



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

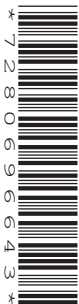
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Paper 5i Special Subject: Germany, 1919–1945

May/June 2016

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 in Section A.

Answer **one** question from Section B.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Section A

Nominated topic: The creation and impact of the NSDAP (to 1929), the ‘breakthrough years’ and electoral-political success (1929 to January 1933)

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting on the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *Gregor Strasser speaks to a meeting of Nazi Gauleiters about different paths to power in 1932.*

The Führer has not been following a consistent policy to achieve power. He is clear only about one thing – he wishes to become Chancellor. He should have been aware, though, that he is being consistently refused this post by everyone and for the foreseeable future there is no chance of his achieving this goal. The movement is being put under intolerable stress by the clever tactics of von Papen. We cannot let our SA men and party comrades wait forever. Our enemies have been waiting for this moment. We must come to a decision. Here are two paths we could follow: the legal one and the illegal one. I would be prepared to follow either, but I refuse to wait until the Führer is made Chancellor. If the legal path had been followed, then Hitler should have accepted the offer to become Vice Chancellor in August 1932. From this basis an effort should have been made to secure new positions for party leaders in the cabinet. The second method is the illegal path. Even now, the storm troops of the SA and SS are ready for the final march to seize power as soon as the order is given. This conquest of power by force would have had a chance.

Speech, 8 December 1932.

- B** *Hitler explains his position to a second meeting of Gauleiters later that day.*

Strasser spoke to you earlier today about the legal path to power and declared that it was my duty in August [1932] to accept the office of Vice Chancellor. He knows full well that von Papen and Schleicher are not National Socialists and not willing to follow our policies. I would have had serious differences with von Papen within a week. I would have made serious demands about burning issues in government and economics which would have been turned down flat. He would have turned to me with a smile and said ‘Forgive me, Herr Hitler, but I am Chancellor, and if my political course and measures do not suit you, then I am not forcing you to stay.’ Can you imagine the effect on the party and on public opinion of my resigning so soon? von Papen and his supporters would have achieved their goal – proof of the incapacity of Hitler to be in government. Our movement would have collapsed. Bolshevism would have triumphed. The illegal path to power is even more dangerous. What was the result of the Munich Putsch in 1923 and what would be the result now? Our followers would have no chance against the army and the police who obey the existing government, regardless of politics.

Speech, 8 December 1932.

- C** *Hindenburg's leading civil servant recalls, after the war in 1945, the discussions about Hitler's becoming Chancellor in January 1933.*

Despite von Papen's persuasions, Hindenburg was extremely hesitant, until the end of January, to make Hitler Chancellor. von Papen finally won him over to Hitler with the argument that the representative of the other right-wing parties which would belong to the government would restrict Hitler's freedom of action. In addition, von Papen raised the danger of a revolt of the National Socialists and civil war. The president's son, Oskar Hindenburg, was opposed to the Nazis. At von Papen's suggestion, a meeting was arranged between Oskar Hindenburg and Hitler at Ribbentrop's house. He and Hitler went into a room for a talk which lasted quite a while – about an hour. In the taxi on the way back Oskar was very silent: the only remark he made was that there was no alternative, the Nazis had to be taken into government. Hitler had succeeded in getting him under his spell.

Otto Meissner, testimony at Nuremberg Tribunal, 1945.

- D** *A Hamburg schoolteacher records her thoughts on a torchlight procession in Hamburg on the day of Hitler's appointment as Chancellor.*

20,000 brownshirts followed one another like waves in seas, their faces shone with enthusiasm. 'Three cheers for our Führer, our Chancellor, Adolf Hitler!'

We were drunk with enthusiasm. A little boy kept raising his tiny hand and saying 'Heil Hitler!' What moments! What marvellous thoughts!

The National Socialists have new blood, good-looking, cheerful, fresh young men in the procession. We have unity at last. What must Hitler feel when he sees the hundred thousand people whom he summoned, to whom he has given a national soul, people who are ready to die for him?

Luise Solmitz, Diary, 30 January 1933.

- E** *A modern historian offers an assessment of Hitler's rise.*

Without the unique conditions in which he came to prominence, Hitler would have been nothing. The impact on German people of war, revolution and national humiliation and the acute fear of Bolshevism gave Hitler his platform. He was the spokesman for the intense fears, resentments and prejudices of ordinary people. He exploited the conditions brilliantly. More than any other politician, he offered people the chance of a new and better society, resting on 'true' German virtues. The personality cult carefully nurtured around Hitler turned him into an embodiment of hope.

Ian Kershaw, *Hitler*, 1998.

- (a)** How far does Document A challenge the view offered by Document B on the options open to Hitler to gain power by December 1932? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that Hitler owed his appointment as Chancellor mainly to his own political skill? In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Section B

Answer **one** of the following questions. Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied as well as contextual knowledge.

- 2 Assess the view that, in the period 1933–1938, Hitler was ‘a weak dictator’. [30]
- 3 ‘The most successful economic policies of Nazi Germany were put in place before 1936.’ Discuss. [30]
- 4 What best explains the adoption of ‘the Final Solution’ by the Nazi regime? [30]

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