of the Hitler Youth. Girls joined the 'Young Girls' and then aged 14-17, they joined the League of German Maidens. At first, membership of these organisations was not compulsory, but they proved attractive to many young people with their programme of camping, sporting activities and marches.

(a) What can you learn from Source A about Nazi policies towards young people in Germany? (4)

Six Mark Questions

Describe the key features of Stresemann's successes abroad in the years 1924-28.

Describe the economic policies of Gustav Stresemann in the years 1924-29.

Describe the measures taken in the Treaty of Versailles to limit German power.

Describe the weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution.

Eight Mark Questions:

Explain the effects of the Nazi policies towards the Jews in the years 1933-38.

Explain why Hitler acted against the Sturmabteilung (SA) on the Night of the Long Knives (30 June 1934).

Explain how the Nazis used propaganda to win support in Germany in the years 1933-39.

Explain how the German economy changed in the years 1928-32.

Sixteen Mark Questions

Was the Treaty of Versailles the most serious problem faced by the Weimar Republic in the years 1919-23? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer and any other information of your own.

- The Treaty of Versailles
- Attacks on the government

How successful was the Nazi Government in dealing with the economic problems it faced in the years 1933-39? Explain your answer. (16)

You may use the following in your answer and any other information of your own.

- Changes in the standard of living
- Rearmament

1. Who ruled Germany during World War 1?
2. What was the Ludendorff Offensive?
3. What was the name of the German parliament?
4. What impact did the British navy blockade have on the German population?
5. On what condition did the allies offer peace to Germany?
6. What did German sailors at Kiel do in October 1918?
7. What did Kaiser Wilhelm II do on 9th November 1918?
8. What was agreed on 11th November 1918 between Germany and the allies?
9. Who were the 'November criminals'?
10. What does 'Dolchstoß' mean?
11. Who was Friedrich Ebert?
12. What was the name of the successive coalition governments in Germany from 1919?
13. What was the voting system used in Germany called?
14. The Weimar Constitution included Article 48. What was it?
15. Why were many people unhappy with the coalition governments?
16. What was the name of the left-wing communist group led by Rosa Luxemburg?
17. What was the Freikorps?
18. What did the army agree with Ebert?
19. What happened to the Spartacist Uprising in January 1919?
20. What was the Kapp Putsch & why did it fail?
21. What punishments were imposed on Germany in the Treaty of Versailles?
22. Why did France send troops into the Ruhr (Germany's main industrial area) in 1921 and again in 1923?
23. What is hyperinflation and how is it relevant to Germany in the early 1920s?
24. Who was Gustav Stresemann?
25. What was the Dawes Plan?
26. What was the Rentenmark and what was it later converted into?
27. What did the Young Plan, 1929 reduce?
28. How did the Locarno Treaty, 1925 improve relations between Germany, France & Britain?
29. Germany's economy recovered between 1924-1929. Who or what was this recovery dependent on?
30. What happened on October 29th 1929?
31. How many people were unemployed in Germany by 1932?
32. What did the Depression in Germany after 1929 give rise to?
33. Who was Anton Drexler and what was the DAP?
34. What was the 25 Point Programme?
35. What does *nationalist* mean?
36. Where does the word Nazi come from?

