

## 6 Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945

### Page 151: Structure the detail

Reason	Evidence to prove this	Explain why this made the Nazis strong.
The Nazis were well led	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hitler was a charismatic speaker.</i></li> <li>• <i>Goebbels could use the power of modern media.</i></li> <li>• <i>Rohm led an elite force with the SA.</i></li> <li>• <i>Himmler led an even more elite force with the SS.</i></li> </ul>	<i>This made the Nazis strong because they had lots of different men with different strengths. They could persuade people to vote for them with Hitler's speeches and Goebbels' propaganda and scare them into following them with the SA and SS.</i>
The Nazis were organised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The SA and SS meant they had private armies.</i></li> <li>• <i>They had men for different jobs, e.g. Goebbels for propaganda.</i></li> </ul>	<i>This organisation meant they covered all the bases needed to win people over to their side.</i>
The Nazis had popular ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Abolish the Treaty of Versailles</i></li> <li>• <i>Destroy Communism</i></li> <li>• <i>Aryans are supreme</i></li> </ul>	<i>At a time when Germany was very weak due to the Great Depression, simple ideas like this meant that the Nazis gave people hope. This made them strong as it meant they were very appealing.</i>
The Nazis had force	<i>The SA was 400,000 strong in 1933. The SS was 50,000 strong.</i>	<i>The Nazis' personal army in the SA and SS was bigger than the national army of Germany. They could use this force to intimidate voters into supporting the party.</i>

### Page 151: Test yourself

- 1 The Great Depression
- 2 Josef Goebbels
- 3 Abolish the Treaty of Versailles, destroy Communism, Aryans are supreme.

### Page 153: Getting from A to B

A					B
Reichstag Fire (February 1933)	Reichstag Fire Decree	Enabling Act (March 1933)	Civil Service Act (April 1933)	Book burning (May 1933)	Banning of political parties (July 1933)

**Page 153: Test yourself**

- 1 The Communists
- 2 He could pass any law without the approval of the Reichstag
- 3 Civil Service Act, Reichstag Fire Decree, Enabling Act.

**Page 153: Practice question**

**[sample answer] (18 marks)**

In the short term the Reichstag Fire was the most important step in helping Hitler become dictator of Germany but in the long term there were other more important steps like the creation of new legislation.

The Reichstag Fire was undoubtedly very important in helping Hitler become dictator. On 27 February 1933, Van der Lubbe set the Reichstag on fire and this created the opportunity Hitler needed to remove his biggest threat, the Communists. After the fire, the Nazis claimed that Van der Lubbe was working as part of a larger Communist threat and persuaded President Hindenburg to pass laws to stop the Communists. As a result, he passed the Reichstag Fire Decree which resulted in the arrest of 4000 Communists including the party leader and the party was banned. This was a crucial step for Hitler to take power as the Communists were his biggest enemy and the fire provided the opportunity to remove this threat in one move, leaving him to take power without the concern of the Communists trying to block him.

However, the Reichstag Fire was not the only step in Hitler becoming dictator. Arguably a more important step was the creation of new legislation following the Reichstag Fire. In March 1933, the Nazis (with help from other right wing parties) passed the Enabling Act. This act gave Hitler the right to pass any law he wanted without the approval of the Reichstag. This gave him the power of a dictator directly. As a result of this Hitler was able to pass the Civil Service Act (April 1933), the first step in persecuting the Jews and in June gave him the power to ban all other political parties. Thus it is easily arguable that it was this step, not the Reichstag Fire that pushed Hitler more forcefully towards his position as dictator.

An additional important step in Hitler becoming dictator was the steps taken in 1933 and 1934 to remove further opposition. The Reichstag Fire was an important part of this as he removed the Communists; however, he still had lots of opposition left and it was only in removing this that he could truly say he was a dictator. In 1933, Hitler removed the trade unions and put the German population into fear with the introduction of concentration camps and the SS and Gestapo. Even still one threat remained, his own men in the SA. This last threat was removed in the Night of the Long Knives with the murder of Rohm and his SA leaders. It was only after this that Hitler could take the title of *Führer* and 100 per cent a dictator.

