

Germany 1919-1939 –
A Depth Study

Section 1 – The Weimar Republic

Kaiser Wilhelm I

During the First World War of 1914-1918, Germany was run by the Kaiser (King).

- The Kaiser was in charge of the Government and the army.
- The Government decisions were made by the Chancellor – but the Kaiser chose who the Chancellor was, so he could always pick Chancellors that would do what he wanted.
- The people could vote, but Mp's didnt really have any power.
- The Kaiser was obsessed with the military – he spent millions on building up a strong army for the war, and borrowed millions trying to win it.
- **The German people liked this form of Government. They loved their military tradition, and felt that being told what to do was a sign that the Government was strong**
- The Kaiser ran away into exile 2 days before the war ended.



Links –

The Kaiser links to the German people being obsessed with their military past. One of the reasons no one supported the Weimar Republic was because they were used to being told what to do.

Political effects

With the Kaiser running away, all that was left of a Government were the Reichstag parties that had previously had no real power or experience of running the Government.

The Kaiser had even put many of the best opposition leaders in prison during the war, meaning there were even fewer able men to take power

Psychological effects

Germany had been a proud, ambitious country and had worked extremely hard and made many sacrifices to win the war. Throughout the war they were assured by their leaders that Germany would win.

Losing was devastating to the pride of most Germans. They automatically looked for someone to blame, and felt that weak politicians in the New Weimar Republic had cost them the war

Physical and financial effects

Farming had been disrupted during the war, so by 1918 Germany was producing only half the milk and 60% of the meat it needed. The British Navy was blockading German ports, meaning they could not get food from other countries. Around 750,000 Germans died from hunger and disease

Also, Germany had borrowed money to pay for the war, and was now effectively bankrupt

“The Stab in the Back”

It was actually the army that signed the surrender – but people started saying it was the new Government, the Weimar Republic, that was to blame.

People couldn't understand why they had lost the war when Germany had not been invaded – they assumed the politicians had “stabbed the army in the back” by surrendering when they could have won. The army were delighted to pretend this was true

Effects of
World War I
on Germany

So What?

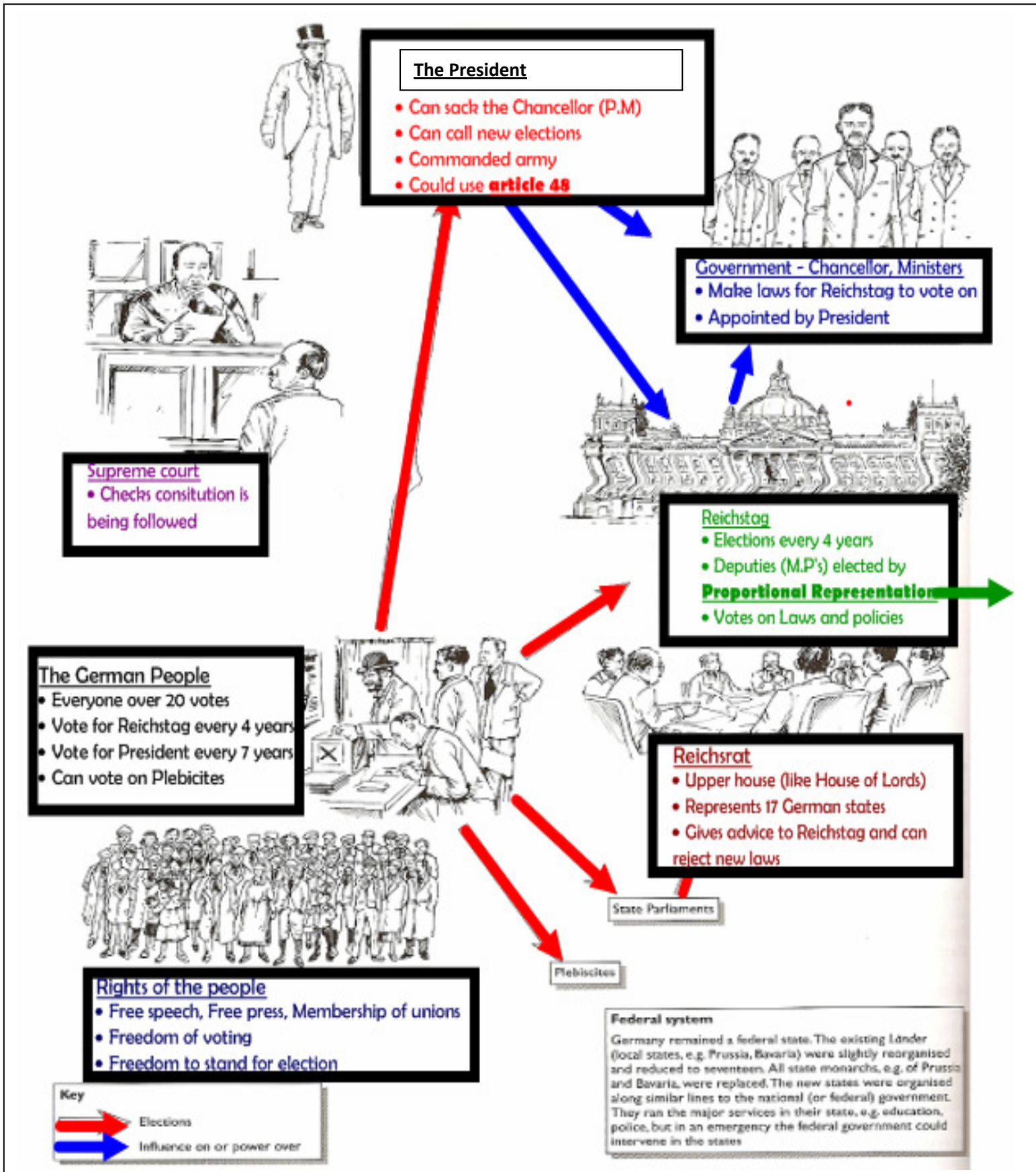
All of these factors meant that the new German Government, called “The Weimar Republic” started off very weak. Germany was in a mess, and people were against the government from the beginning because they saw it as weak and (wrongly) blamed it for Germany losing the war

The Weimar Republic's Constitution

The New German Government was called the Weimar Republic, named after the town outside Berlin where it was started. The Government started in 1918, two days before Germany surrendered in WWI.

The First President of the Republic was Friedrich Ebert, and he helped decide what the constitution should be like.

A constitution is a set of written laws that say what the Government can and cannot do, and how it will work. The Weimar Constitution was made law in **1919. What else happened in 1919?**



Proportional Representation (PR)

Very modern and fair voting system, where a party gets a number of seats directly proportional to the % of votes it got. If your party got 12% of all votes in Germany, they would get 12% of seats in the Reichstag.

But.....

This led to lots of tiny parties getting seats. Because no party ever gets over 50% of all votes, no government ever had a **majority**, so decisions needed other parties to agree – and often they didn't. Governments had to be **coalitions**- made up of members from several parties, who often disagreed.

Article 48 (The suicide clause)

This was the 48th article of the constitution. It allowed the **President** to rule by decree in an emergency; this meant that he could make decisions and laws without having to ask the Reichstag to vote on it. This was designed to protect Germany in an emergency

But.....

This meant that the President could rule as a dictator in an emergency – and it was up to the President to decide what an Emergency was. This clause was open to abuse and needed the President to be honest and want to protect the Republic.

Major Strengths and achievements of the Constitution

- All Germans had the right to vote at the age of 20 – few countries in the world allowed everyone to vote.
- The Proportional Representation voting system was, in theory, fairer. Each party got a number of seats in proportion to the % of votes they got.
- The President had similar powers to the President of the USA- his power was very strong, so he could protect the Republic in a crisis.
- Free speech, freedom of newspapers, the freedom to set up trade unions, and anyone could form a political party – all of these were completely new freedoms for Germany, and very modern for the time

Major weaknesses of the constitution

- **PR meant that whatever government or party was in power, it was always weak. Governments always had to compromise, and decisions could take a long time. There were lots of elections because parties refused to agree.**
- **Article 48 would later be used and abused by Hitler to make himself a dictator legally**
- In 1919 the Republic already had loads of enemies. This constitution was too fair – it gave these people the vote and the right to create their own parties – like the Nazis.
- Being asked to vote was seen as a sign of weakness by many Germans who were used to following orders

Remember

Questions on the Constitution are likely to be based around what the achievements or the problems of the Weimar Republic as a whole were. Broad questions like “What were the achievements of the Weimar Republic” should include bits from the constitution like “free speech” and “free voting” in your answers.

Questions on what problems Weimar faced should definitely include discussion of things like Proportional Representation or enemies the Republic had.



The Treaty of Versailles

1919



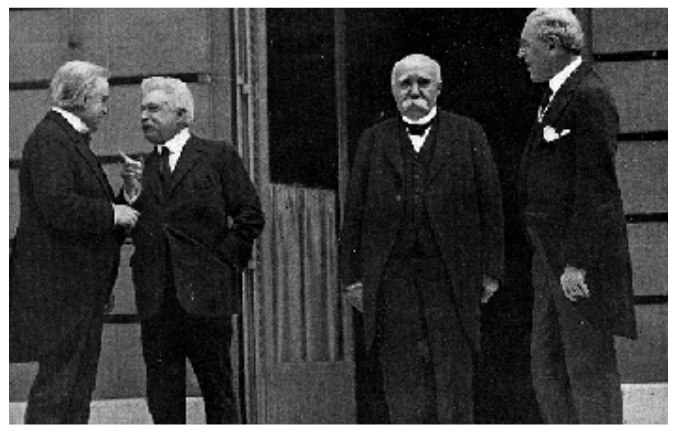
The Treaty of Versailles is the first of our really Key topics. If there is an exam question on the Weimar Republic, you are almost certain to have to talk about this at some point. The Treaty and its effects were felt well into the 1930's, and it is unlikely that Hitler would ever have been so popular without promising to destroy it.

You need to know specific terms of the treaty and why the Germans hated it. Revise this carefully.

What it was

Basically, it was the peace agreement that was forced on Germany in 1919 because they lost World War I.

Countries that lose wars usually have to sign agreements with the winners – they agree to give over certain things in return for not being invaded or destroyed.



Why did Germany expect a fair treaty?

- Germany was in real trouble. WWI had bankrupted the country, and some were starving. The Weimar government assumed the treaty would be light so as not to cost any more German lives.
- The Kaiser was gone, and a new, democratic government was in place, just like the allies had. Germans assumed the winning powers would like this and want to help it remain stable.
- Woodrow Wilson, president of the USA, wanted a fair treaty. He declared “14 points” that would make a better world, and believed the treaty should allow Germany to recover.

What did the winning Powers want?

France – Georges Clemenceau wanted to crush Germany and forever prevent her from being a major world power. He wanted Germany to pay massive reparations and have no army.

Britain – David Lloyd-George wanted to punish Germany harshly and get money from them; but he wanted Germany to be able to recover.

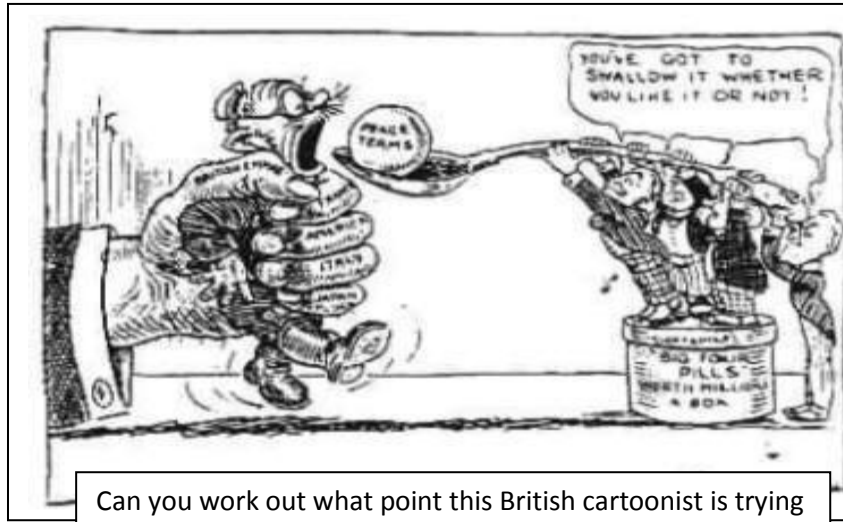
USA – Woodrow Wilson believed the war was everyone’s fault. He feared that Germany would one day want revenge if the Treaty was too harsh

Remember - LAMB

	<u>Terms</u>	<u>Effect on Germany</u>
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13% of land and 6 million German people were lost.• 10% of industry and 15% of agriculture taken.• Alsace and Lorraine to France• Saar coalfields (most of Germany’s coal production) given to France for 15 years• West Prussia (called “The Polish Corridor”) given to Poland – this later starts WWII	<p>Anger and hardship – felt like German land and people were being stolen. Some Germans now living in other countries like France or Poland.</p> <p>Created huge money problems – a big portion of industry and agriculture was taken from an already bankrupt country</p>
Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Army reduced to 100,000 men• No airforce• Navy limited – 6 battleships, no submarines• No Poison gas, no tanks• Area near to France called Rhineland to have French troops for 15 years	<p>Humiliation – Germany was no longer a strong country to be feared, but a weak one at the mercy of the allies.</p> <p>Germany had a strong military tradition, so losing their military was very humiliating and caused Germans to lose a lot of pride.</p> <p>Millions of soldiers were now also out of work, and ended up joining the Freicorps.</p>
Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany to pay Britain, France and USA £6.6 Billion in reparations (compensation) in annual installments	<p>Economic Crisis – Germany was already nearly bankrupt from the war. The Weimar Government believed they had almost no chance of being able to meet the payments.</p> <p>Loss of land made it even harder. Reparations meant Germany was unlikely to recover and become an important country again.</p>
Blame	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany must accept complete blame for starting World War I	<p>Anger - Germans rightly believed they were not the only ones to blame for the war – they felt the TOV had been forced on them by evil allies and weak politicians</p>

Problems

- The TOV created many problems for Germany – especially it made it weaker and bankrupt.
- The Weimar Republic was blamed for the Treaty because they signed it – making the new Government even more hated.
- In fact, Ebert, the president didn't want to sign it – the army told him to because they said they would be unable to stop an allied invasion of Germany.



Can you work out what point this British cartoonist is trying to make about the Treaty? Is he for or against it?

Remember

Questions on the TOV may ask about German reactions – why Germans hated it so much, why they were so angry. Source questions especially tend to look at the Treaty from this angle, often showing German opinions of the allies or their own politicians who signed it.

Some higher mark questions may ask you “what were the problems of the Weimar Republic?” or “Was it doomed from the start?” For these you should mention some of the major problems the TOV created for the new Republic. Remember – **1919** is one of the key years in this course for these reasons!



1919 Other Problems – Political extremists.

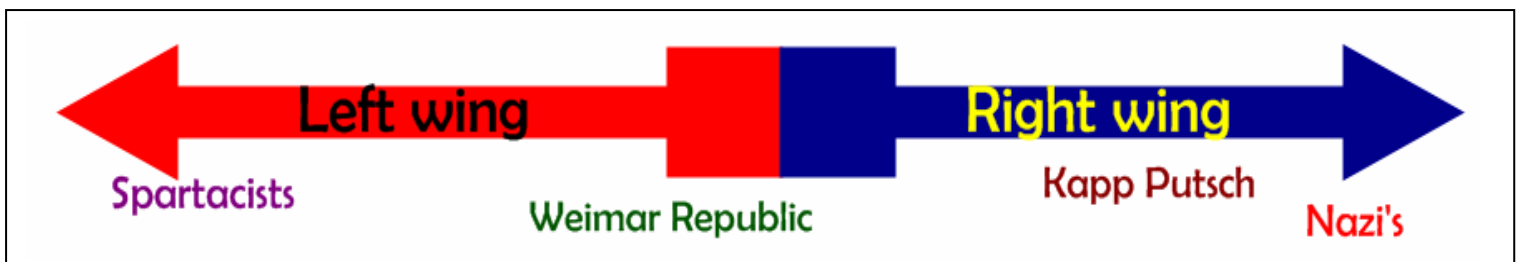
Because the Weimar Republic was unpopular from the start, lots of groups tried to overthrow it very early in its life. These were political extremists, groups who had extreme views and wanted Germany to become a dictatorship again.

Communists

Extreme left – they believe that everyone should have equal pay and that no one should individually own anything – everything should be shared. They believe that all factories should be owned by the workers, who should share the profits equally.

Fascists

Extreme Right – believe in “survival of the fittest” – the best people, often the rich, deserve what they have because they are naturally better. Weak people should not be helped because the country needs only strong people.



January 1919 – The Spartacists

Politics – Communists, extreme left wing

Leaders – Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg

Aims – To overthrow the Weimar Republic and create a Communist Government in Germany

What they did – Tried to start a Revolution in Berlin. They took control of the Government's newspaper headquarters and the telegraph bureau, but they failed to capture anything else. They won some support from working class,

What happened – the Weimar Government used the Freikorps (right wing ex-soldiers) to defeat the Spartacist. They murdered Liebknecht and Luxemburg and crushed the uprising. Freikorps put down several other Communist risings in 1919 as well

March 1920 – The Kapp Putsch

Politics – The Freikorps, extreme right wing

Leaders – Wolfgang Kapp, one of the Freikorps commanders

Aims – To overthrow the Weimar Republic and create a military right wing dictatorship; to ignore the TOV.

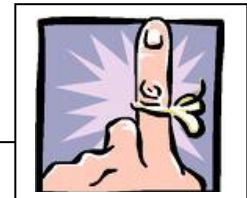
What they did – Marched into Berlin and took it over. President Ebert and the Weimar Government were forced to run away. Kapp declared a new right wing Government.

What happened – President Ebert appealed to ordinary workers to help – and they went on strike, refusing to work for Kapp and the Freikorps. The strike was so successful that Kapp had to pull out of Berlin within days.

