

A-level HISTORY

Component 20 Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918–1945

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/20.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a report by the SOPADE (the Social Democratic Party in exile), June 1934. SOPADE got its information from contacts who were working secretly in Germany.

The Nazi regime still controls important instruments of power; the comprehensive propaganda apparatus and hundreds of thousands of supporters whose posts and prosperity depend on the continuation of the regime. At the top of the regime are men who have no scruples in the exercise of power and who, in the hour of danger, will not shrink from the greatest crimes. 5

No system of rule collapses by itself. The weakness of the opposition is the strength of the regime. Its opponents are ideologically and organisationally weak. They are ideologically weak because the great masses are only discontented; they are merely grumblers whose discontent springs simply from economic motives. Fear of Bolshevism and the chaos which would follow Hitler's fall are still reasons why the regime is supported by the masses. 10

The regime's opponents are organisationally weak because it is the essence of a fascist system that it does not allow its opponents to organise collectively.

Source B

From an article in a British newspaper, 17 November 1936. It was written by the British politician David Lloyd George following a visit to Germany. Lloyd George had been Britain's Prime Minister during the First World War.

I have just returned from a visit to Germany. There is, for the first time since the War, a general sense of security. The people are more cheerful. There is a greater sense of general gaiety of spirit throughout the land.

As to Hitler's popularity, especially among the youth of Germany, there can be no manner of doubt. The old trust him; the young idolise him. It is not the admiration accorded to a popular leader. It is the worship of a national hero who has saved his country from utter despondency and degradation. 5

It is true that public criticism of the government is forbidden in every form. That does not mean that criticism is absent. I have heard the speeches of prominent Nazi orators freely condemned. But not a word of criticism or of disapproval have I heard about Hitler. This great people will work better, sacrifice more, and, if necessary fight with greater resolution because Hitler asks them to do so. 10

Source C

From a confidential report of 1937 by a Gestapo agent from Düsseldorf.

Whereas until 1936 the main propaganda emphasis was on distributing lots of pamphlets, at the beginning of 1936, the Communists switched to propaganda by word of mouth, setting up bases in factories. The shifting about of workers within the various factories, necessitated by the scarcity of raw materials, makes surveillance more difficult and makes it easier for workers to be indoctrinated by Communist activists. 5

The SPD [Social Democratic Party] works by means of the dissemination of news and the setting up of cells in factories, sports clubs and other organisations. Since the former SPD members carry on the propaganda only by word of mouth, it is very difficult to get hold of proof of their illegal activities which would be usable in court.

In 1938 we will have to devote particular attention to illegal activities in the factories. 10
Trusted agents have infiltrated several big factories in my district and have already provided proof that the KPD [German Communist Party] and the SPD are carrying out conspiratorial work jointly.

0	1
---	---

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the extent of opposition to the Nazi regime in the years 1934 to 1937.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'The instability of Weimar governments, in the years 1919 to 1923, stemmed primarily from the problems created by the Weimar Constitution.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 How far was the improved economic and political stability of the Weimar Republic, in the years 1923 to 1925, due to Gustav Stresemann?

[25 marks]

0 4 'There was more continuity than change in Hitler's policies towards the Jews in the years 1938 to 1945.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, from the November 2015 examination series, acknowledgements of third party copyright material will be published in a separate booklet rather than including them on the examination paper or support materials. This booklet is published after each examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk after the live examination series.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.

Copyright © 2017 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.