In conclusion, the Reichstag Fire was undeniably an important step in Hitler becoming dictator because in the short term it removed the Communists, his biggest threat. However, in the long term what really gave Hitler his dictatorial power was the creation of new legislation, like the Enabling Act, and removing further threats with the Night of the Long Knives.

**Page 154: Test yourself**

- 1 The SA and conservative opponents
- 2 The SS (in particular, Heinrich Himmler)
- 3 The Act Concerning the Head of State

**Page 155: Link the source to the correct statement**

- The source is limited as it is written by one of the Nazis
- The source is useful as Goebbels was involved in the Night of the Long Knives
- The source shows the Nazis had remorse for their actions
- The source is helpful to a historian but is only one person's opinion
- The source shows how the Nazis believed that murder was an appropriate course of action
- The source is completely biased
- The source shows how necessary the Night of the Long Knives was
- The source shows how easy the Night of the Long Knives was
- The source shows how Hitler struggled with these actions
- The source lies
- The source tells the truth

**[sample answer] (7 marks)**

This source tells us lots about Goebbels' view of the Night of the Long Knives. The source is very useful as Goebbels was directly involved in the purge of the SA and was with Hitler at the hotel in Munich. The fact that Goebbels uses the word 'necessary' shows that the Nazis thought that murder was an appropriate course of action. Although he claims that these murders are 'difficult' and that Hitler suffered from this action, this statement shows that he had no remorse or guilt about killing Ernst Röhm and his SA leaders. The source also shows us how the Nazis underplayed the extent of the event. In the extract, Goebbels says that about 60 were killed, when in fact over 85 were killed. They might have done this to not reveal how brutal they really were.

However, the source does not tell us why they committed these murders which would be a lot more interesting. It also does not tell us the impact, in particular on the SA and SS which was so pivotal for the Nazis.

**Page 156: Test yourself**

- 1 Heinrich Himmler
- 2 Only 15,000
- 3 They had to spy on and inform on their neighbours and deliver news.

**Page 157: Considering usefulness**

	<b>Interpretation A</b>	<b>Source B</b>	<b>Source C</b>
<b>Content:</b> what exactly do we learn about the Gestapo from the interpretation and the sources?	The Gestapo was not anywhere near as widespread or all-knowing as Nazi propaganda suggested.	The Gestapo used cruel methods and blackmail to forcefully extract information and confessions from those being interrogated.	The Gestapo relied most heavily on the general public and the regular police to provide information to it, while the Gestapo itself accounted for just 15% of information sources.
<b>Context:</b> when was the interpretation or source written? Who wrote it? Who was it written for? How might this affect how useful it	2015. This was written for the general public to help them understand the history of the Gestapo. It should be very	Written in 1933 after the Reichstag Fire. The source is written by the head of the Communist Party who	Statistics from the time of the Gestapo. Official statistics would have no obvious reason to lie.

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is?	unbiased and give a general account.	hated the Nazis.	
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Interpretation A is very useful to a historian studying the Gestapo as it challenges the common perception that there were thousands of Gestapo members all over Germany. At the time, the German people lived in great fear that there was a Gestapo officer on every street corner but in fact there only 15,000 members at their height. As McDonough quotes 'nothing could be further from the truth'. This is useful as it shows that despite low numbers, the Gestapo were able to make the German people think there were thousands more which shows what power they had.

Source B is useful to a historian studying the Gestapo as it shows clearly what happened following arrest. During investigation and interrogation, the Gestapo really did use 'every conceivable cruel method' as Thaelmann explains. The officer would commonly use phone taps, open mail and during interrogation would use violence such as pulling of finger nails to get people to confess to their crimes. As this is a first-hand account of this experience, this is very useful and shows the impact this brutality would have had. However, Thaelmann was leader of the Communist Party and would have wanted to show the worst side of the Nazis so this might be exaggerated. Only with comparison to other experiences would we be able to verify this.

Source C is also useful to a historian studying the Gestapo as it shows precisely where the organisation got their information from. This is useful as it shows the extent the general public were giving tip offs to the Gestapo, with 26 per cent the highest group. What is particularly interesting is that only 6 per cent of their information came from the block leaders employed by the Nazis to inform on their neighbours, which maybe shows how ineffective a system this was. As these statistics are from the Gestapo we cannot know how reliable they are though.