However, none of the leaders of this putsch were punished, as the judges were sympathetic to right wingers.

Other Attempted uprisings at this time

- **Red Rising in the Ruhr** – A Communist attempt to take over the Ruhr in 1920
- **The Munich Putsch** – Hitler's attempt to seize power in 1923 – more on this later.



Remember –

Questions do not often ask about political extremists directly, (although you may get questions about the Munich Putsch). You should think about mentioning political extremists when talking about the **Problems that the Weimar Republic faced**.

You might also talk about these uprisings if asked about what **opposition** there was to the Government. Also, you must remember that the Republic successfully defeated all of these uprisings, so you might mention these in questions about Weimar's **achievements**

Links – to Hitler's attempted rising in the Munich Putsch. Judges were always sympathetic to right wing leaders – both Kapp and Hitler were let off

1923 – The Year of Crisis

1923 was another key year in German history that you must remember. A great deal happened that plunged Germany into crisis and had a great effect on events further down the line.

1923 was a year of Crisis because of Hyperinflation and Hitler's Munich Putsch – you need to know how bad the crisis was for the Weimar Republic, and also how far they were able to get themselves out of it. Surviving 1923 was one of the biggest achievements of the Republic.

Recap – Problems so far.

- Germany was still in financial crisis from WW1. Inflation was already happening.
- They had to pay annual instalments of the £6.6 billion reparations – these were crippling Germany
- Germany was hated and distrusted by other countries, so no one would lend Germany money to help it recover



Crisis 1 – The French Invade the Ruhr

Why? – In January 1923 Germany couldn't keep up its Reparations payments to France, and "defaulted" (didn't pay)

What? – France decided to teach Germany a lesson by invading its most important industrial area, the Ruhr. The Ruhr contained over 80% of Germany's steel production. The French thought they could take over this valuable steel production to make up for Reparations Germany had missed.

Effects -

- The Weimar Government was outraged. The Workers in the Ruhr refused to work for the French and went on strike.
- This damaged the economy more, as they then had no money to spend.
- **The Weimar Government tried to help them by printing more money for them to live on.**

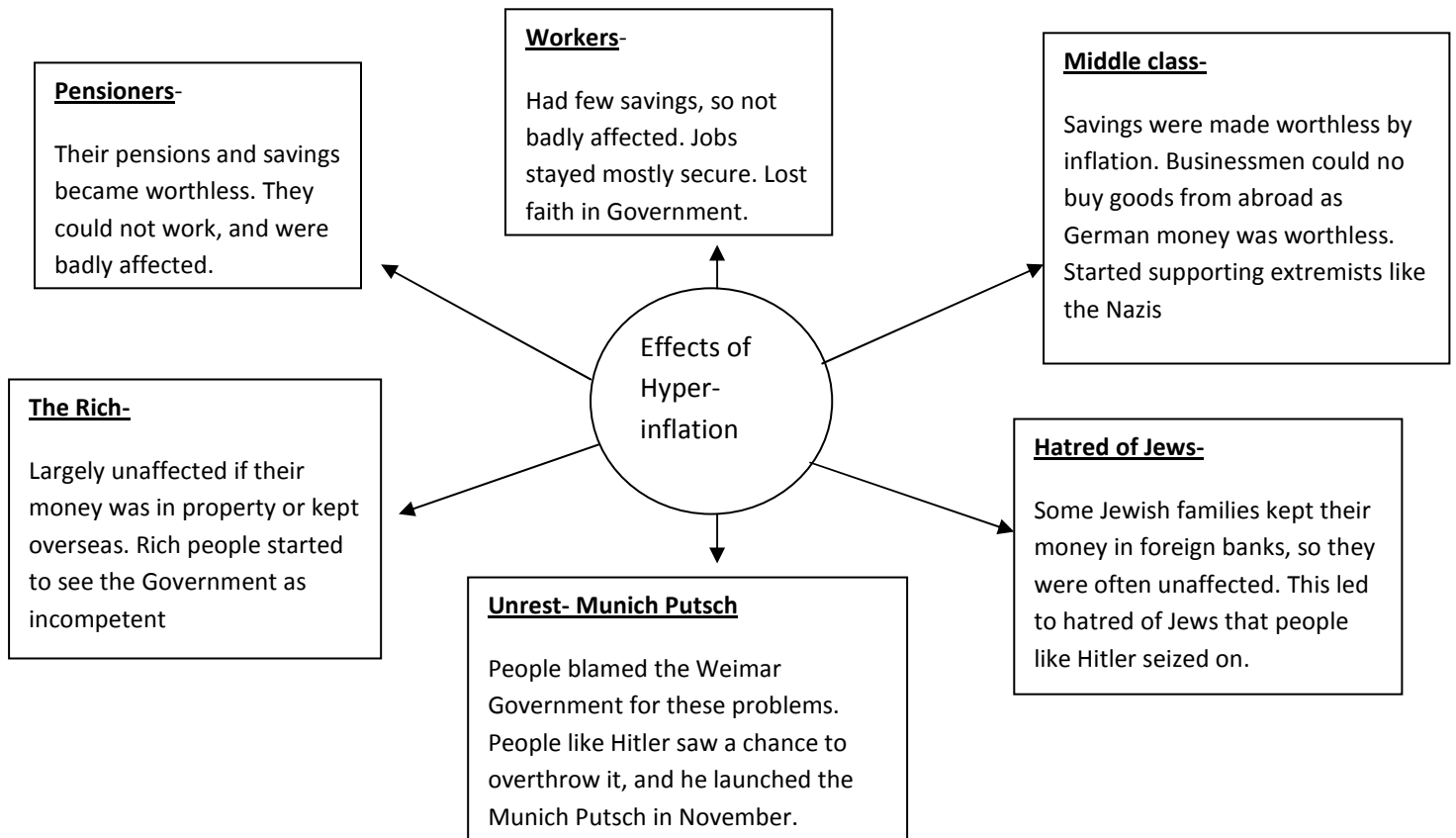


Crisis 2 – Hyperinflation

Why? – The Weimar Government printed money to help the Ruhr workers carry on their strike. This meant that with more money around, the value of everyone's money went down. When money starts losing its value, we call it **Inflation**

What – The Government kept printing money, causing hyperinflation. Peoples money became more and more worthless. In February 1923 you needed 7000 marks to buy one dollar. By November 1923 you needed 130,000 million marks to buy one dollar. Billion mark notes started to be printed, and people stopped using money as it was all worthless.

Prices went up so fast that workers had to rush into shops after being paid, as prices would go up by the hour. At one point a billion marks was barely enough for a loaf of bread.



Remember

Exam and source questions will often ask you about the “**1923 crisis**” – that usually means both the invasion of the Ruhr and hyperinflation, as they are linked. You need to be able to describe what happened, why, and what effects it had on Germany. The next section looks at **how far** Germany was able to recover.



Gustav Stresemann and Recovery from the 1923 crisis.

Sorry, but it’s not enough to know what the crisis was – you need to know how far Germany recovered from it.

Stresemann and the recovery from this crisis was one of the Weimar Republic’s greatest **achievements**

Gustav Who?

- Gustav Stresemann was made Chancellor (second in charge) of Germany in 1923.
- He was one of the most able politicians of the Weimar Republic.
- He faced several problems – Germany was on the brink of collapse, and groups like the Nazi’s were seeing a chance to take over.
- People were having to barter and swap things because money was worthless.
- He set out solve Germany’s problems.



<u>Problem</u>	<u>Stresemann’s solution</u>	<u>This was good because</u>	<u>But.....</u>
French Invasion of the Ruhr	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stresemann sent the Ruhr workers back to work for the French	It meant that the workers were being paid again, helping the German economy and giving their families moneyIt was seen as a defeat – The government looked like they were giving in to the French. It also mean that Germany lost a huge amount of their steel production
Hyperinflation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stresemann stopped the Government printing money• He scrapped the old Currency, the mark, and brought in a new one – The Renten (temporary) mark	It stopped hyperinflation and made German money worth something again. People were able to buy goods and be properly paid, increasing confidence.The damage was already done; groups like the pensioners and middle class had already lost their life savings. Germans had gone through a year of misery and blamed the Government for it. The new currency was better, but never fully stable.
Destroyed German economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stresemann took out a huge loan from the USA called the Dawes Plan	It gave Germany an injection of cash to help its people and invest in its industry. The hope was that the money would help Germany get back on its feet	... Germany started to recover, and production massively improved. Unemployment always remained a problem though. Germany also had to pay these loans back, and USA could call them in at any time,
Massive Reparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Dawes plan also restructured the Reparations payments, so that they were more affordable – less money each year, but paid for longer.	This gave Germany a bit more money to fund its recovery	The Reparations would not be fully paid until the 1980’s. Germany still could not really afford them.

Other Countries don't trust Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stresemann signs the Locarno pact, agreeing never to use violence to settle disputes again • The Young Plan (1929) basically agreed to the terms if the TOV in exchange for another loan. 	Brings Germany into European politics again. Countries are willing to talk to Germany and deal with her again. This leads to more trust, more help and more foreign money coming in.	... The Weimar Republic finally had to give in and accept the TOV. Many Germans hated the French and British still for the harsh peace terms.
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Remember –

For the exam, it is important to be able to say **how far** Stresemann's policies helped Germany recover. You need to know what this main solutions were, but also how well they worked and what didn't work so well.

The "Golden Age" 1924-1929

It is really important to know that this period is known as the Weimar Republic's "Golden age". Stresemann's policies managed to stabilise Germany and save it from the brink of collapse. As a result, people became happier with the Weimar Republic Government and less likely to support extreme parties like the Nazis.

Remember - an exam question about the "Golden Age" will usually ask something like "How far was this a period of recovering for Germany" or "1924-29 has been described as the Weimar Republic's Golden Age – do you agree?"

It is important that you know why it was seen as a golden age, and that you know what problems still remained so you can give a balanced argument.



A Golden Age?

Politics in the Golden Age

- The Government started to become more stable, and between 1924 and 1928 there were far fewer elections held because of disagreements.
- People were no longer supporting extreme parties- Votes for Nazi's and Communists went down.

But.....

- Hindenburg was elected President in 1925. He was openly against democracy and the Republic, and his election was seen as people voting for the old system of the Kaiser.
- No party could get a majority, so all governments were still coalitions, which often didn't agree

The Economy in the Golden Age

- The Economy started doing well in the Golden age thanks to Stresemann's changes and the Dawes plan
- Production went to its highest level in decades.
- Germany became a leading exporter in the world for manufactured goods.

But.....

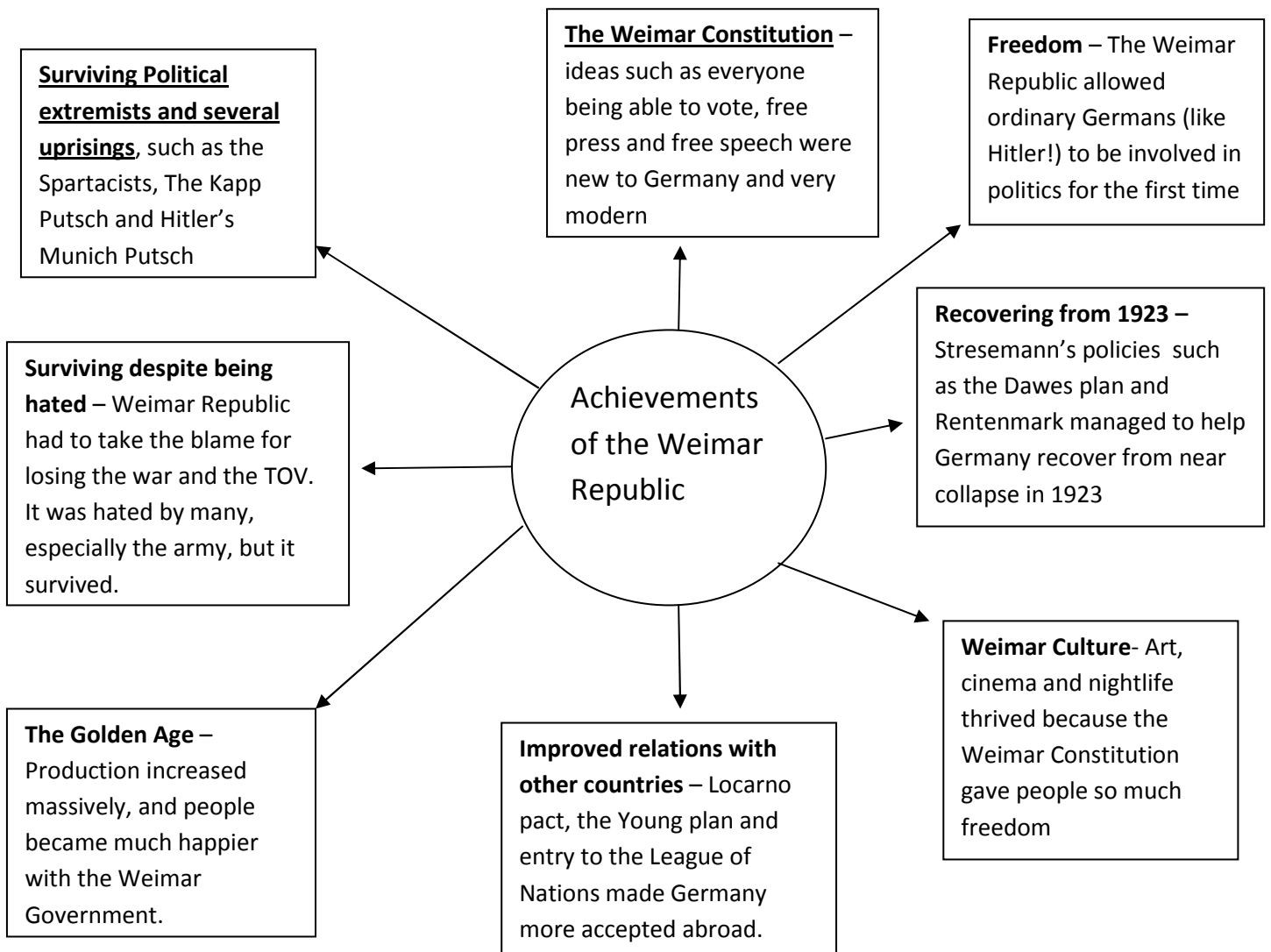
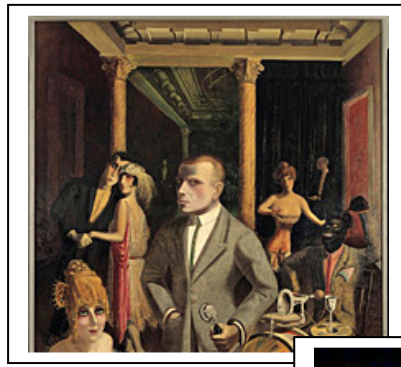
- It was all based on American loans.... Which could be recalled at any time. Oh dear.
- Unemployment was always a serious problem
- Big gap between rich and poor
- Farming and agriculture did very badly

German Culture in the Golden Age

- Culture was a big achievement of the Weimar Golden era.
- Artists began depicting everyday life in a way not seen before.
- German Cinema boomed, and movies like *Metropolis* became classics all over the world
- Architecture was admired in this era.

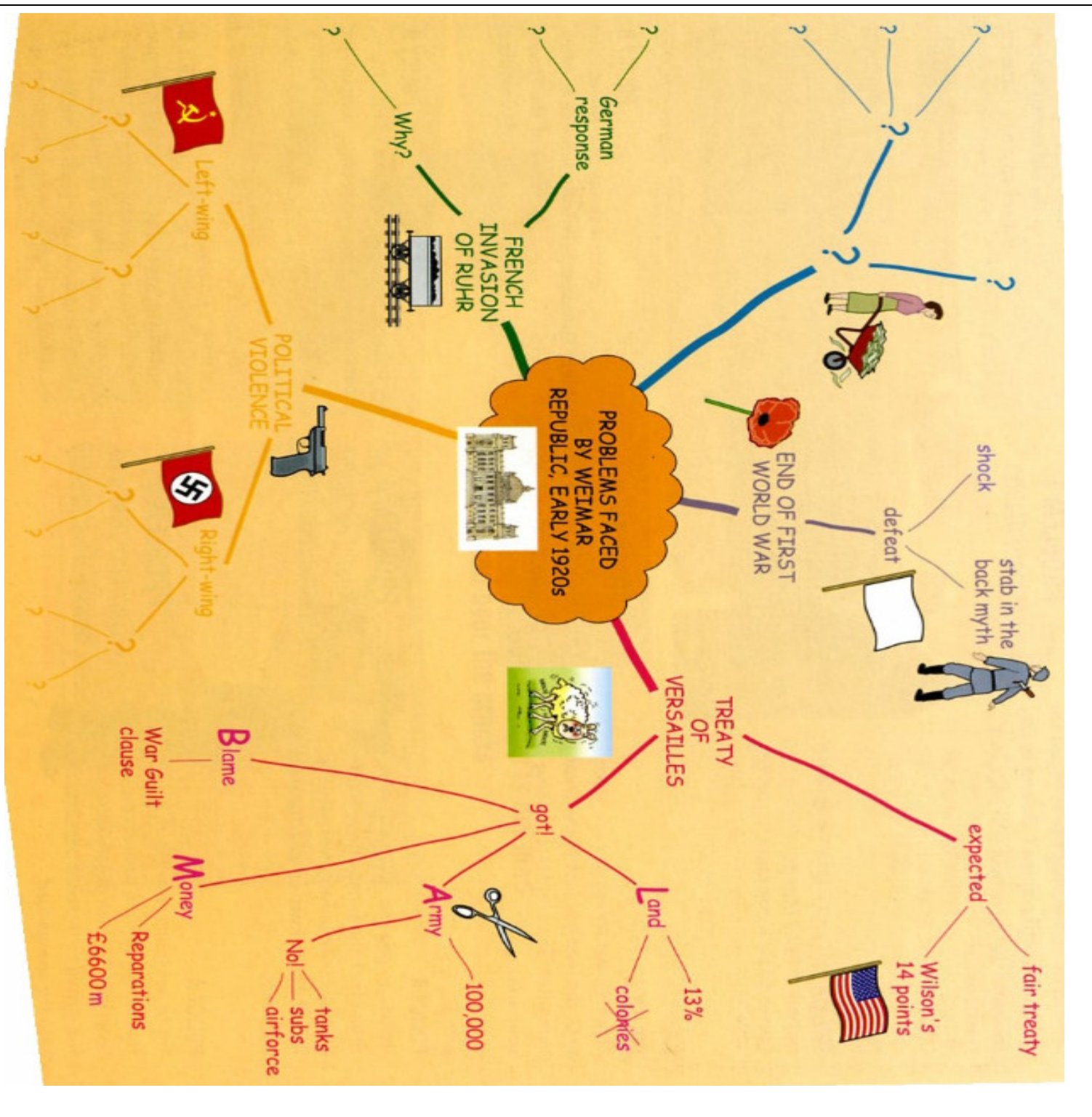
But....