37. What was the *Sturmabteilung* and who was their leader?
38. Why did Hitler think that 1923 was a good time for his party to attempt to seize power?
39. Which European leader impressed Hitler in 1923?
40. What was the *Beer Hall (or Munich) Putsch*?
41. Why did the *Putsch* fail?
42. What crime was Hitler on trial for?
43. Why was he allowed to make long speeches in court?
44. Hitler was sentenced to 5 years in Landsberg prison. How long did he serve?
45. What does the title *Mein Kampf*, Hitler's autobiography, mean?
46. What were *Gauleiters*?
47. Who was appointed as the Nazi Parties leader of propaganda?
48. What were the *Schutzstaffel (SS)* and *Jugend*?
49. What was the Bamberg Conference, 1926?
50. How many members did the Nazi Party have by 1928?
51. What forms of propaganda were used by Josef Goebbels?
52. Who did the Nazis blame, in 1930, for Germany's economic problems?
53. In the election of September 1930 how many votes did the Nazi Party receive?
54. How did the Nazis fund their campaigns?
55. How many seats did the Nazi Party win in the election of July 1932?
56. How did Hitler make himself electable?
57. Who was von Papen?
58. What did Hitler become on January 30th 1933?
59. How many Nazis were in the first cabinet when Hitler became chancellor?
60. Who was president when Hitler became chancellor?
61. What was Marinus van der Lubbe accused of in February 1933?
62. What was the Enabling Bill and what did it allow Hitler to do?
63. In the November 1933 election why did the Nazi Party gain 95.2% of the vote?
64. What was the Nazi philosophy (*Gleichschaltung*)?
65. The Nazis said they had created a national community, because of this what did they say there was no longer any need for?
66. What did you need to be employed?
67. What was the first to be opened in March 1933?
68. What did Hitler do to the government in January 1934?
69. What was the Night of the Long Knives and what happened?
70. Who was Ernst Rohm?
71. Who was the leader of the SS?
72. Who was the head of the Gestapo?
73. What was the significance of the Night of the Long Knives?
74. What was the Night of the Long Knives also known as?
75. What happened to the SA after the Night of the Long Knives?
76. When Hindenburg died in August 1934 who did the army swear allegiance to?
77. What does *Gleichschaltung* mean?

78. How did the Nazis keep control?
79. What was the Gestapo?
80. Who was leader of the SS?
81. Where and when was the first concentration camp opened?
82. How did the Nazis change the legal system, courts etc.?
83. Name 5 different types of prisoners placed in concentration camps
84. In what ways did Nazi ideals differ from those of Christianity?
85. What is a concordat and who did Hitler make it with in July 1933?
86. Who attacked the Nazi system in a speech entitled 'With Burning Anxiety'?
87. How did the Nazis deal with the Catholic Church?
88. What was the Confessional Church?
89. What was the purpose of Nazi propaganda?
90. How much of the media was censored?
91. Where did the Nazis hold annual rallies?
92. What was the Hitler Jugend?
93. How did the Nazis control education?
94. From 14 to 18 girls joined the League of German Maidens how did this differ from the Hitler Youth?
95. Who were the Edelweiss Pirates?
96. What were the three 'K's, *Kinder*; *Kuche* and *Kirche*?
97. What was the ideal Nazi woman like?
98. How did the Nazis promote childbirth?
99. What were women with large families awarded on Hitler's mother's birthday?
100. How did Hitler reduce unemployment?
101. What was the Labour Service Corps?
102. How were the Nazis able to keep unemployment so low?
103. What is conscription and when did Hitler introduce it?
104. What was the Nazi idea of a 'master race'?
105. Who were the *untermenschen* and what does it mean?
106. How would the 'master race' be achieved?
107. Why did the Nazis persecute the Jews?
108. How were the Jews persecuted?
109. How were the Jews treated in education?
110. What was *Kristallnacht*? (9th November 1938)
111. In June 1935 the Nuremberg Laws were passed. How did they affect Jews?
112. What was Reinhard Heydrich responsible for?
113. Which other groups were persecuted?

1918	<p>January President Wilson's Fourteen Points was announced</p> <p>September Hindenburg and Ludendorff informed the Kaiser that Germany had lost the war and that an armistice should be sought immediately</p> <p>October Prince Max of Baden was appointed Chancellor</p> <p>Ludendorff was replaced by General Groener</p> <p>Mutiny broke out in the German navy</p> <p>November A Workers' and Soldiers' Council was set up in Kiel and in other cities</p> <p>Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated the throne of Germany</p> <p>Ebert became Chancellor of Germany</p> <p>Scheidemann declared Germany a republic</p> <p>The armistice was signed and world war one ended</p>
1919	<p>January Spartacist uprising in Berlin was suppressed by the <i>Freikorps</i></p> <p>Leibneckt and Luxemburg murdered</p> <p>February the German government met in Weimar</p> <p>Scheidemann became the first Chancellor of the Weimar Republic</p> <p>Ebert became the first President of the Weimar Republic</p> <p>September Hitler joined the German Workers' Party in Munich</p>
1920	<p>February Hitler announces the new name for the German Workers' Party - National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi) - and his 25 point plan for the future</p>
1922	<p>December Germany failed to make reparation payment</p>