Overall, these sources and interpretations are useful for a historian studying the Gestapo between 1933 and 1939, as collectively they cover the main areas the Gestapo were involved in, from tip offs to how prolific they really were. Although each extract has its downsides, overall they provide a historian with a good range of facts to build research upon.

### Page 159: Link the source to the correct statement

- The source is limited as it is written by one of the Nazis
- The source is useful as Goebbels was the Minister for Propaganda
- The source shows the Nazis realised the power of modern technology
- The source is beneficial to a historian but is only one person's opinion
- The source shows how the Nazis used the radio
- The source is completely biased
- The source shows how necessary propaganda was
- The source shows how easy it was to indoctrinate the German people
- The source shows how Goebbels was decisive
- The source lies
- The source tells the truth

### [sample answer] (7 marks)

This source really tells us how the Nazis, and Goebbels in particular, realised the power of modern technology. Goebbels was in charge of the Ministry of Propaganda. He was a very clever man and he clearly shows how modern technology, like radio, was pivotal to the Nazis when he says that it would not have been possible for us to take power without it. The Nazis embraced new technologies like radio, making them widely available to the general

population by making them cheap. As a result, most of the population owned a People's Receiver. Radio was not the only modern technology the Nazis embraced either as they also heavily used film, promoting the work of directors like Leni Riefenstahl. The source also shows how decisive Goebbels was, using phrases like 'this revolution can stand the test of history'. This reveals why he was a good person to put in charge of propaganda as he was a master of words that could be used to indoctrinate the people of Germany.

However, the source does not tell us about the impact of this technology and the way it was received by the Germans. Although Goebbels says it was pivotal, we cannot know from this alone how important it really would have been.

**Page 159: Test yourself**

- 1 To persuade the German people of the Nazi mission
- 2 Josef Goebbels
- 3 Radio and film

**Page 160: Test yourself**

- 1 They were not united.
- 2 Martin Niemöller, Pope Pius XI
- 3 Young people often question authority. Some did not agree with Nazi policies. Some were angry about religious interference. Some were frustrated at enforced youth groups.

**Page 163: Spot the second-order concept**

The Nazis had many policies and ideas aimed at changing the lives of German women. [1] Their aim was to turn German women into traditional housewives who would stay at home, cook, clean and produce babies. In order to do this they gave women loans of up to a 1000 marks if they married an Aryan! The loan was then reduced by 25 per cent every time the couple had a child. The results and outcomes of this push were mixed. [2] Marriages did increase between 1933 and 1939, which showed that the Nazi policies were having the intended consequences. However, births were not so spectacular. Although the number of children born did rise in the early 1930s this had fallen again by the end of the decade, showing that the Nazis were not entirely successful and did in fact have quite a limited impact.

[1] Cause

[2] Change

**Page 163: Test yourself**

- 1 Reich Entailed Farm Law
- 2 Strength Through Joy, Beauty of Labour, Reich Labour Service
- 3 By giving loans to married couples. The loans were reduced the more children you had.

**Page 165: Write an introduction**

The best introduction is B because it actually explains the answer to the question by linking to the question. Although the evidence is weak, bits like 'By doing this they successfully controlled the minds of the youth by indoctrinating them about Nazi ideology' are good.

A better version of the answer would be something like the following:

The Nazis did successfully control the lives of German young people. First they did this by controlling teachers and the curriculum. For example, in Maths they had to solve equations about the number of mentally ill people in Germany. This was an effective method of control as it indoctrinated these children about the Nazi ideology.

**Page 167: Link the source**

- **Gold coins:** The Nazis have included this as they believed that Jews were rich and owned all the big businesses of Germany. They believe they profited from the Great Depression.
- **A whip:** The Nazis included this to show that the Jews were violent and mean and ordinary Germans should be scared of them.
- **A map of the world with a hammer and sickle, the symbol of Communism and Soviet Russia:** The Nazis included this to show that they believed that all Jews were Communists and that they would try to lead a Communist revolution in Germany.
- **A stereotyped big nose:** The Nazis included this as they believed that all Jews looked a specific way. They believed that *untermenschen* like the Jews had big beaked noses.