- Berlin became seen as sleazy and sex-obsessed.



Revision – What were the problems the Weimar Republic faced?

Fill in this revision map of the main problems the Weimar Republic faced.



The Weimar Republic – Possible exam questions

The following are examples of Exam Questions that have come up in previous years about the Weimar era. Make sure you would be able to answer them.

1. How was Germany Punished in the Treaty of Versailles? (5)
2. Explain why 1923 was a difficult year for the Republic (7)
3. **How far** had the Weimar Republic recovered from its problems by the beginning of 1929? Explain your answer (8)
4. How did the German people react to the Treaty of Versailles? (5)
5. Explain the Achievements of the Weimar Republic (7)
6. Why did the Weimar Republic eventually fail? (8)
7. In what ways did the rapid inflation of 1923 affect Germany? (5)
8. Explain why the Weimar Republic was unpopular with many Germans in the first half of the 1920's (7)

Example source analysis

This source was made in 1919 by a British magazine in response to the Treaty of Versailles. What point is the artist trying to make?



Always pay attention to what the **title** says if there is one – this one is saying that the young people of 1919 will be the future “cannon fodder” – the Treaty of Versailles will cause them to go to war in the future.

This shows the leaders of France (Clemenceau, with the cane), USA (Wilson), Italy and Britain (Lloyd - George). What are they doing? What are they drawn like? What are their facial expressions? Every detail is significant

This child weeping represents the children of 1919. It says “1940 class” above the child. It is implying that by the time these children are grown up in 20 years time, there will be another war. **Why?**

Look at Clemenceau. Why is he the one at the front? What is he saying? What is the artist trying to say about France’s attitude to the future? Does he care?

Every detail is significant – what does this paper saying “Peace Treaty” represent? Remember – this was made in 1919!

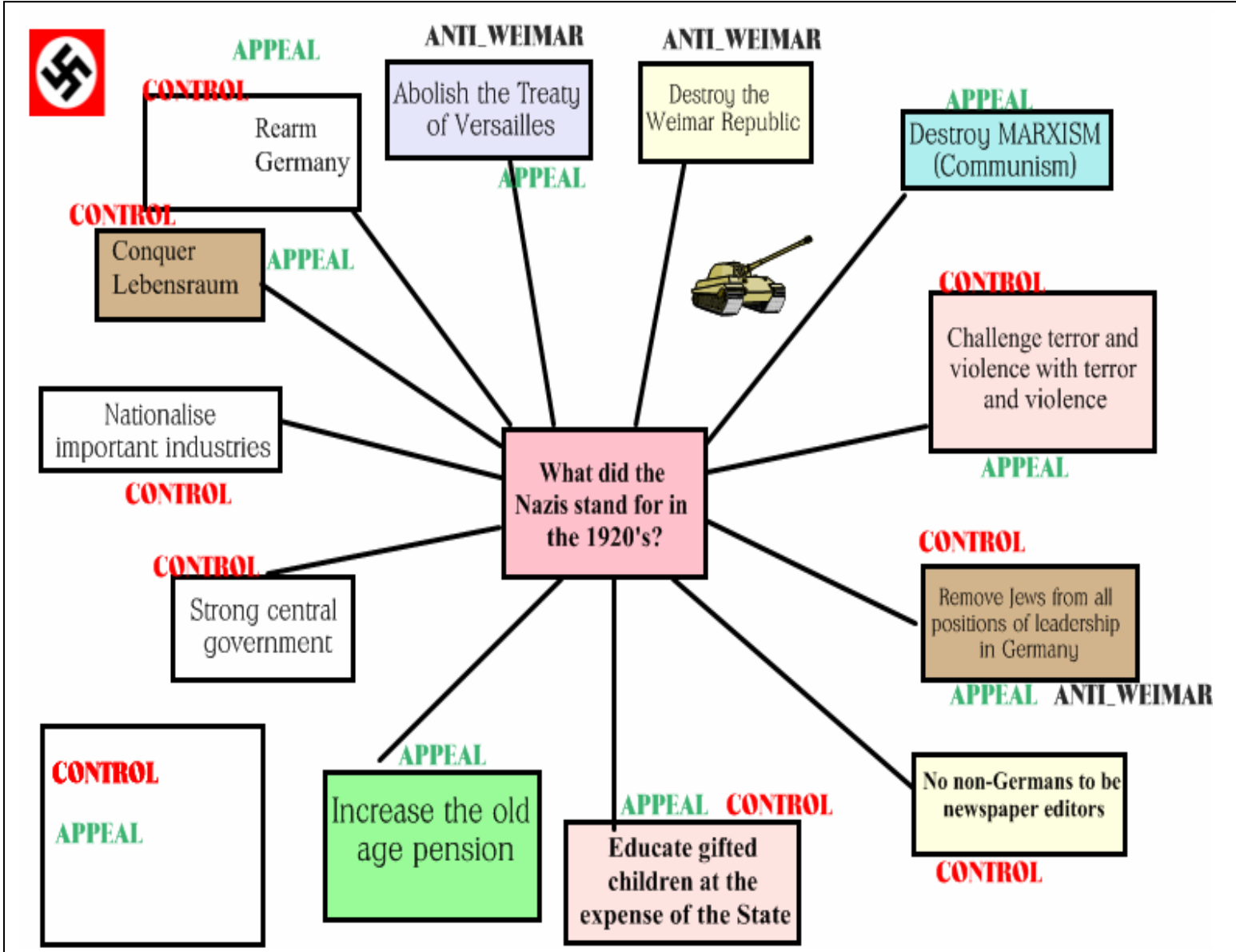
ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS explain the caption. This one is Clemenceau saying “I hear a child weeping”. He is talking about the crying child. What does it show about his attitude? Does he realise how the treaty might affect the future? Does he care?

Section 2 – The Rise of Hitler and the Nazis.

<p>Adolf Hitler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born in Austria in 1889 Father was a civil servant Hitler wanted to be an artist. Rejected by Vienna art school. Lived as a tramp for several years Joined the German army in 1914 Awarded Iron Cross for bravery 			<p>The Nazi Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded in 1919 as the German Workers Party (DAP) and based in Munich. Founder was Anton Drexler (right) A very small party – only around 50 members in 1920 Policies included making Bavaria (south Germany) into a separate country.
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Remember – you don't need to know much about Hitler's background. What you do need to know is that Hitler joined the party in 1920 after being ordered to write a report on them for the army. He quickly took it over and changed all their policies. **These policies are important.**

He also changed the name in 1920 from DAP to **NSDAP – The National Socialist German Workers Party**- shortened to **NAZI** in the German language. You must know what early Nazi policies were and who they tried to appeal to.

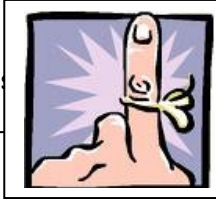


Remember –

Questions about early Nazi policies do sometimes come up. The above diagram analyses the main ideas Hitler had in 1920. You need to be able to explain what groups the Nazi policies were designed to appeal to.

The primary groups that Nazi's appealed to were the middle classes, businessmen, the army and the elderly. They made some unsuccessful attempts to win support from the working classes.

Remember that this was also the time when Hitler persuaded Ernst Rohm and the SA to support the Nazi



The Munich Putsch 1923

The Munich Putsch is one of the key topics in this section. It has massive significance to the Nazi party and can be regarded as the event that started them on the route to power. This event links heavily with the Weimar Republic section, as it took place in November 1923 – at the height of the hyperinflation crisis. The trial that happens afterwards is the event that makes the Nazis known across Germany for the first time.

Why did Hitler decide to launch an uprising in November 1923?

It is important that you recognise the link here- November 1923 was the height of the hyperinflation crisis in Germany. **Hitler believed that the Weimar Government was crumbling and that people would support a party like his taking over.**

Hitler also believed he had the support of local council in Bavaria. Gustav Kahr, Bavarian minister had been heard plotting against the Government himself.

Finally, Hitler thought he had the support of the army. An important ex-General, Ludendorff, supported Hitler's plans. It was thought that the army would support the Putsch if Ludendorff was involved.



The plan

- Hitler would go to the Beer Hall where Gustav Kahr (Bavarian minister) was giving a speech.
- The SA would control the crowd while Hitler took Kahr and the other ministers.
- Hitler would force Kahr to support him at gunpoint.
- They would then go to the town hall and declare a new Government for Bavaria, separate from Weimar Germany.
- Ludendorff would get the army in Bavaria to support them.
- The Bavarian army would march to Berlin and take over Germany.

Simple!! Well, not quite.....

Remember –

Exam questions about the Putsch will often ask you **why** Hitler decided to do it. Its important that you are able to describe the reasons why and link them to the problems that were going on in Germany at the time (hatred of Weimar Government, French invasion of the Ruhr, Hyperinflation, etc).

You need to know what Hitler's plan was in order to understand what went wrong. The Putsch itself was a complete disaster – here's why



Hitler never really had enough support to pull it off in the first place! The Nazi party only had 3000 members – not enough to take over Germany

Ludendorff was late. Even at gunpoint, Kahr and the ministers wouldn't support Hitler because they thought he was lying about Ludendorff supporting him. This wasted several hours, until Ludendorff finally turned up.

09.11.23



What went wrong?

The SA came under heavy gunfire when they tried to take over the Bavarian army barracks. This was not expected.

Ludendorff allowed Kahr and the ministers to go home "to see their wives". He assumed that this would be ok.

The ministers immediately contacted the Weimar Government in Berlin, who mobilised the army.

With everything falling apart, Hitler, Ludendorff and the SA decided to march to the town hall. The army were waiting. 16 Nazis were killed in the fighting. Hitler was shot and ran away into hiding

A couple of days later Hitler was arrested for treason while in hiding. Rohm and Ludendorff were also arrested.

Remember –

The Munich Putsch was a **fiasco**. It was a bad idea, badly planned, and badly executed. Very little went right for Hitler on the day, and its important that you are able to explain some of the failures.

Some 5 and 7 mark questions may ask you "why did the Munich Putsch fail". Some 8 mark or source questions may ask you "How far" or "To what extent" was it a success. For these it is important that you can explain both success and failures of the Putsch.

The main successes of the Putsch came afterwards, at Hitler's trial. We will look at that now.



What you may have missed – Who were the SA?

- The SA were basically what was left of the old Freikorps which had been broken up by the Weimar Republic after the Kapp Putsch.
- They were led by Ernst Rohm, a butch ex-army Captain with a dubious reputation for Violence.
- Hitler met Rohm and persuaded him to join the Freikorps to the Nazi party as a paramilitary (illegal political army) force.
- They were called SA (Sturm Abteilung – Storm Troopers) and wore distinctive brown shirts.
- They had a reputation for Violence

The successes of the Munich Putsch

The Putsch itself was a disaster, but events at Hitler's trial turned disaster into a real victory. The judges in Germany tended to be very right wing and sympathetic to people like the Nazi's – they allowed him to turn a trial for treason into a political rally to the Nation

The main successes of Hitler's trial for Treason

The Judge liked him. He gave Hitler time to answer questions however he liked and make very long speeches against the Government.

During the trial, Hitler was able to win over the courtroom with his great speeches, his ideas and his passion for change in Germany.

Reporters from across Germany were there. This meant that everything Hitler said was written down in newspapers and read by Germans everywhere.

This was huge publicity for the Nazis – now the whole nation knew who they and Hitler were for the first time.

Hitler became seen as a leader of the Right wing. From being a nobody, he became "that guy who tried to take over Munich".

Lots of right wing supporters saw him and the Nazis as their natural leader.

Hitler had the time to write Mein Kampf Landsburg gave him time to write his book, "My Struggle" where he set out all his ideas for the Nazi party and Germany's future.

The book is very boring, but everything Hitler later did is in it.

His prison was very cushy Landsburg castle was more of a hotel than a prison. Hitler could have as many visitors as he wanted, had as dedicated servant and could walk around whenever he wanted.

He ran the Nazi's from prison!

Hitler got a light sentence. The Judge sympathised with Hitler's ideas and, despite finding him guilty of treason, sentenced him to only 5 years.

However, he would be eligible for parole in just 9 months. This is an incredibly light sentence for treason. Ludendorff and Rohm were released straight away



Outside Hitler's trial – Ludendorff (to left of Hitler), Hitler and Rohm (to right of Hitler).

Remember –

You will need to know at least 5 successes and 5 failures of the Munich Putsch.

This also links to questions about how Hitler was able to become Chancellor in 1933; without the Munich Putsch the Nazi's would never have become known throughout Germany.

Source questions often come up about the Putsch – an example is below.

Finally, this also links to Hitler's change of tactics – he changed the Nazi party because of this failure. Without those changes, the Nazis would have remained a pathetic, amateur party.

Answering source questions

This is a crucial skill that is worth practicing. We use LATE to analyse sources.

Question – How far does this source prove that the Munich Putsch was a success for Hitler? (10)



L

LOOK AND DESCRIBE – briefly explain what's happening in the picture

A

ANALYSE – pick out parts, like pictures on the walls, and say what they mean

T

THINK – what is this source about? What does it tell us about the time? How does it link to your knowledge?

E

EXPLAIN – use the source and your own knowledge to answer the question

Tip – this question says “how far” so it is an iceberg question – you will need to argue why the Munich Putsch was a success and a failure

Look and Describe

Firstly, describe what the source is and what is happening. This itself will get you at least 1-2 marks.

“Source A shows Hitler sitting at a table in Landsburg prison in 1924. He is surrounded by members of the Nazi party and all of them are dressed casually. There are pictures on the wall, flowers, and one man is playing the banjo.”

Analyse

Now, explain what some of these things might mean.

“The picture on the wall shows that Hitler was allowed his own things in prison, and allowed to decorate his cell. The cell itself looks more like a hotel room, with a wardrobe and nice table with flowers, which shows that Hitler was allowed to make his cell extremely comfortable; this does not look like the cell of someone who was found guilty of treason. Hitler is probably having a meeting, because he was allowed as many visitors as he wanted and ran the party from prison. This is why there are so many Nazi members with him.”

Think

Now, explain what the source is about – how does it link to your own knowledge of what was happening at the time?

“This source shows that Hitler was let off very lightly after being found guilty of treason. The penalty for treason should have been life in prison or death, but Hitler was given only 5 years and only had to serve 9 months. The source shows that even the prison he was in was very easy and comfortable, and items like the flowers prove he was treated very well. This shows one of the successes of the Munich Putsch, because the judge at his trial liked his ideas and let him make lots of speeches, then let him off very lightly. Hitler’s time in Landsburg prison also caused one of his other successes, because he was able to write his book “Mein Kampf” and set out his ideas for the party. This brought the party more publicity”.

Explain

Now you must make sure you answer the question; how far does it prove the Putsch was a success? Bring in the other side of the argument now and really use your own knowledge – but make sure you stick to the question!!

“However, although the source shows one of the big successes of the Putsch, in Hitler being let off lightly, this source does not prove the Putsch was a success because there were lots of other successes that the source does not show. The Nazi party got lots of publicity in Germany because of the trial, making them known throughout Germany for the first time. This was very important for the Nazi’s because it made them more likely to get into power in the future, and the source does not show this. Also, Hitler was able to write his book and reorganise the Nazi party to make it more electable; again, the source does not tell us this.

Also, the source does not prove the Putsch was a success because it was not completely successful. The point of the Munich Putsch was to take over Germany, and Hitler failed to do that. In fact, the Putsch itself was a disaster. Ludendorff did not turn up until very late, meaning Kahr refused to join Hitler and lots of valuable time was lost. The SA also expected the army to support them, but came under lots of gunfire they didn’t expect. Even worse, Ludendorff let Kahr and the ministers go home, allowing them to alert the Government in Berlin to what Hitler was doing. In the end, the Putsch ended very badly with 16 Nazis killed. This shows that the Putsch was actually very unsuccessful because so much went wrong, and the success that source A shows did not happen until afterwards.

Therefore, Source A does not prove that the Putsch was a success. It shows one successful part of it, but Hitler had lots of other successes at his trial, and the actual Putsch was a disaster.

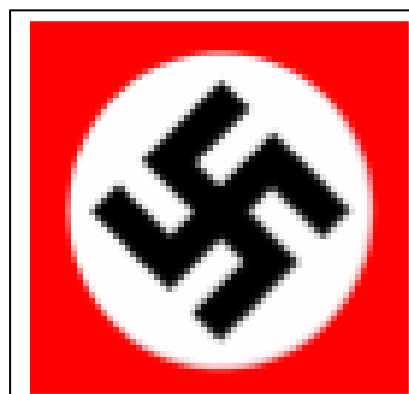
Remember

Don’t worry that the above answer is too long or that you couldn’t do something like that in an exam – it is a model answer to show you the process and the kind of things you should think about when answering a question like this. It took much longer to type than you would have in an exam, so don’t panic! Read the answer and take notice of the LATE process – it will remind you what to do.