1923	<p>January French and Belgian troops occupied the Ruhr</p> <p>German workers began passive resistance in the Ruhr</p> <p>September Chancellor Stresemann ended passive resistance against the French government in the Ruhr</p> <p>October A new currency called the Rentenmark was introduced</p> <p>November Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch in Munich failed</p>
1924	<p>April Hitler was sentenced to five years' imprisonment</p> <p>The Dawes Plan was announced</p> <p>December Hitler was released from prison and began to rebuild the Nazi Party</p>
1925	<p>February Paul von Hindenburg was elected President of Germany</p> <p>October Germany signed the Locarno Treaty with France, Britain, Belgium and Italy guaranteeing its borders with France</p>
1926	<p>May Hitler declared leader (<i>Führer</i>) of the Nazi Party</p>
1929	<p>January Goebbels appointed chief of the Nazi propaganda department</p> <p>October Death of Stresemann</p> <p>Wall Street stock market collapsed, beginning the Great Depression</p>
1930	<p>March Muller's government failed to deal with the Great Depression</p> <p>Bruning was appointed Chancellor</p> <p>July Bruning's budget passed using Article 48</p> <p>September Nazis won 107 seats in the Reichstag elections</p>

<p>1931</p>	<p>March Unemployment in Germany reached 4.9 million</p> <p>July Use of Article 48 was used to govern Germany</p>
<p>1932</p>	<p>April Hitler stood for President, but Hindenburg, at 85 years of age, was re-elected</p> <p>May Fall of the Bruning government</p> <p>Franz von Papen was appointed Chancellor</p> <p>July <i>Reichstag</i> elections were held</p> <p>Nazis won 280 seats and became the largest party in the parliament</p> <p>August Hitler was rejected in the position of Vice-Chancellor</p> <p>September <i>Reichstag</i> dissolved</p> <p>November <i>Reichstag</i> elections were held</p> <p>Nazi vote declined</p> <p>Papen government resigned</p> <p>December Von Schleicher appointed Chancellor</p>
<p>1933</p>	<p>January Schleicher's government fell</p> <p>Hitler was appointed Chancellor, with Papen as Vice-Chancellor</p> <p>February <i>Reichstag</i> Fire</p> <p>Law for the Protection of People and State</p> <p>March Goebbels appointed Propaganda Minister</p> <p><i>Reichstag</i> elections were held</p> <p>Enabling Act was passed</p> <p>April Jewish children were restricted entry into German schools</p> <p>First boycott of Jewish businesses and professionals</p>

	<p>May Trade unions abolished</p> <p>Burning of "un-German" books</p> <p>June Political parties banned</p> <p>SS assumed control of concentration camps</p> <p>July Nazi Party became the only legal party in Germany</p> <p>Hitler signed an agreement with the Pope to protect the Roman Catholic Church in Germany</p> <p>November <i>Reichstag</i> elections were held with the Nazi Party winning every seat</p>
1934	<p>January German states were abolished</p> <p>April Himmler was appointed head of the <i>Gestapo</i></p> <p>June Night of the long knives</p> <p>SS no longer part of the SA</p> <p>August President Hindenburg died</p> <p>Hitler combined the offices of President and Chancellor</p> <p>The German Army swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler</p>
1935	<p>March Germany reintroduced conscription, which was against the Treaty of Versailles</p> <p>September Nuremberg laws against Jews were passed</p>
1936	<p>March German troops reoccupied the Rhineland</p> <p>June Himmler became Chief of the German police</p> <p>August Olympic Games were held in Berlin</p> <p>September Four-Year Plan for economic self-sufficiency and rearmament introduced</p> <p>October Germany signed a treaty with Italy</p>

1938	Persecution of the Jews increased November <i>Kristallnacht</i> , Night of Broken Glass
1939	March Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia Britain and France gave guarantees to Poland about its security August The Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact was signed September Germany invaded Poland Britain and France declared war on Germany October Poland surrendered to Germany