**Page 167: Test yourself**

- 1 Jews, Gypsies, black people and Slavs
- 2 1933 Jews were excluded from all legal professions.  
1935 Nuremberg Laws made marriage and sex between Jews and Germans punishable with prison.  
1938 Jewish children were banned from non-Jewish schools.
- 3 9 November 1938
- 4 The Nazis believed that:
  - Jews had all the big businesses and profited from economic crises
  - The defeat in the First World War was the Jews’ fault
  - Jews were Communists
  - Jews controlled Germany

**Page 168: Test yourself**

- 1 Minister of Armaments and War Production
- 2 Women were encouraged to join the workforce.
- 3 Children were evacuated from the big cities. Older children joined camps run by the Hitler Youth.

**Page 169: Link the source**

This source shows us that the war years were difficult for the German people and they faced shortages	For example, rationing was introduced.
This source shows us that women were an important part of the German war effort	More women joined the workforce during the war years. For example, in 1939 there were 760,000 women in work.
This source shows us that the German people were all expected to contribute to the war economy	Even women under the age of 25 had to do their bit by completing six months’ Labour Service.

**Page 171: Test yourself**

- 1 He led a bomb plot to assassinate Hitler in July 1944.
- 2 6000–9000 copies
- 3 The use of terror by the Gestapo, the taking of Church property, the murder of mentally and physically disabled people.

- 4 Saying ‘good morning’ instead of *Heil Hitler*; telling anti Nazi jokes; listening to the BBC; hiding Jews; reading banned literature

#### Page 171: Spot the mistakes

During the war years, opposition to the Nazi regime decreased [1]. Lots of different groups opposed the Nazis for a vast number of reasons. Probably the most serious threat to the Nazi regime came during July 1943 [2] when a plot led by Colonel Stauffenberg nearly assassinated Hitler with a bomb. The navy [3] backed a plot aimed to kill Hitler at the Hound’s [4] Lair in the west [5]. The bomb did explode but the chair [6] took the impact of the blast and only injured the Führer. Serious opposition also came from Church leaders. Cardinal Galen wrote six [7] sermons against the Nazis as he was opposed to the extermination of disabled and mentally ill people in Germany. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Catholic [8] priest who joined the secret service and helped Jews to escape Germany. Youth groups also opposed the Nazis. The most notable example is the Black Carnation Group [9] which was led by Hans and Sophie Scholl who distributed leaflets in London [10].

[1] Opposition actually increased.

[2] It was 1944

[3] It was the army

[4] It was the Wolf’s Lair

[5] It was in the East

[6] It was the table

[7] He wrote three

[8] He was a Protestant

[9] Should be White Rose Group

[10] It was Munich

#### Page 172: Test yourself

- 1 Women were mobilised into the war effort; anything that did not contribute to the war effort was eliminated; shortages became even worse; an increase in propaganda.
- 2 After 1943
- 3 People’s storm, a militia of the old and young
- 4 Bombing intensified; shortages increased; increase terror from the SS and Gestapo.

#### Page 173: Develop the detail

Statement	Further detail
The Nazis changed their tactics and moved to total war towards the middle of the war	Goebbels announced this policy in February 1943 following defeat at Stalingrad.
The impact of this was vast	Women were called upon to do their bit.
The most notable example of this is that women were put into work	Three million women between 17 and 45 were called upon to work. Only 1 million turned up.
Additionally, the Nazis stopped doing things which had no impact on the war	Professional sport was ended.
Finally, to get the people behind this idea, propaganda really increased	Posters were put up across cities.
At the same time though, there were negative impacts of the war on Germany	Allied bombing increased after 1943.
Bombing began in German cities and wrecked many town centres	Half of Hamburg was destroyed in July 1943.

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After someone tried to kill Hitler, the Nazis also really increased their terror over the German people, who then lived in fear	The Gestapo and SS arrested 7000 people.
After this, Goebbels took over the war effort and made a lot of changes	The age limit for compulsory work for women was raised to 50 from 45.