Most important is to use the source and your own knowledge in your answer – if you don’t show evidence of both, you will not get above half marks

1924-1929 – The Nazi’s change tactics.

- Hitler got out of prison late in 1924, and realised that violent methods would no longer work.
- This was because Stresemann’s economic policies were starting to make Germany more stable – people didn’t want violent parties like the Nazi’s anymore.
- Hitler was clever – he realised that the only way to have a Government no one could argue with would be to get into power in a legal way – by winning elections.
- He started to change the party so they could do well in the Reichstag.



Swastika

Hitler designed the Swastika flag in the early 1920’s.

It was designed to give the Nazi’s a distinctive, recognisable symbol-like a logo.

How Hitler did it.

Reorganising the Party

- The party wanted to spread across Germany
- Local party members, called Gauleiters, were created to run and advertise the party in each area.
- Hitler created the 25 point plan to get the party into power.

Mein Kampf

- Written by Hitler in prison, published 1925.
- It was partly the story of his life, but mostly Hitler's ideas for what Germany would be if he was in power.
- Mein Kampf became a best seller because of Hitler's new fame.

Winning the middle class and business

- Middle class and farmers liked their message about creating a strong Germany.
- Nazi's struggled with working class, so focussed on this group.
- Big business became the main contributor to Nazi party funds.

Increasing membership

There was a drive for new members, and membership increased every year.

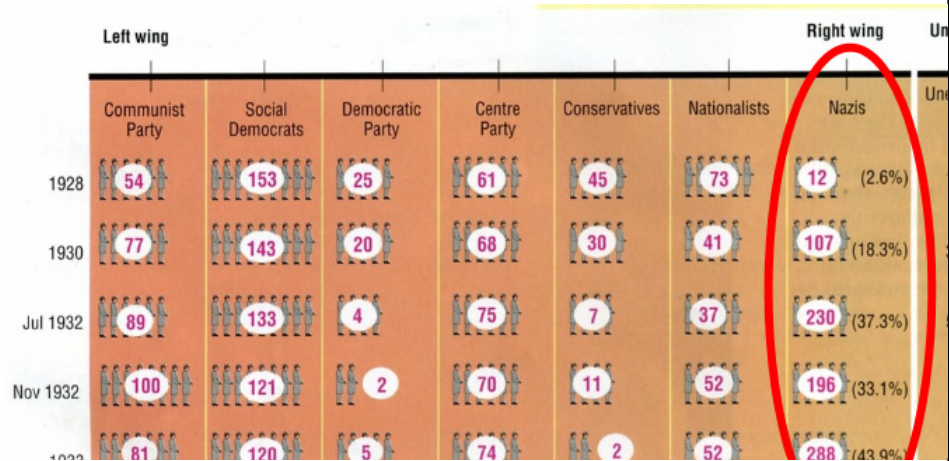
Membership was over 150,000 by 1929 – it had been only 3000 in 1923!

Reorganising the Party

- The biggest class group in Germany, and the people that worked in all the factories.
- The working class usually supported the Communists – Hitler needed to change that,
- He targeted this group for propaganda

Public meetings and propaganda

- Nazi members were sent on public speaking courses to learn how to make great speeches.
- Goebbels was put in charge of propaganda, and lots of posters and films were used to advertise the party.
- The Nazi's would drop any ideas that proved unpopular and emphasise ones that people liked.



Failure?

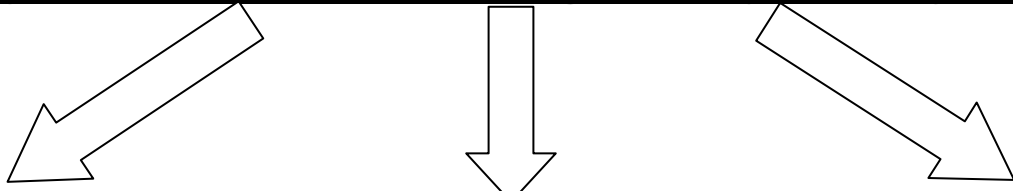
- Look at the graph – The Nazi's did very badly in elections up until 1929.
- In fact, in 1928 the Nazi's had their worst election ever, winning just 12 seats.
- Even in their first election after the fame of Hitler's trial, the Nazi's never got more than 50 seats.
- Election-wise, the Nazi's were miles from taking power

....Or success?

However, the reorganisation was important for the following reasons

1. The party massively increased its membership
2. The Nazi's became one of the best funded parties in Germany due to support from business.
3. The party was now an efficient and professional outfit – if a chance came to be in power, they would now be ready for it.

Why had the Nazi's failed to get into power by 1928?



Hitler failed to win over the working Class

Most German working class voted for Communist or left wing parties.

Hitler's attempt to win them over had so far failed.

The Weimar Republic was going through its "Golden age"

Stresemann's economic policies had helped solve many of Germany's problems. Things were more stable, so people didn't want to vote for extreme parties any more

People were put off by Nazi's extreme views

Views such as hatred of the Jews and re-arming Germany became embarrassing to people in a Germany that was doing well.

Many were put off by this.

The Wall Street Crash

Everything changed for the Nazi Party on October 24th 1929, When the American Stock Market on Wall Street in New York crashed. America became bankrupt, and quickly called all its loans back in. **Germany suddenly had to pay back both the Dawes Plan and Young Plan loans – and was bankrupt over night.**

You need to know how this affected Germany

It can be argued that without the Wall Street Crash, Hitler Would never have had the opportunity to get into power



Remember –

The importance of the Wall Street Crash comes up often in exams, often as 8 mark Iceberg questions.

You may well get something like “Was the Wall Street Crash the most important reason why Hitler was able to become Chancellor in 1933?” Or “Could Hitler have become Chancellor of Germany in 1933 without the Wall Street Crash?”

Lower mark questions might ask you “How did the Wall street Crash affect Germany?” Or “Explain how the Wall Street Crash weakened the Weimar Government.

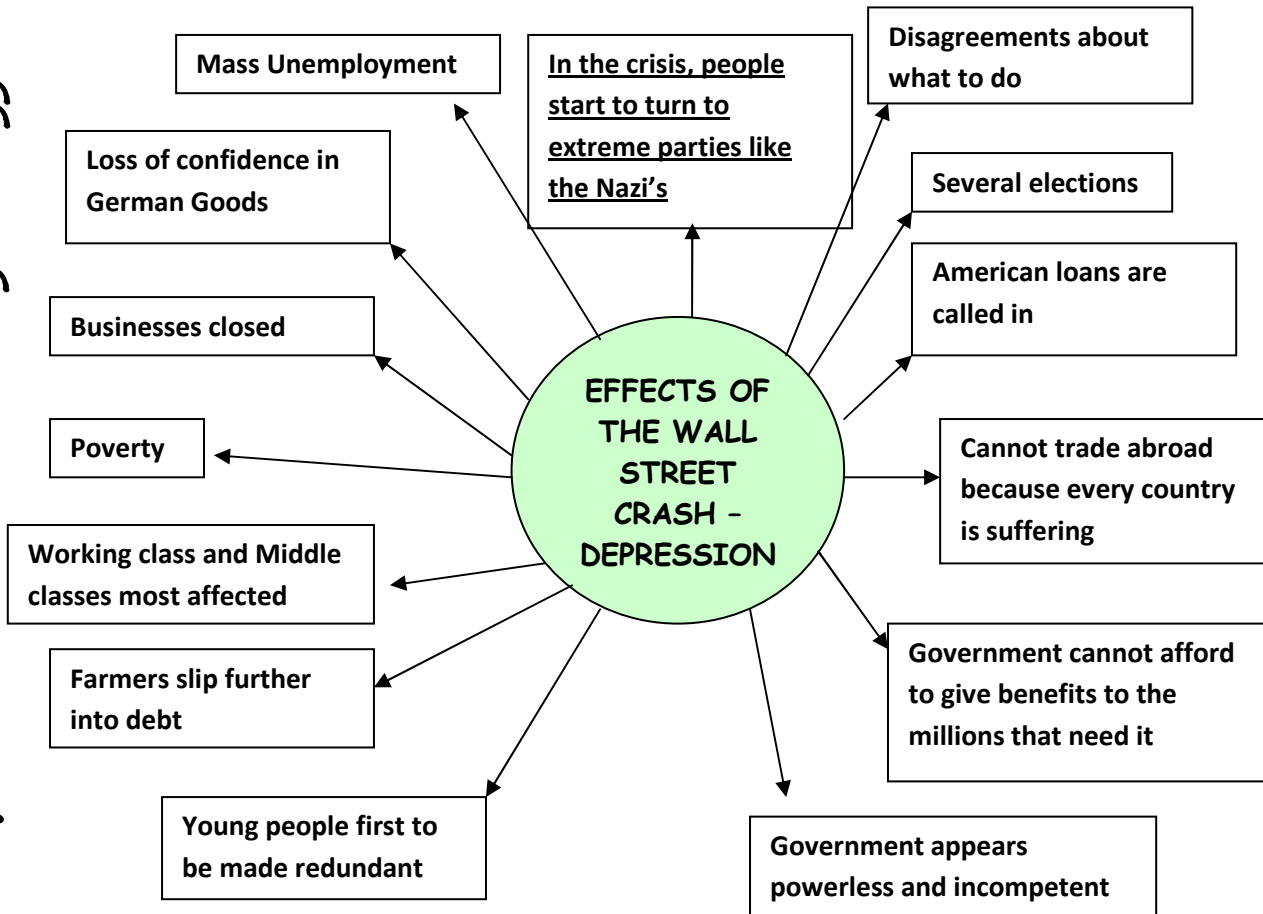
More importantly, ANY question that asks about how Hitler came to power or why the Weimar Republic failed will want you to mention this as a significant factor



In October 1929, Stresemann, the most able minister in the government, died of a heart attack. He was only 51 years old. Soon afterwards, the American stock market centred on Wall Street in New York, collapsed. The effects of this were felt across the world and the period became known as the Depression.

Effects for German People.

Effects for Weimar Government.



How did this affect Hitler?

- People were hungry and poor. They turned to the extreme parties like The Nazi's because they believed the Weimar Republic could not help them.
- Hitler and Goebbles went into propaganda overdrive – thousands of posters, speeches and films were made to appeal to affected groups.
- The 1929 elections saw the Nazis get 107 seats in the Reichstag – up from 12 the previous year!
- In 1932, The Nazi's got 230 – making them by far the biggest party in the Reichstag.
- However, Proportional Representation voting still made it nearly impossible for them to get a majority
- Hitler needed to be invited to become Chancellor in order to get into power



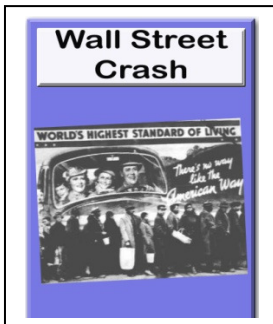
What stood in Hitler's way?

- Even though The Nazi's were the biggest party by 1932, they still couldn't get a majority of seats to seize power.
- Hitler lost to Hindenburg in the 1930 presidential election by quite a way.
- This meant that the only way to get power was to become Chancellor – the second job in the country
- Unfortunately, the president decided who the chancellor would be – and Hindenburg hated Hitler!

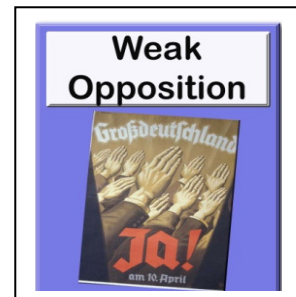


President Hindenburg

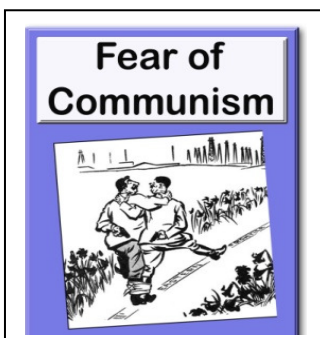
Outside events that helped Hitler become Chancellor in January 1933



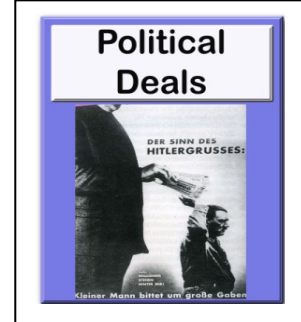
- The American stock market crashed in 1929
- America called in all the loans it had given to Germany.
- This made Germany bankrupt again – called "The Depression"
- People became unemployed and poor, so started supporting extreme parties like the Nazis



- The Depression made the Weimar Government very weak. They didn't have enough money to help everyone.
- Different parties in the Government couldn't agree.
- They made the Nazi's look like they would be better at leading the country.



- The Wall Street Crash meant that Communists got more votes too.
- Communists wanted everyone to have equal pay and no one to own anything.
- Rich people were frightened of Communists and supported Hitler more because he was against them



- By 1933 Nazis had the most MPs in the Reichstag.
- This meant they could outvote the Government and block new laws.
- A man called Von Papen made a deal with President Hindenburg to make Hitler Chancellor.
- They thought they could control Hitler better if he was the chancellor

Hitler's own actions that helped him become Chancellor in 1933

Hitler's Leadership



- Hitler was a strong leader
- He was able to make people believe that only he could solve the problems in Germany
- He was one of the best public speakers ever. His speeches convinced people to vote for him.

Nazi Organisation



- The Nazi's were really good at raising funds from rich people
- Nazi members worked hard to advertise the party all over Germany
- The SA (Hitler's storm troopers) did lots of marches that looked impressive to people

Nazi Promises

WE DEMAND...
LAND FOR OUR
GROWING POPULATION!

**We demand
that immigration
be stopped!**

- The Nazi's promised to solve the depression crisis that was affecting people
- They promised to end the Treaty of Versailles.
- They promised to build up the army and make Germany great again

Propaganda



- Nazis used the latest technology like loudspeakers, slideshows and films to get their message across.
- They used mass rallies of people to spread their ideas.
- They used lots of advertising with simple messages that people wanted to hear



Hitler accepting the job of Chancellor from Hindenburg

On January 30th 1933 – Hitler was invited by Hindenburg to become Chancellor of Germany. Hitler was finally in power!

While it was the political deal between Hitler and Von Papen that actually got him the job, all of the above played a role. In an exam, you need to be able to explain which factors were the most important, and how these different factors are linked together!

Iceberg questions

Lets have a quick look at a practice question on this. Remember, in the essay section of your paper you need to give lots of attention to the 8 mark questions. These questions want you to give a balanced argument, and many of them are iceberg questions!

Iceberg Questions

These are questions were part of what it wants you to do is hidden beneath the surface, like an iceberg.

You will need to talk about what the question asks and what is beneath the surface to get good marks

Question: “The Wall Street Crash was the most important reason why Hitler was able to become Chancellor in 1933”. How far do you agree with this statement?

Iceberg questions often look like this – statements, that then ask you whether you agree or disagree.

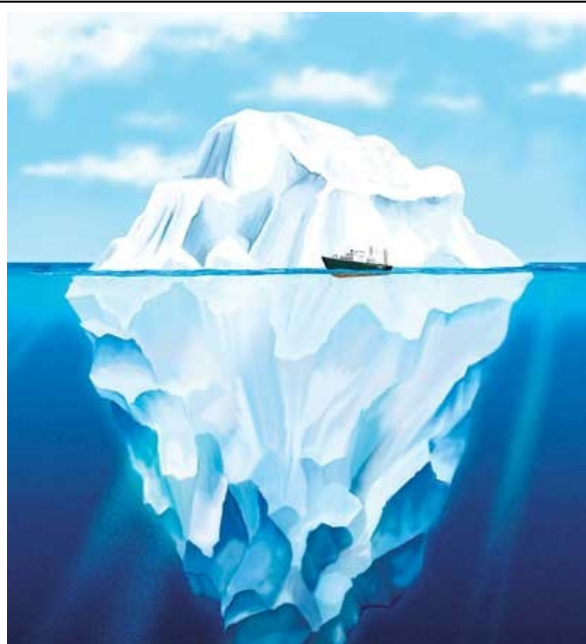
Looking at it, it looks like it only wants you to say one thing – why the Wall street Crash was the most important reason for him getting into power.

But was it? Think – there are lots of reasons why Hitler became chancellor; these are under the surface. The question actually wants you to think about these other reasons as well!

Lets take a look at what is under the surface of this iceberg

The obvious stuff –
The Wall Street Crash

Sneaky, beneath the surface part – other factors that also helped Hitler into power



People vote for extreme parties
Weimar Government becomes weak
People now willing to listen to the Nazi message

Hitler’s leadership

Political deals

Nazi Propaganda

Good organisation

Hitler’s fame from 1923

Can you see how much there is under the surface of this question?
Remember, any question that asks “how far” is always an iceberg

Three Explained points

– How the Wall street Crash **was** important in Hitler becoming Chancellor

Three Explained points

– How other factors were **also** important in Hitler becoming Chancellor

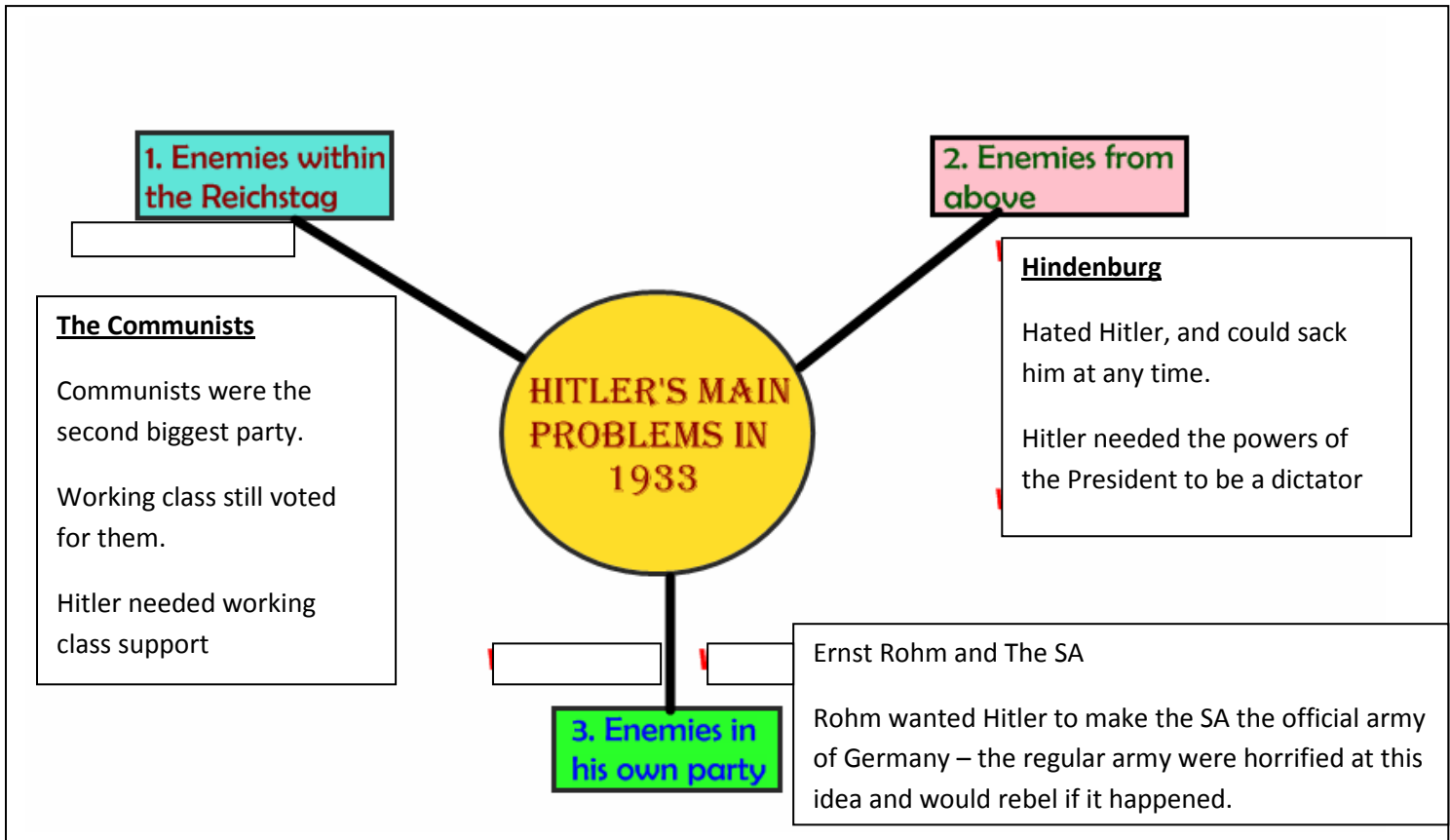
Conclusion - was the

WSC the most important reason? Or was something else more important?

Explain your answer!!!

How did Hitler become a dictator?

Hitler became Chancellor on 30th Jan 1933. Within a 18 months he was the Supreme Dictator of Germany. For the exam, you will need to know about 3 key events – **The Reichstag Fire, The Enabling Act and The Night of the Long Knives**. These three events got rid of the last 3 obstacles to Hitler coming to power.



Reichstag fire (above) and Van Der Lubbe

The Reichstag Fire

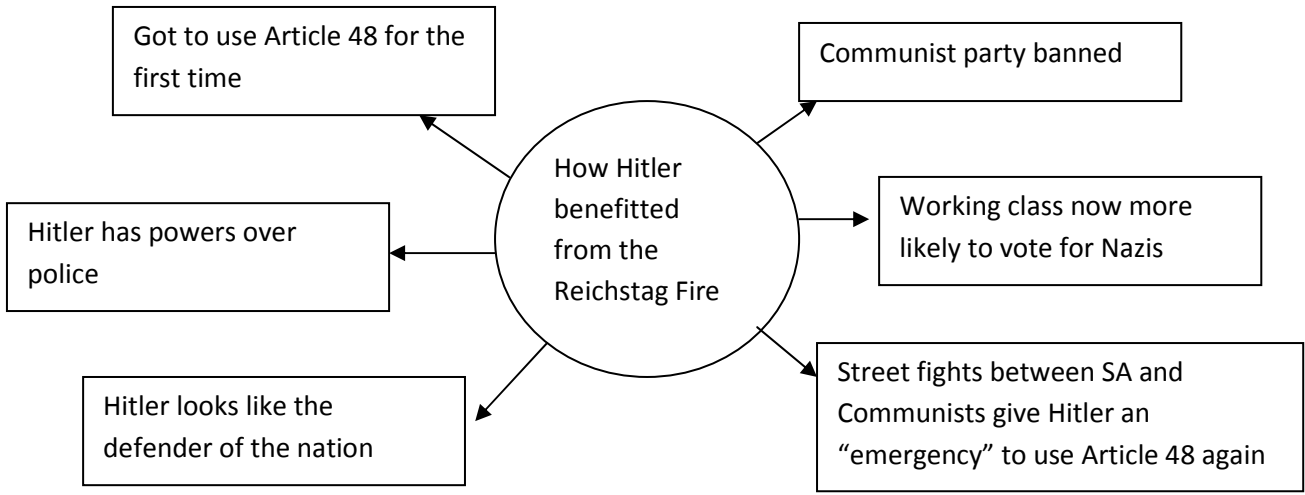
Hitler was lucky – less than a month after he became Chancellor, the Reichstag was burned down in an arson attack.

Inside it, police found a young Dutchman called Marinus Van Der Lubbe. Most importantly, **Van der Lubbe had once been a communist**.

Van Der Lubbe confessed and was executed, but Hitler immediately claimed that he had been part of a huge Communist conspiracy to destroy the German Government.

Hitler went to Hindenburg and asked to use **Article 48** to deal with the “emergency”.

Police were given **emergency powers** to search houses, confiscate property and **imprison without trial**. Hitler also brought in **censorship**, so he could decide what the papers could and could not print. The Communist party was made illegal and the **SA went on a spree of violence**, beating up Communists.



The Enabling Act

Hitler had been allowed to use Article 48 for the first time. But to become a Dictator, he needed to be able to use it **without having to get Hindenburg's permission.**

Hitler used the street violence (his own SA men attacking Communists!!) as an excuse for the Enabling Act, which basically gave most of Hindenburg's power to Hitler.

This was a **change in the Weimar Constitution** (see Weimar section), so it needed **75%** of the Reichstag to vote for it.

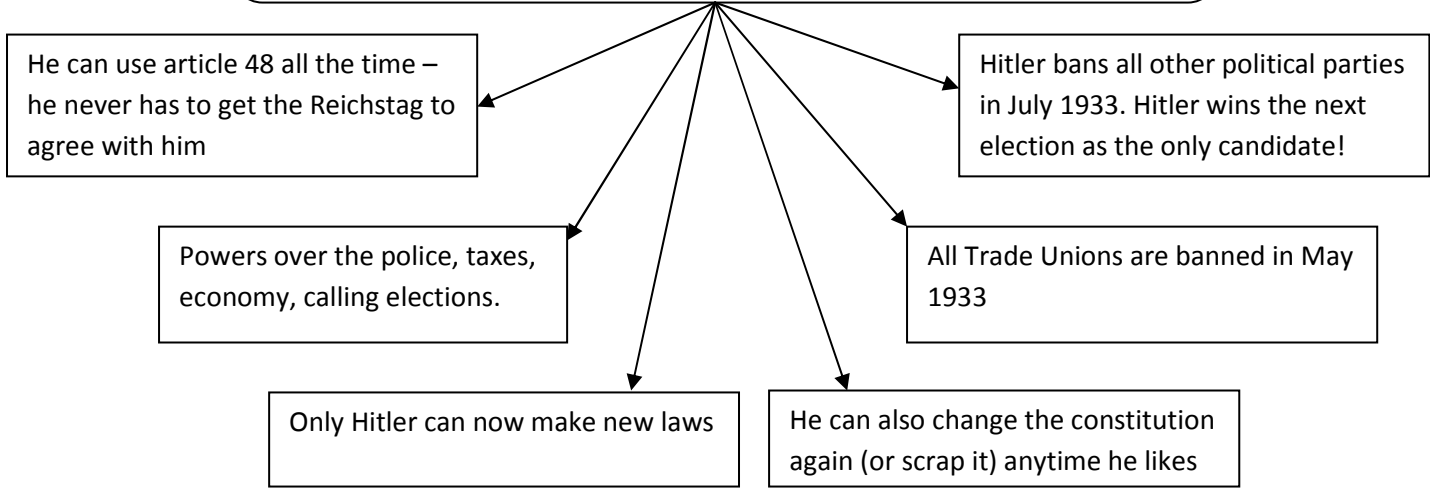
30% were already Nazi's. The SA **intimidated, threatened and bribed** a huge number of politicians.

The **Nazi's sang the National Anthem** when the other parties started arguing about the new law

The act was passed- just – and Hitler was almost totally in charge.



How the Enabling Act helped Hitler to become a Dictator



The Night of the Long Knives

This is important as it often comes up in exams on its own. By 1934 Hitler had almost total power. However, Hindenburg was still alive and he had the support of the Army; The German army could easily overthrow Hitler if Hindenburg had wanted them to.

Hitler also had the problem of Ernst Rohm. The SA had 2.5 million men, while the army had only 100,000; but the people of Germany loved the army. Rohm wanted the SA to become Germany's official army – but the idea of Rohm being their leader horrified the Army generals. They would not support Hitler if he did this. But Rohm threatened to rebel if he didn't!

Why Hitler chose to support the army

1. The army was much better trained and disciplined.
2. The army was the only organisation that could remove Hitler from power.
3. It had the support of big business – the same people that funded the Nazis.
4. Hitler needed a strong army to be able to invade other countries.



Ernst Rohm, head of the SA



The Night of the Long Knives – 30th June 1934

Hitler wanted Rohm and the SA to break up and join the Army – Rohm wanted the army to break up and join the SA. Rohm threatened to rebel against Hitler if he didn't get what he wanted.

Hitler chose to support the army, and sent his SS men (see section on the terror) to the SA barracks. 200 SA leaders were arrested, and Rohm was given a pistol to shoot himself with. He refused and was executed.

Hindenburg's death

The army were thankful to Hitler for removing the threat of Rohm. When Hindenburg died a month later, all army soldiers took an oath of loyalty to Hitler. Hitler didn't bother having an election for a new president he just combined the position of Chancellor and president to call himself "Führer" (leader)



What Hitler gained from the Night of The Long Knives

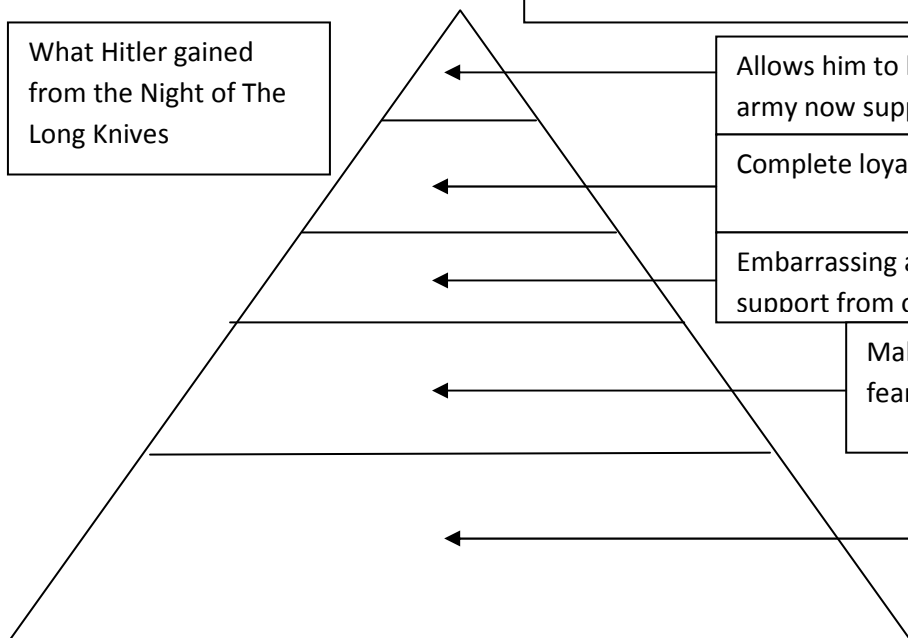
Allows him to become "Führer" when Hindenburg dies because army now support him

Complete loyalty of the army with an oath.

Embarrassing and out of date SA removed – gives Hitler more support from ordinary Germans.

Makes Hitler appear ruthless and become more feared among other Nazi leaders

Gives Hitler chance to build up his new group, the SS.



Remember –

Questions often come up about how Hitler became a dictator. Usually questions might ask “how did Hitler consolidate his power between 1933-1935. That is basically asking you how he became a dictator, so think: Reichstag fire; Enabling Act; Night of Long Knives

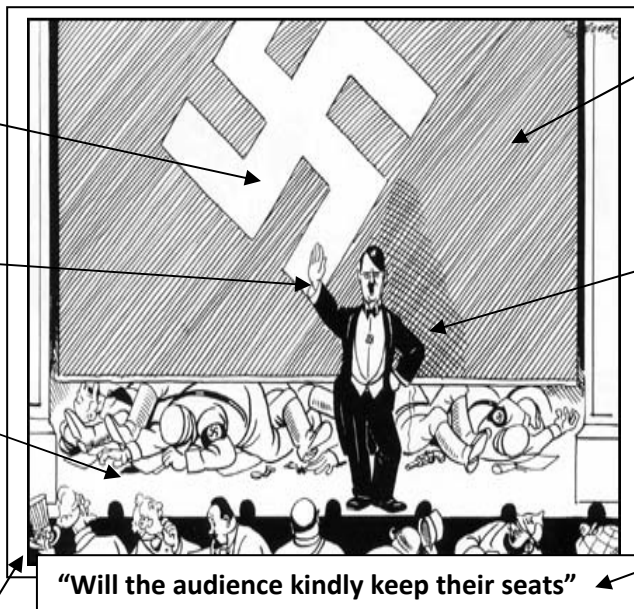
Sources about this also often come up. Most commonly about the Night of Long Knives. There are several possible cartoons like the one below

Swastika flag represents the Nazi Government

Hitler holds his hand up – Nazi salute used here as a call for calm

Dead members of the SA. Curtain is coming down in front of them, showing that “their time on stage is over” – they are in the past

Terrified audience shocked and wanting to flee



Presents the Nazi Government as a stage show with Hitler the host

Hitler dressed up in a dinner suit – looks in control and is totally calm amongst all the death – it doesn't bother him

Caption – phrased like in a theatre play, but is actually an order – Hitler is in charge and ordering people to sit down – or else!

These are previous exam questions on this section.

Munich Putsch

1. Briefly describe the events of the Munich Putsch (5)
2. Explain what happened in the Munich Putsch (5)
3. Why was the Munich Putsch not a complete disaster for the Nazis? (7)
4. Explain why Hitler attempted a Putsch in 1923 (7)
5. How far was the Munich Putsch a disaster for Hitler? Explain your answer (8)

Nazis before 1929

6. Why did the Nazi party have so little success before 1929? (7)

Hitler becoming Chancellor

1. What did the Nazis promise people in the election campaigns of 1932-1933? (5)
2. Why did the Weimar Republic eventually fail? (8)
3. Did the Nazis come to power in 1933 only because they promised to make Germany great once more? Explain your answer (8)

Hitler's Consolidation of Power 1933-1934

1. Explain why the Reichstag fire was useful to Hitler (7)

2. What was more important in allowing Hitler to strengthen his power in 1933-34 – the Enabling Act or The Knight of the Long Knives? Explain your answer (8)
3. Explain what Hitler did to make himself dictator in 1933-35 (5)
4. Why did Hitler order the Night of the Long Knives in 1934? (7)
5. Explain how Hitler managed to strengthen his power between 1933-1934 (5)

Section Three – Life In Nazi Germany

This section will deal with what sort of Germany the Nazi's created, how they dealt with opposition, how they kept control and how they treated people. You also need to know how they dealt with the economy and how World War Two affected the German people.

The good thing about this section is that it is really easy and straightforward – everything links together, there is no confusing politics, and everything makes sense.

However, you need to know that at least one question comes up from this section **EVERY YEAR**. Your second essay question is usually about life in Nazi Germany, and it is also a very popular topic for your source questions as well.

What sort of Germany did Hitler want to create?

A strong Germany



Strong Government – no opposition

Every aspect of life controlled

Destroy Treaty of Versailles

Re-build the army

Prepare to invade Eastern Europe

Remove “burdens on society”

Supported by...

Elderly – reminds them of old Germany

Army – creates strong military

Middle class – creates stable Germany

Opposed by

The Young – dislike having lives controlled

Political opponents and Communists

A Racial Germany



Supported by....

Very Young – taught in schools

Some “Aryan” looking people

Opposed by....

Teenagers – have friends that are now “undesirables”

Families – many have Jewish relatives

Eugenics programmes to selectively breed Germans

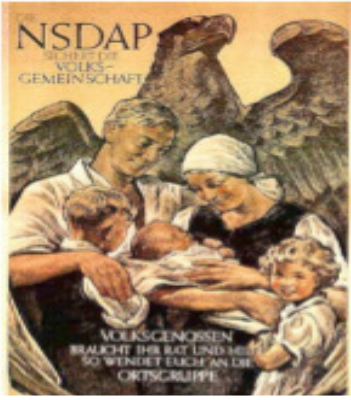
Create a pure “Aryan” race – blonde hair, blue eyes, strong

Remove “undesirable” races from Germany

Remove Jews from Germany, then Europe

Volksgemeinschaft

(Peoples Community)



- Volksgemeinschaft was the Nazi idea that every part of German life should have something to do with the Nazi party.
- No German should have more than a few moments per day when they aren't under Nazi influence.
- Clubs, societies, leisure activities and groups were taken over by the Nazi's

Supported by:

The party – increases control

Families – they were given more money under Volksgemeinschaft policies

Opposed by....