A better version of the answer would be something like the following:

The Nazis changed their tactics following defeat at Stalingrad in February 1943 and moved to Goebbels' policy of total war.
The impact of this was vast as all groups were called upon to do their bit. Women were particularly affected.
The most notable example of this is that women were put into work. Over three million women between the ages of 17 and 45 were called up to join the workforce.
Additionally, the Nazis stopped doing things which had no impact on the war, for example professional sport was cancelled.
Finally, to get the people behind this idea, propaganda really increased with posters popping up all over towns.
At the same time though, there were negative impacts of the war on Germany, in particular they had to face allied bombing raids which increased in number after 1943.
Bombing began in German cities and the impact was vast; in Hamburg alone half the city was destroyed in 1943.
After Stauffenberg tried to kill Hitler, the Nazis really increased their terror over the German people with the Gestapo and SS arresting over 7000.
After this, Goebbels took over the war effort and made a lot of changes, for example increasing the age limit for compulsory work for women from 45 to 50.

### Page 174: Test yourself

- 1 Hans Frank
- 2 The Dutch were seen as having the same ethnic background as the Germans.
- 3 Civil servants allowed to keep working; Dutch education system not changed; Dutch SS was created.

### Page 175: Support or challenge?

Example	Supports	Challenges
1.9 million non-Jewish Polish citizens were murdered by the SS and <i>Wehrmacht</i>	X	
After invasion Poland ceased to exist. It was split into five regions	X	
3.5 million Poles were ghettoised and 3 million of these were murdered in the Nazi death camps	X	
Living conditions in the Netherlands in 1944–45 was so bad that 20,000 died of starvation		X
76 per cent of the Dutch Jewish population was murdered by the Nazis in the death camps, one of the highest percentages of any country in Europe		X

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The Dutch were seen as Aryan and as a result were treated fairly	X	
Around 30,000 of the most talented Polish intellectuals and artists were arrested. Most were murdered	X	
A Dutch brigade of SS soldiers was established		X
Many Poles were forced to work in Germany, where they were paid less and routinely humiliated	X	
Dutch civil servants were allowed to continue their work if they chose after the Nazis occupied the Netherlands in 1940	X	
From 1944, all Dutch men aged between 16 and 60 had to do forced labour		X

### Page 177: Test yourself

- 1 *Einsatzgruppen*
- 2 Warsaw
- 3 Jews who worked in the death camps
- 4 Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz

### Page 177: Getting from A to B

A					B
The invasion of Poland	Ghettos created	Invasion of Soviet Union	<i>Einsatzgruppen</i> begin killing with bullets	Wannsee Conference	Mass extermination of Jews in death camps

### Page 178: Test yourself

- 1 Collaboration – Working with or for the Nazis  
Accommodation – Tolerating or putting up with the Nazis  
Resistance – Working against the Nazis
- 2 Hid 5000 Jews in his parish
- 3 They were escapees from Polish ghettos and lived in the forest.
- 4 They were scared of what might happen to them if they resisted.

### Page 179: Improve the answer

In some ways the Nazis were met with resistance and in others they were not. [1] The Nazis occupied a large number of countries in Europe and in each country people reacted in very different ways.

In France, the people really hated the Nazis! [2] They actively resisted the occupiers and did everything they could to undermine their rule. They plotted against them and tried to stop their laws from working. [3] One man, André Trocmé, went as far as hiding Jews and helping them to escape. [4]

However, not everyone resisted the Nazis; some people liked them and helped them. The best example to prove this is Coco Chanel. She had a relationship with an SS officer and some people even think she gave away intelligence to the Nazis! [5]

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In other countries across Europe there was a similar response, with some people resisting and others liking the Nazis. In Denmark, there is evidence that people just put up the Nazis. The Nazis allowed them to keep their government so the people sort of went along with their rule. [6]

- [1] This opening statement is not that good as it is a bit vague. The rest of the paragraph is about France. It would have been better to just say that.
- [2] This is a weak sentence as it is an over generalisation. It is not true. The candidate even contradicts this, two sentences on.
- [3] This is all a bit vague and doesn't actually say how they resisted the Nazis at all.
- [4] This is a really good specific example and is a real strength.
- [5] Another really good specific example.
- [6] This second smaller paragraph isn't terrible but it is a bit vague and could have far better evidence.