The church – church activities taken over by Nazis

Working class – many traditional societies and clubs were taken over

Remember –

This often comes up in questions such as “what did Hitler promise the German people in 1933” or “What promises did the Nazi's make when they came to power”. You should consider all aspects when answering these questions – destroying the TOV, creating an army, removing Jews, giving people Nazi leisure activities, etc.



So who opposed the Nazi Regime?

The Nazi's had a lot of support – they had been the biggest party before Hitler banned all the others – but they still had many opponents. However, opposition never became an attempt to overthrow Hitler until the very end of the War in 1944. Until then, opposition was divided and limited to private grumbling or defiance of Nazi Law.

For the exam you need to know who the main groups that defied the Nazi's were, why they didn't like the Nazi lifestyle and how they were dealt with. More importantly, you need to know **why** there was so little opposition to the Nazi's

The Young



The Edelweiss Pirates



Sophie Scholl – White Rose

Young people hate being told what to do or having their lives controlled. Though lots of Nazi teenagers fell for the party's propaganda, some rebelled and decided to deliberately go against Nazi ideals and Laws. Some Groups like the White Rose wanted to spread the truth about what was happening in the war, especially to minority groups

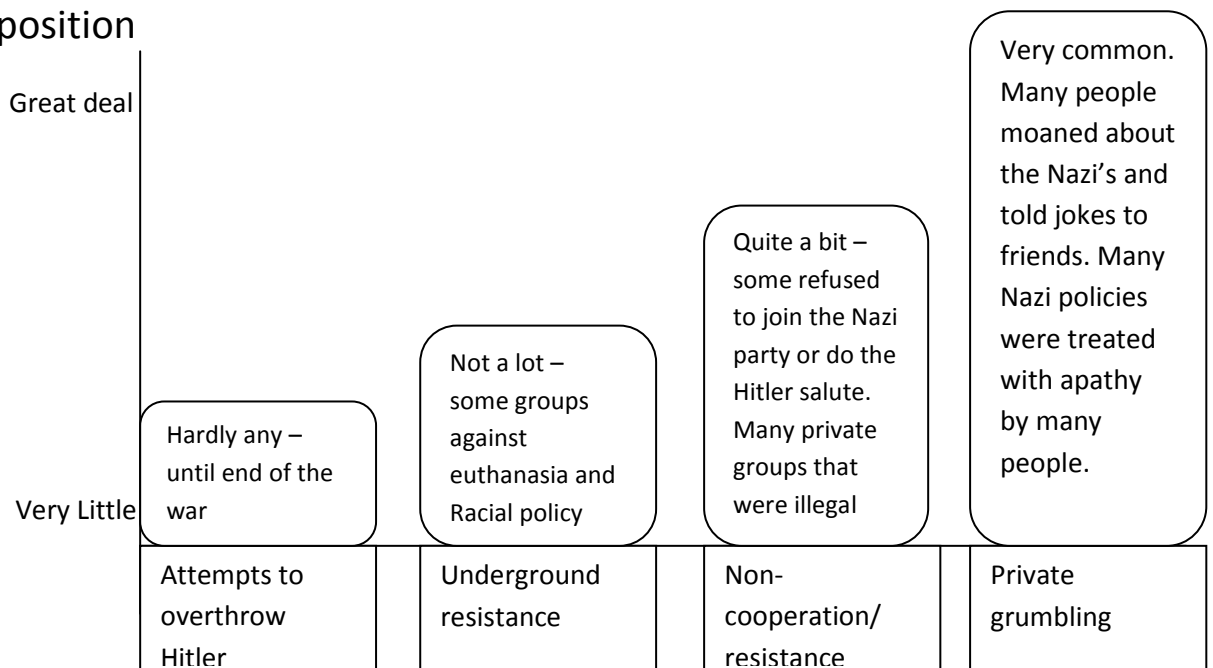
The Church

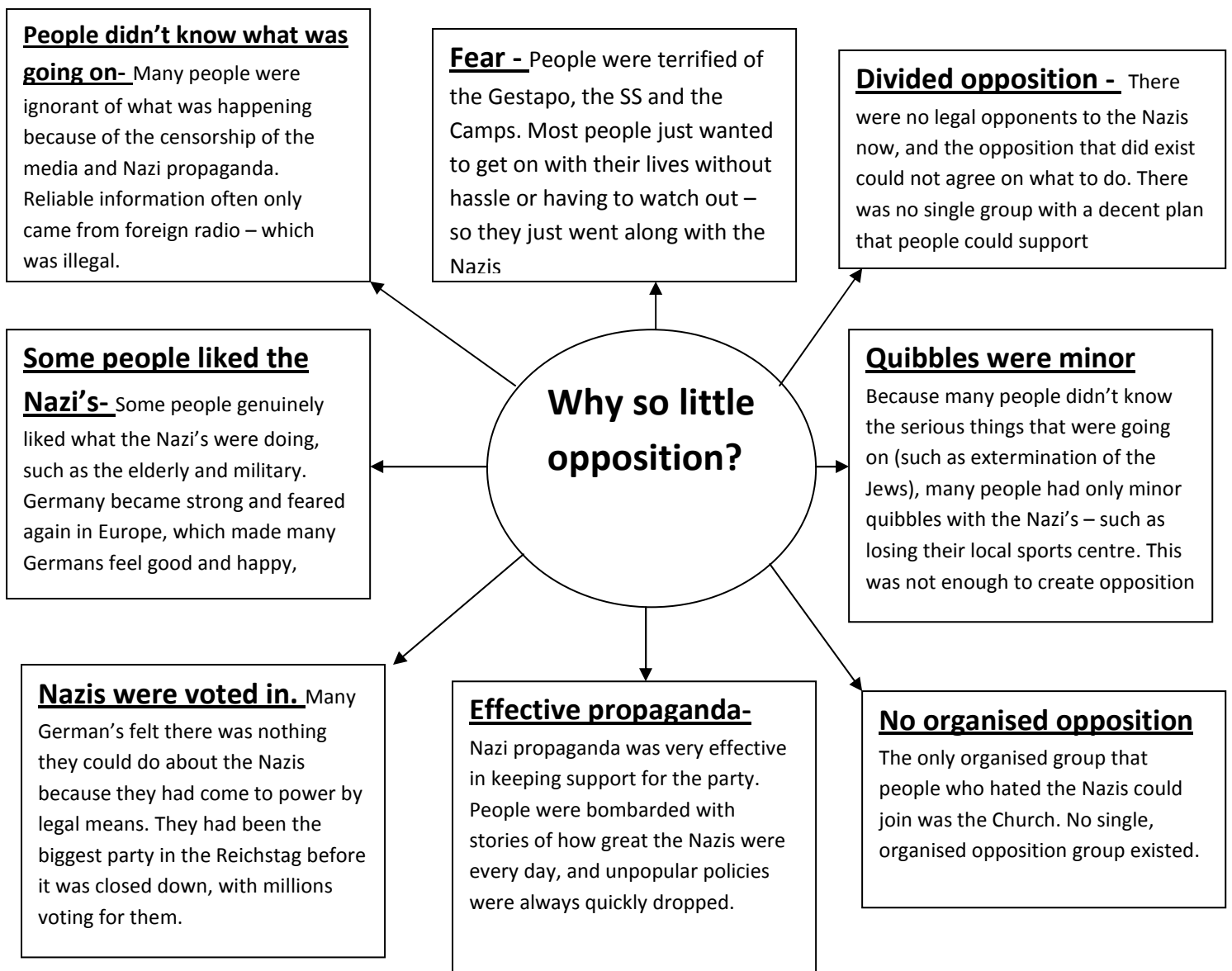


The Nazi policy of Volksgemeinschaft made the Church's life very difficult. All aspects of peoples lives, including leisure, was to be controlled by the Nazi party – in theory leaving no room for God. All bible and Church groups were to be closed or monitored by Nazis, further angering the Church. People had to choose between their faith in God or in Hitler.

Group	Why they oppose Nazis	How they oppose Nazis (methods)	Danger Rating	How the Nazi's dealt with them
Former political opponents	Hitler had banned all political parties – meaning the old Social Democrats, Centre Party, etc who had been in charge during the Weimar years no longer existed. People wanted an alternative to the Nazi's to vote for – these former politicians were aiming for a return to democracy	Leaflets and secret meetings mostly. They defied the Nazi's just by existing and trying to appeal to people who used to vote for them	4	Political opponents were serious because millions had voted for these parties before Hitler took power. The SS would break up meetings, seize leaflets and send members to the camps.
The Church	Volksgemeinschaft involved the closing down of Church groups to make way for Nazi controlled ones. Hitler wanted Nazism to be followed like a religion, making it difficult for people to support the church.	Disobedience – carrying out baptisms and marriages against Nazi law, encouraging people to ignore Volksgemeinschaft and follow the bible.	3	Hitler cannot compete with the promise of god and heaven after death – especially in war-time. Hitler has to turn a blind eye and compromise with the church.
Army Officers	By 1944 the war was going badly and defeat was becoming inevitable. Many army officers lost faith in Hitler's ability to command the country and sought to remove him and take his power.	Several senior army leaders tried to assassinate Hitler with a bomb. They narrowly failed	5	The first (and last) time anyone tried to overthrow Hitler. The leaders were rounded up and executed.
Young People – Edelweiss Pirates	Young people who don't want their lives mapped out by the Nazi's and wanted to rebel and live their own lives. Many opposed the Nazi's racial policies as well as friends were singled out as "superior" or "inferior"	Defiance. Drinking, smoking, dancing in groups, drugs, telling anti-Nazi stories and jokes, beating up Hitler Youth members, having sex.	2	The Pirates had no intention of overthrowing Hitler – they were teenagers who wanted to rebel against a controlling government. They survived until 1944, when the Nazi's clamped down and arrested many of them.
Young People – The White Rose Group.	Sophie Scholl, her brother Hans and their friend formed the White Rose – a group dedicated to showing people the truth about what the Nazi's were doing in the war and to minority groups. They were appalled by the Nazi's methods and lying propaganda	They distributed a set of leaflets at the university and printed more to be sent by post. Under interrogation Sophie refused to pledge allegiance to the Nazi's.	2	All three members were tried and executed for printing the leaflets.

Levels of opposition





Remember

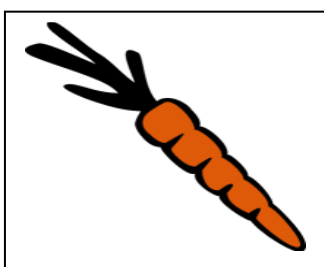
This topic links in with questions on “how far did Hitler win the hearts and minds of German people”, or “How far was Hitler able to control the German people”. Anything to do with Nazi control or Nazi's appeal will need you to also talk about who opposed the Nazis or how much opposition there was. Nazi opposition is a favourite for iceberg questions.

You may also be asked what was the biggest factor – fear is always a good bet for this.



How did the Nazi's control the German People?

The Nazi's used a variety of methods to keep control of ordinary Germans. You will need to know about their main two methods: **Fear** and **Propaganda**. Historian's call this the “carrot and stick” approach – Propaganda being the “carrot” for people to chase, giving them reasons to want to follow the party, and the “stick” being fear – using the stick to force people to do as they were told




Carrot – Propaganda, making people want to do as you say to “chase the carrot”

Stick – forcing people to follow you by fear of the consequences.

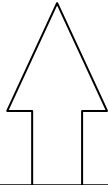


The Nazi's had 4 aces to help them control by fear....

A
♣ **The SS**



♣ **A**



Effective because...

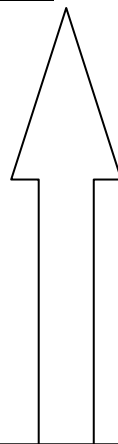
SS are Aryan and looked up to by Germans

- Originally Hitler's personal bodyguard
- Later became enforcers of Hitler's racial policies
- "Deaths head" SS men organised the holocaust of Jews and the Concentration camps
- Waffen SS men were elite soldiers in WWII. Their job was to follow the army and deal with prisoners and "undesirables"

A
♠ **The Gestapo**



♠ **A**



Effective because...

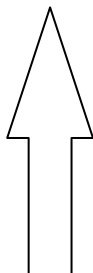
They dealt with everyday Germans

- Nazi Secret Police force
- Agents wore no particular uniform - they were designed to blend in
- They used informers and spies throughout Germany
- They had the power to bug telephones, open letters and put people in prison without trial.

A
♥ **Concentration Camps**



♥ **A**




Effective because...

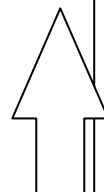
Of the power of rumour

- Created straight after Hitler got into power to contain political prisoners and opponents
- Camps in Germany were basically for slave labour.
- Rumours of shootings, beatings and deaths reached most Germans.
- You had a sentence, but many inmates were never seen again

A
♦ **Informers and the courts**



♦ **A**



Effective because...

You never knew who was an informer

- Informers were used by the Gestapo to spy on ordinary people and "inform" on anyone who opposed Hitler.
- Children in the Hitler Youth were encouraged to be informers.
- Courts were designed for televised "show trials".
- Accused was always found guilty and allowed no defence – was meant to be an example to others

Propaganda – The Nazi’s didn’t just use “stick” methods – they also used Propaganda as a means of making people *want* to be part of the Nazi Nation.

The Nazi propaganda minister was Josef Goebbels, Hitler’s second in command. He was obsessed with using films, radio and simple, effective images to spread the Nazi message and brainwash people into following them. Here are some of the main methods used.



Josef Goebbels

Radio - Goebbels used Radio extensively to spread Nazi ideas. Hitler’s speeches, biased news articles and Nazi music would be played 24/7.

Goebbels even developed the **People’s radio** – a cheap receiver that **could** be given to people to poor to afford an ordinary radio, and which **could not receive foreign stations like the BBC.**



Posters –

- Goebbels a master at posters
- Thousands of different issues covered, e.g. anti-Jewish, encourage farming
- Lots of simple, stark words and images
- Even uneducated people could understand them

Newspapers –

- Nazi’s took over most papers
- Anti Nazi papers banned.
- Propaganda ministry issued daily orders to papers
- People encouraged to buy Nazi papers – could be threatened if you cancelled a subscription.

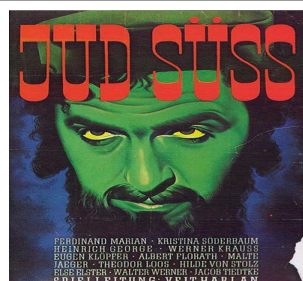
PROP
AGAN
DA

Berlin Olympics

- Decided before Hitler came to power
- Hitler used it to show superiority of the Aryan Race.
- Lots of Nazi symbols on show and athletes trained

Films

- Over 1000 films were made by Nazis.
- Mostly love stories, comedies, adventures or political films.
- Some were anti-Jewish, anti communist or anti-British
- Goebbels wanted people to be entertained – this was how propaganda worked best.



Culture and Festivals.

- Only Nazi approved music was allowed – usually German Classical.
- Theatre had to be either German history or pro Nazi political drama.
- Many books were banned and taken from shelves – there were special burnings of books
- Many Nazi events were marked with festivals, marches and holidays, eg the anniversary of the Munich Putsch

Terror	Propaganda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power of rumour is very strong • Constant fear of saying the wrong thing to the wrong person. • People who don't respond to Nazi message are kept in line • Crushes opposition • Faster effect than Propaganda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps to "brainwash" people, especially young. • Gives people entertainment while spreading the message. • Gives people incentives to follow the Nazis. • Turns people against Nazi enemies. • Increases loyalty and obedience

Remember –

Questions are likely to focus on what was the most effective method of control – Terror or propaganda. You will have to give plus points of each, and make a definite conclusions. Which do you think was more effective and why?

How were groups treated in Nazi Germany?

A very likely topic to come up is how Nazi's changed the lives of various groups. There are four main groups to look at:



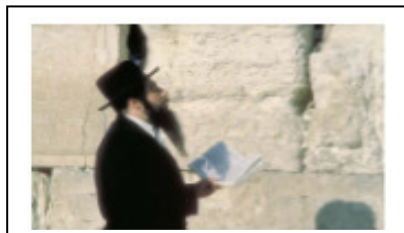
Minority Groups

A number of minority groups were persecuted by the Nazis for 4 main reasons. Jews, Gypsies, Homosexuals, prostitutes, criminals, drug addicts and the mentally or physically disabled were persecuted for these reasons

Social Darwinism

"Our race is naturally better and stronger than yours. It the natural order of things for us to crush your race"

- Jews
- Gypsies
- Homosexuals
- Disabled



Economic Jealousy

"You must be removed from your good jobs to give Germans a chance! Your wealth should also go to "proper" Germans"

- Mainly Jews

Racial Purity

We are the superior race. You must not be allowed to mix with us because it will dilute our blood and make us weak

- Jews
- Gypsies
- Disabled
- Habitual Criminals



Economic efficiency

“You are lazy and don’t work hard enough or fit with our ideas. You will stop Germany from becoming great unless we get rid of you”

- Criminals
- Drug addicts
- Prostitutes
- Disabled

The persecution of Minorities.

The Nazi’s started to persecute minorities from the moment Hitler got into power in the 1933. This happened in four main stages.



1933 Propaganda –

Posters and films designed to turn the public against these



1933 – Sterilisation Law – People with certain hereditary illnesses, e.g mental disability that can be passed to children were sterilized (cant have children). 350,000 men were forced to be sterilized by 1945



1934 – Concentration Camps – These were used at first to house political opponents. Hitler then used them to house criminals and drug addicts who kept reoffending. Anti-social families were also sent to the camps to get them away from society, as were homosexuals.

1939 – Euthanasia – The Nazi’s started to secretly exterminate the mentally handicapped in Euthanasia centres using either a lethal injection or gas vans. 72,000 were murdered this way, including 6000 babies and young children. The Nazi’s justified this by pointing to how much money the country saved.



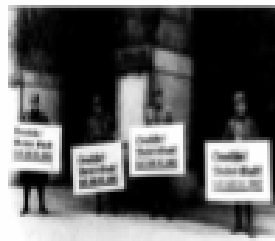
The Treatment of Jews

Although the Holocaust does not normally come up, you must be aware of how the Nazis persecuted the Jews differently to other minorities. As with the persecution of minorities, there are four recognisable stages:

Stage 1 – Persecution

The Nazi's started a propaganda campaign against the Jews. Jewish shops were boycotted, and there were anti-Semitic posters and films designed to turn Germans against Jews

- 1933 One day anti Jewish boycott of Jewish shops
- 1934 increased anti-Jewish propaganda
- 1934 Germans beaten up for going to Jewish shops



Stage 2 – Restriction

The lives of Jews started to become restricted. Laws stopped them from having certain jobs, or doing certain activities. This was meant to make life harder for Jews

- 1933 Jewish teachers sacked
- 1935 Jews not allowed to Join army
- 1935 Nuremberg Laws – Jews not allowed to marry or have sex with Germans. Jews lose German citizenship
- 1937 Jewish businesses confiscated

Stage 3 Segregation

By 1938, the Nazi's were introducing laws designed to separate Jews from the rest of German society. This was to make everyone believe they were not German.

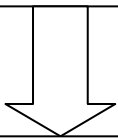
- 1938 – Jews have to register all their property
- 1938 All Jewish passports stamped with a "J".
- 1939 – Jews have to change middle name to "Israel" or "Sarah".
- Jews have to wear yellow star.



Stage 4 - Violence

After Krystallnacht and the start of World War II, the Nazi's began a stage of Violence. The invasion of Poland brought a huge number of Jews under German control.

- 1939 All Jews in Poland must register their occupation. Non-essential workers are taken away.
- 1940 Jews put into Ghettos
- 1941- "The final solution to the Jewish problem" – Death camps started.



Krystallnacht 1939

- "The Night of the Broken Glass"
- Ordered by Goebbels because he needed to get back into Hitler's good books after an affair with a Czech actress.
- Nazis went through the night smashing Jewish shops and burning Synagogues
- A massive amount of damage was done.
- The event was reported around the world, but nothing was done
- This represented the first move towards violence against Jews.



Remember –

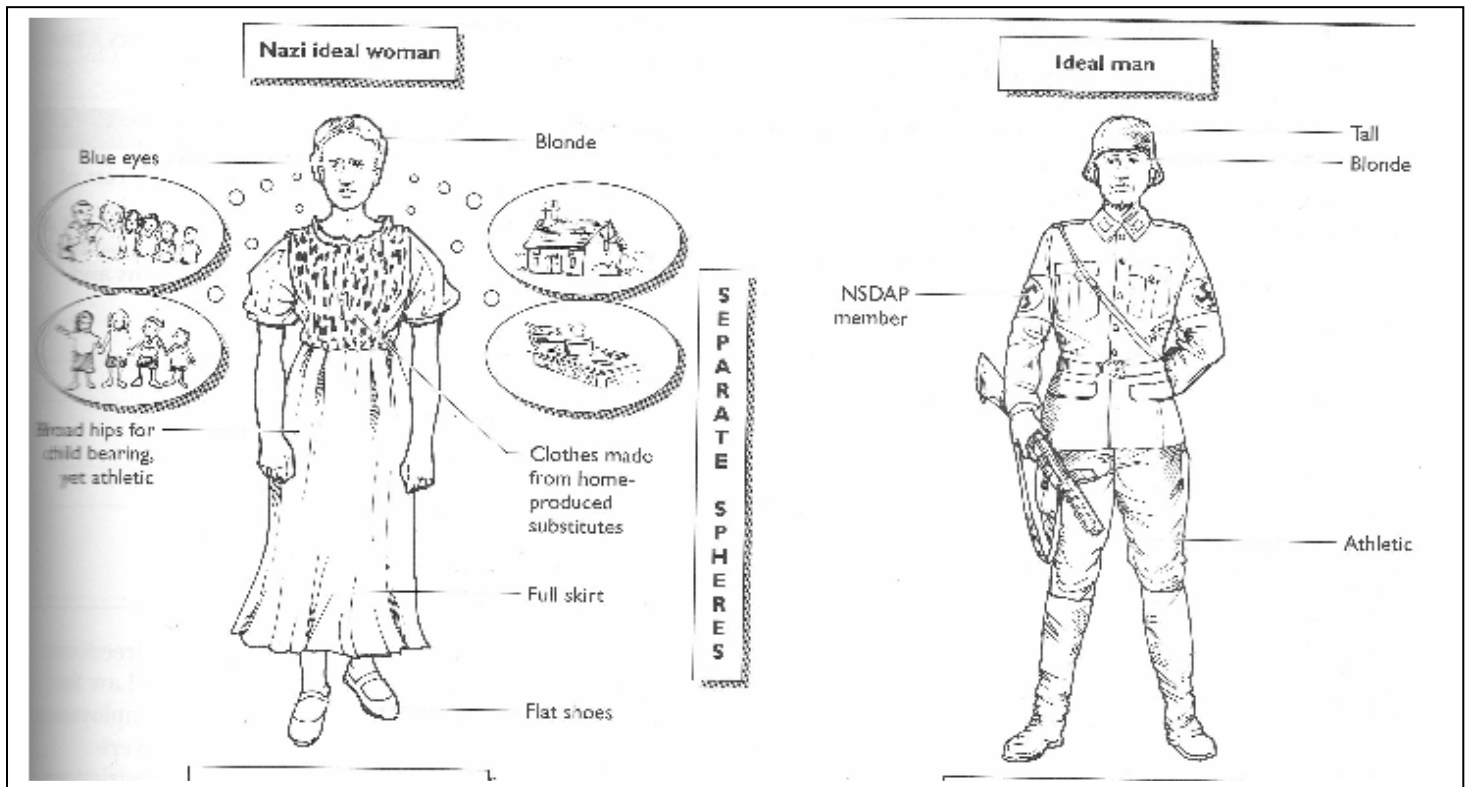
The treatment of minorities is not just about Jews – it is about Gypsies, homosexuals, the disabled, criminals, etc.

However, the Jews were treated differently. You need to be able to recognise when a question is asking about treatment of the Jews and when it is asking about minorities in general.

However, you **must** know **why** these groups were hated by the Nazis – this is likely to come up.

What was expected of Women?

Kinder	Children	The “Three K’s” sum up what was expected of women in Nazi Germany. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They were expected to be mothers to a large family• They were expected to teach Nazi morals and values to the family• They were expected to be good housewives to their husbands
Kirche	Church	
Kuche	Kitchen	



Women

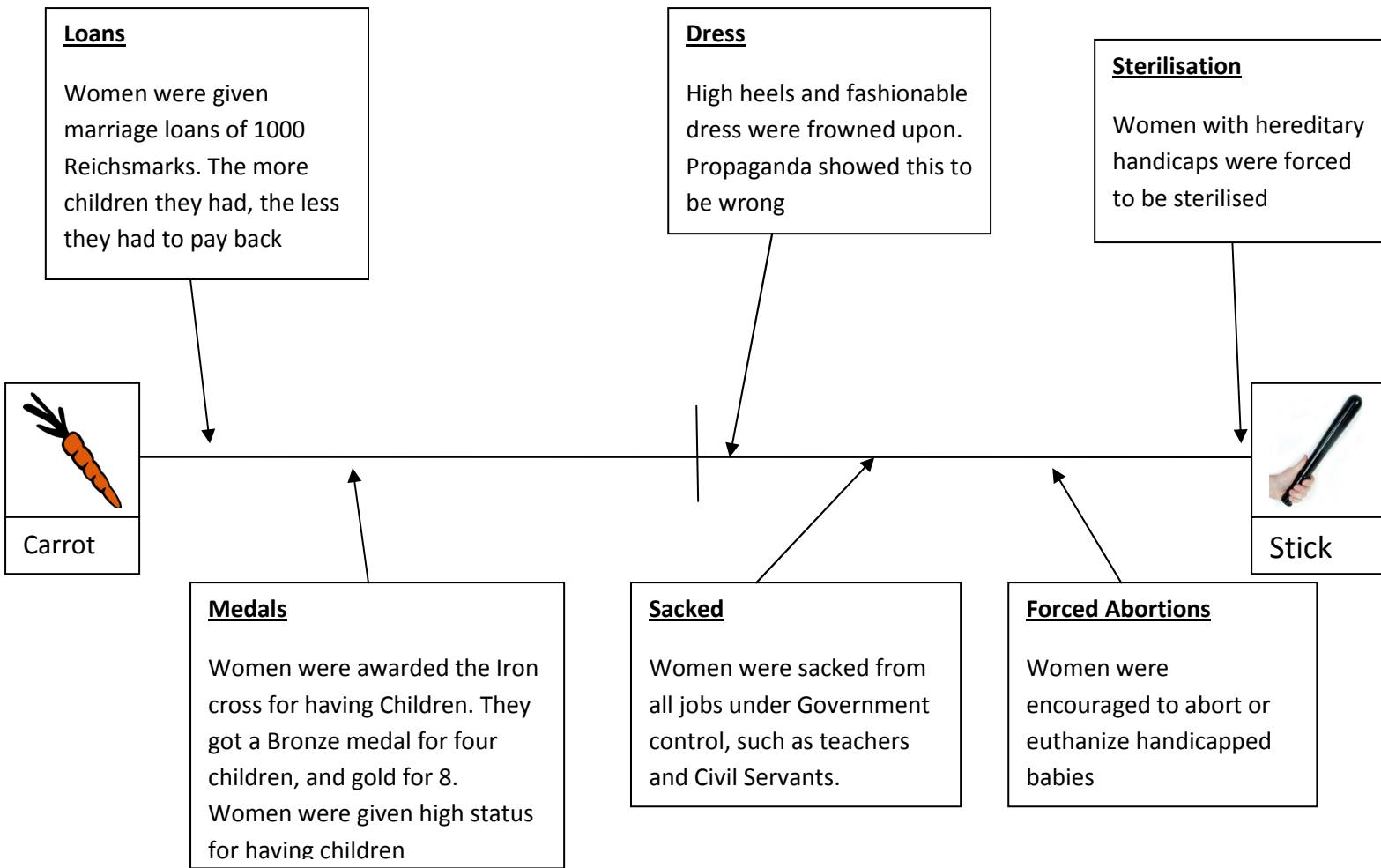
- Should stay at home and be housewives – they should not work
- Were encourage to have as many children as possible.
- Received Iron Cross medals for having children – 8 Children = Gold medal.
- Should not drink or smoke, as this could harm the family
- Should be strong, athletic and healthy, but have big, child-bearing hips.
- Be Aryan, with simple, tied back hair
- Should wear simple clothes made from easy to get materials – preparation for war
- Should be able to cook using leftovers and small amounts – Preparation for war.
- Should teach their family true Nazi values.

Men

- Men are in the Sphere of politics and the Army
- Men are expected to be workers or soldiers for the Nazi army.
- Should Aryan – Blonde Hair and Blue eyes
- Should be members of the Nazi party.
- Should marry and have children with an Aryan woman as soon as possible.
- Men’s job was to protect the family, provide money and work or fight for the benefit of Germany.
- Should be military trained – preparation for War
- Should know the expectations of the Nazi party and make sure the family knows them.

How did the Nazi's encourage women to fit into what they wanted?

Nazis used the carrot and stick (propaganda and terror) approach to getting women to do what they wanted.



How did World War Two affect Women?

Back to work

- With men going to war, women were suddenly needed in the workplace again
- Women manned the arms factories, industry and farms.
- This was heavy, physical work that women weren't used to



Lebensborn

- The Nazi's asked single women to "donate a baby" to Hitler.
- This meant having sex with Aryan SS officers and having their children.
- The Government would give benefits to these Lebensborn babies

Difficult to meet Nazi Ideals

- Having to work meant women could not stay home with their children or teach them Nazi values
- The stress of war made women start smoking and drinking.
- No men = no children
- Affairs because husbands are away.



Were women better or worse off?

A popular type of question is to ask you whether women were better or worse off or to get you to compare women to another group (usually the Young) and ask which one was better off. Lets practice.

<u>Better off</u>	<u>Worse off</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marriage loans• Women who wanted to stay at home benefitted.• “Motherly” women were given high status• Medals for lots of Children• Higher rate of marriage• Looked after by state – if married.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educated or career women much worse off• Sterilisation for women with inherited weakness, eg colour blindness• Encouraged abortion• Fashion and individuality taken away.• Seen as “baby factories”

Young People



Young Germans were seen as incredibly important to the future of the Nazi party – they were its future. The Nazi’s intention was to brainwash the young people of Germany in order to create a generation of loyal devoted soldiers and mothers.

The Nazi’s did this in two ways – through the Hitler Youth and education

Hitler Youth

The Hitler youth was founded in 1926 after Hitler got out of prison and started to reorganise the party. It’s membership was low until 1933 when Hitler became Chancellor



Hitler Youth membership

As you can see on the graph, membership was fairly low until 1933

- It reached over 1 million in 1932 when the Nazi’s were doing well in elections
- Membership doubled to 2 million when Hitler became Chancellor
- By 1934 membership was nearly 6 million as Hitler became Fuhrer and people were afraid not to join

Age	Boys	Girls
6-10	The Pimpfen (Young Fellows)	
10-14	The Deutsche Jungvolk (German Young People)	The Jungmadel (The Young Girls)
14-18	The Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth)	The Bund Deutsche Madchen (League of German Maidens)

Boys

The boys in the Hitler Jugend were being prepared to enter the male sphere – work, politics and the army.

- They went on camps
- Basic military training, including close combat competitions
- Hitler Youth members would get a Nazi badge and HJ knife when they passed their tests.
- Boys would receive political training and learn about Nazi ideas and sing songs.
- Bravery tests – including jumping from first floor windows.
- Extreme fitness training and cross country running

Girls

Girls were being prepared to enter the Women's sphere – the home and family. The League of German Maidens taught:

- Advanced child development training – how to raise a child
- Sewing
- Washing
- "Domestic science"- science of keeping a house.
- Racial science – how to choose the correct Aryan partner
- Advanced cooking, including competitions using leftovers.
- Camping, hiking and cross country running.
- Political training – oaths of loyalty, singing songs



Nazi Music



Competitions



Festivals



Cross Country



Athletics



Bravery Tests



Community service



Loyalty and obedience

But....

- Hitler Youth was not popular with all children. Many only joined because of threatening letters
- Some HJ groups had very few children turning up.
- Children liked the fun, physical aspects, but were bored when they were taught politics
- Some simply ignored the "brainwashing" side.

Nazi Education

Education was massive to Hitler's plans. If he could get education right, he would be bringing up a whole generation of fanatically loyal soldiers and mothers who had never know anything other than the Nazi way of life. Nothing was more important to the Nazi future.

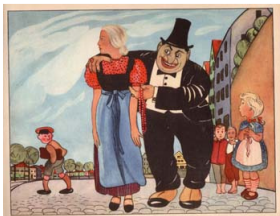
Questions about this occasionally come up, quite often as something like "how did the Nazi's attempt to win the minds of young people". Have a look at the girls school timetable below to see how:

PERIODS	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. 8:00-8:45	German	German	German	German	German	German
2. 8:50-9:35	Geography	History	Singing	Geography	History	Singing
3. 9:40-10:25	Race Study	Race Study	Race Study	Race Study	Party Beliefs	Party Beliefs
4. 10:25-11:00	Break - with sports and special announcements.					
5. 11:00-12:05	Domestic Science with Mathematics - Every day.					
6. 12:10-12:55	The science of breeding (Eugenics) - Health Biology.					
	2:00-6:00 Sport each day.					

A 1935 timetable for a girls' school in Nazi Germany.

Teachers

- As soon as Hitler got into power in 1933, teachers were forced to join the German Teacher's League and be members of the Nazi party.
- All Jewish teachers were sacked.
- Having good, Nazi teachers was vital to ensure the young were taught "correctly"



Sport

- Hitler needed both girls and boys to be extremely fit and healthy so they could become good soldiers and mothers.
- Both boys and girls did several hours of PE every day.
- Boys started the day with PE, and would do boxing and other combat skills
- Girls would mostly do Hiking, Athletics and Cross country

History and Geography

- Only German "Aryan" history was taught – old history books were replaced with Nazi ones.
- Geography centred on areas Hitler hoped to control

Maths and Citizenship

- Maths to help Girls measure ingredients and boys for practical use.
- Citizenship – both sexes were constantly taught to be good Nazis

Racial Science

- Girls in particular were taught Race science and Eugenics (science of Breeding).
- This was to help them pick out a good racial partner and raise an Aryan Child

Were Women or the Young better off?

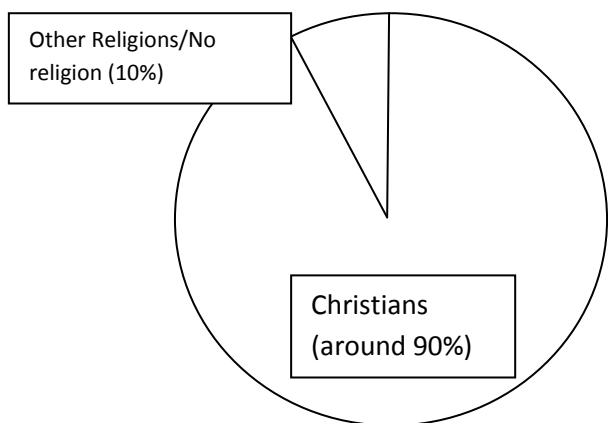
Women – Good and Bad	Young – Good and Bad
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medals for children • They are highly valued by society • Marriage loans • Security • Don't have to work • Limited expectations on them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become part of a group • Go on fun trips • Drops some unpopular school subjects, eg religion • Lots of sport. • Highly organised and valued.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No individuality • No choice of dress, career or education • Forced to do very hard work during the war • Sterilisation for those not perfect. • Expected to give up work and have children, whether they wanted to or not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many hated the HJ, especially the boring politics. • New subjects at school were confusing. • Taught to spy on parents. • HJ members were used to defend Berlin in the last days of the war.

Religion

Hitler needed to control the churches in Germany if he wanted total power. The Church was a huge influence on the people, as it offered a life after death and hope. At the very least, Hitler had to make sure the Church was on his side.

This usually comes up as either simple or 8 mark questions – for example, “explain why Hitler signed the 1935 Concordat with the Pope”. A more complicated example would be “How far did the Nazi’s manage to control the Church?”

The Problem



Hitler wanted to stamp out the Churches, but in 1933 he was not yet strong enough. The church was a problem because...

- Around 90% of Germans were Christians
- Hitler wanted to be seen as a God himself – there was no room for two!
- The Church offered something Hitler couldn't - a life after death
- The Church had the kind of control over hearts and minds that Hitler needed.
- They were the only group that could cause a rebellion

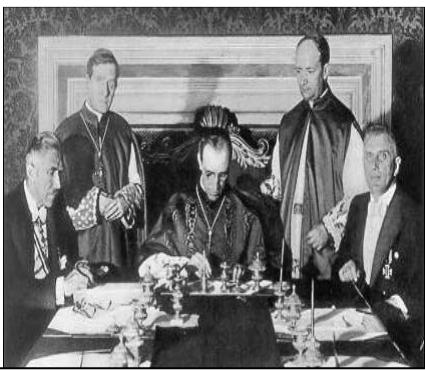
Church Opposition – There was also some significant opposition to Hitler from some important figures in the Church. This was dangerous for the Nazis.

Name	Catholic/Protestant	Why did they oppose?	How were they dealt with?
Martin Niemoller	Protestant – former war hero and church leader	He opposed the Nazi's ideas and what they had done to the Protestant Church by making them "German Christians"	Concentration camp
Paul Schneider	Protestant	He criticised the Nazi's, and the work of Goebbels in particular	2 years in Buchenwald Concentration Camp

Cardinal Galen	Catholic	Exposed the Nazi's euthanasia programme on handicapped children	No action, as they were frightened of rebellion if he was killed.
Jehovah's Witnesses	Other	Wanted to live by religious beliefs – not what the Nazi's said.	1/3 died in the concentration camps

Treatment of the Church

Hitler treated the Protestant and Catholic Churches very differently. You need to know how he treated them, and most importantly, why.



The Pope signs the Concordat

The Catholic Church

Hitler did not want a battle with the Catholic Church. They are led by the Pope, who lives in his own City in Italy. Hitler dared not make an enemy of him, because he could order all Catholics across the world to oppose the Nazis.

Hitler made an agreement, called a **Concordat** in 1935 – **Nazi's would leave all Catholic Churches, schools and groups alone, in exchange for the Pope staying out of all politics. Hitler and the Pope signed it.**

Control?

The Nazi's never had much control of the Catholics. This was because they had a central leader, the Pope, who they had to win the support of. Hitler basically left them alone.

The Protestant Church

The Protestant Churches had no leader – they were just individual churches. This made it much easier for Hitler to bring them under Nazi control.

- The Department for Church affairs was set up to control Protestant Churches. They were brought together as "German Christians"
- Hitler was able to choose who the most important Bishops would be.
- Priests wore Nazi robes and badges, with Swastika flags in church.
- They also did Nazi salutes and marches.



German priests saluting Hitler

Control?

Hitler had some control of the Protestants – but not total. He abolished all church schools in 1939, but was never able to get people to stop going to Church or love him more than God.



Nazi Faith Movement

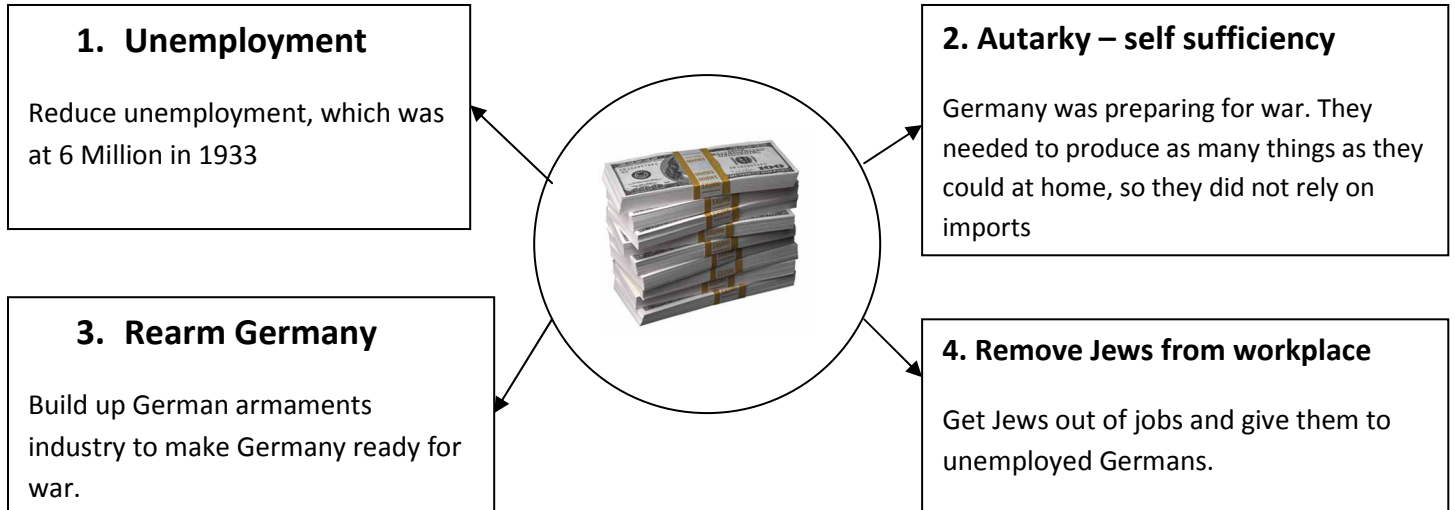
- Designed by Hitler as an alternative to Christianity
- Pagan style worship of the sun, nature, the seasons and "survival of the fittest".
- Never especially popular



The Nazi Economy

The Wall Street Crash had completely destroyed the German Economy for the second time in less than 10 years. There was massive unemployment, and Germany relied on imported goods from other countries that it could not afford. Production was low, so Germany was struggling to make money by selling its goods to other countries.

Hitler knew little about money, but when he came to power he had 3 aims to turn the country around.



Hitler had two Economic ministers in the lead up to the War. These men were in charge of Germany's money, imports, exports and production. You will need to know what both of these men did and how successful they were.

Dr Hjalmar Schacht



1933-1937

Schacht was made president of the Bank and devised the "New Plan" for Germany's economy"

Success?

Yes.

Schacht's plan solved the Economic problems and gave Hitler the money to build up the army.

However, Hitler sacked him because he wanted the country to re-arm faster.

How the New Plan met Hitler's Economic aims

Reduce Unemployment

- He invented jobs to reduce unemployment, such as getting people to build new roads and buildings.
- Compulsory Labour service for 18-25 year olds – 6 months.
- Conscription to the army in 1935
- Sacked Jews from important jobs

Build up industry for war

- He felt that Germany could not afford to rearm and put money into other areas.

Make Germany Self Sufficient (Autarky)

- Various trade agreements with other countries to get money into Germany.
- Imports were limited to encourage Germany to produce what it needed itself.
- Raw Materials brought in from abroad.

How the Four Year Plan met Hitler's Economic aims

Reduce Unemployment

- He invented new jobs – especially manning arms factories.
- Most men were conscripted in the army by this time.
- Forced Labour groups to build public essentials like roads

Build up industry for war

- Increased production of coal, Iron, oil and Metal – all materials that are needed for war.
- Built new Industrial plants and armaments factories
- Massive building of ships, planes and Tanks

Make Germany Self Sufficient (Autarky)

- Businesses persuaded to produce fake rubber, oil and textiles in case these things could no longer be imported.
- Imports from other countries were reduced much more.
- Tight controls on workers wages

Hermann Goering

1937-41 – The Four Year Plan

Goering was Hitler's third in command, and was ordered to find a way to rearm Germany quickly.



Success?

No really.

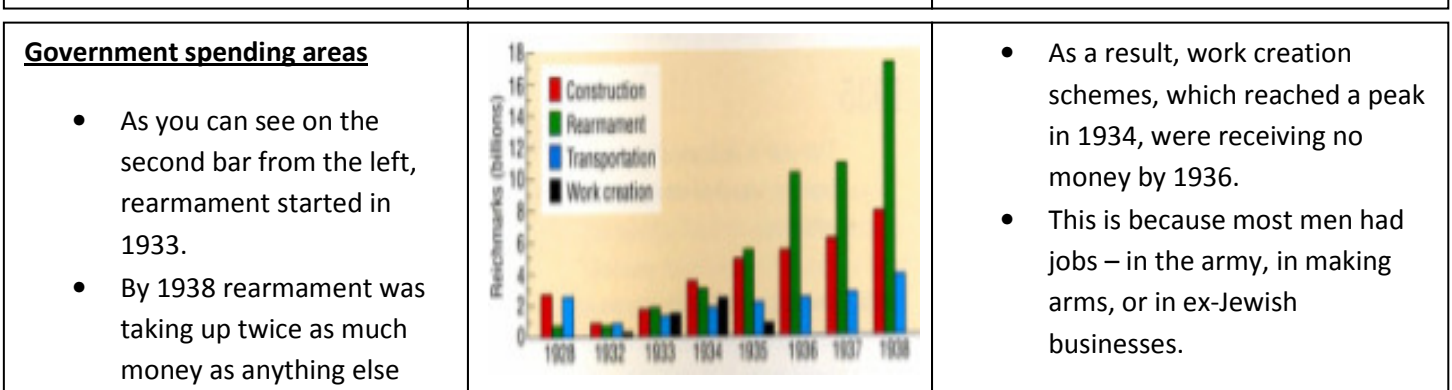
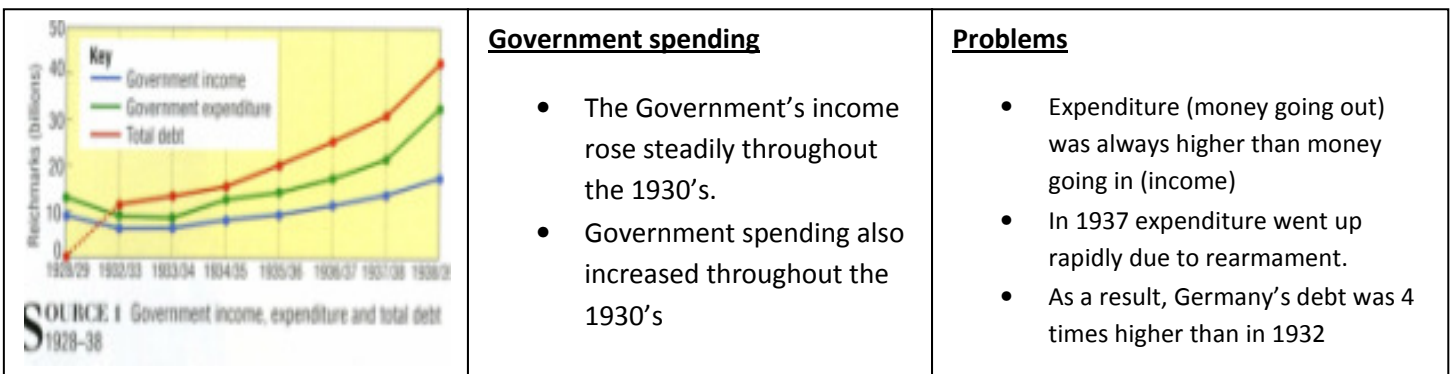
By 1939 Germany was not self sufficient and still needed foreign imports that it wouldn't be able to get in wartime.

Food had to be rationed as the Government spent more money on weapons.

Did the Nazi's achieve an economic miracle?

Firstly, don't feel put off by all the difficult ideas and words to do with the economy – its not important for you to understand economics at an advanced level. What you do need is to be able to explain how far the Nazi's managed to make a success of Germany's money and whether they achieved their aims.

This section will look at the Nazi's successes and failures with the economy. Tradition ideas are that the Nazi's managed to get every German into work, make everyone better off and create a rich country that could afford the latest military equipment. The truth is that this is not entirely the case.

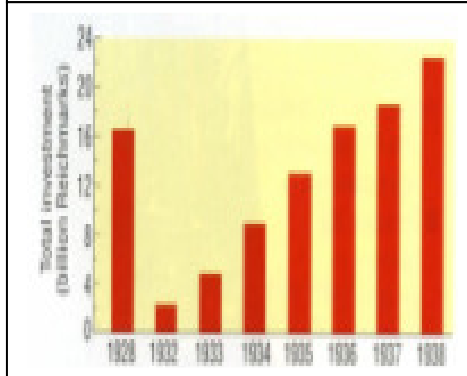
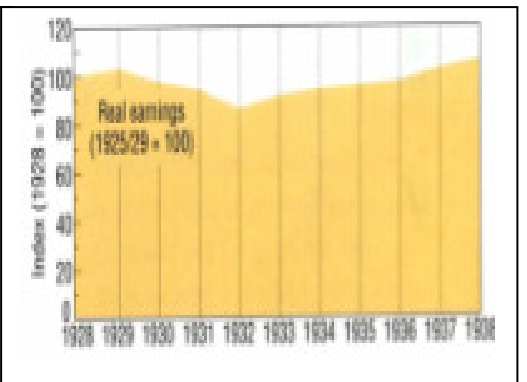


Wages

- Wages had reached an all time low in 1932, the last year of the Weimar Republic
- They increased immediately when Hitler got into power in 1933

Problems

- However, many argue that wages would have started to increase anyway.
- Wage levels in 1938 only managed to reach the level they had been in 1928 before the Wall Street Crash



Investment

- Investment (the Government putting money into industry) was very low in 1932
- Hitler had millions of Reichsmarks invested in industry – 22 million in 1938, much more than 10 years ago

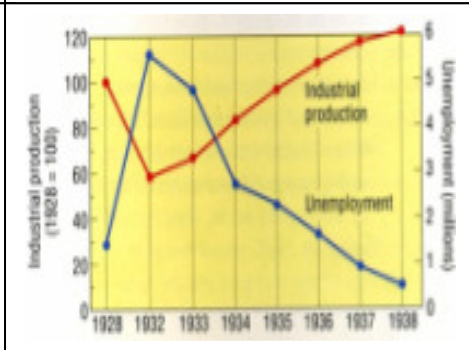
Problems

- As you can see from the income graph earlier, the Nazi's had to borrow a lot of this money.
- You can also see from the other spending areas graph that most investment was in rearming – not building up the country

Industrial Production

This means how much Iron, steel, coal, textiles and other raw materials Germany was making.

As you can see, unemployment fell to almost nothing in 1938, while production at his best level ever.



This link's to the Nazi **investment** – lots of money was being pumped into industry

However, most of this industry was for **rearmaments** – not producing things that Germans could buy.

Unemployment fell because of conscription

General Production

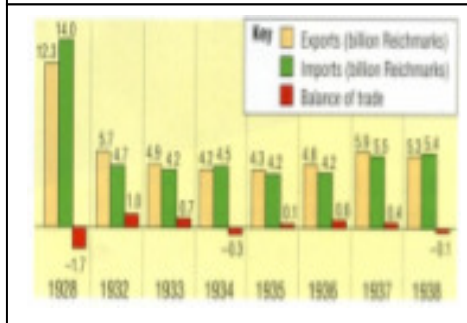
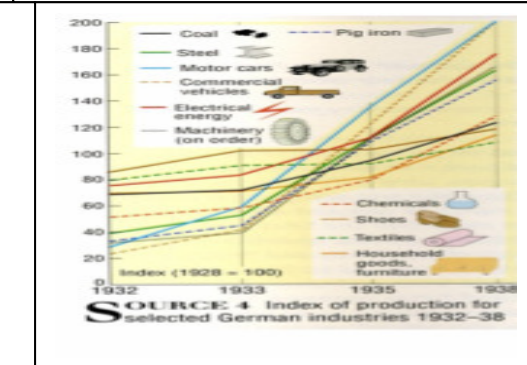
Most industries, such as motor vehicles, chemicals, textiles, coal and machinery had easily overtaken 1928 levels of production by 1934.

Many reached double 1928 levels

Problems

The Nazi's focussed on quite a small sector of industry – producing things that could help with rearmament.

This meant they didn't have any decent goods to sell when they needed the money



Imports and exports.

- The left hand bar is exports – the right bar is imports from other countries.
- By 1935 the Nazi's had managed export more goods that they were importing

Problems

- This did not last. By 1938 Germany was again needing to import more goods from abroad.
- Exports were never even half as good as in 1928

Remember –

The exam will often ask you whether the Nazi's created an economic miracle – you need to give a few examples of them succeeding and failing.

To do this think about their aims – they did manage to get unemployment to nearly zero – but they completely failed to make Germany self sufficient. They succeeded in rearming, but at the expense of other industry.

Economy - Success	Economy - Failure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imports were lower than exports by 1935 • Germany successfully rearmed and was strong enough to conquer Europe by 1939 • Unemployment was reduced to almost zero • Industrial production almost doubled. • Government investment in industry was higher than during the “Golden age” of Weimar. • Wages started to rise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nazis failed to achieve Autarky (self sufficiency) – they still needed materials from abroad. • Decrease in unemployment was mostly because of conscription and forced labour groups. • Investment in industry was centred on rearmament, neglecting more vital things. • Wages were only as good as during the Weimar Republic, while people actually had less food.

Tackling Unemployment

The Nazi’s used four different ideas in order to tackle the issue of unemployment.



Emblem of the DAF

DAF – Deutsche Arbeitsfront

(German workers front)

- Every German worker and employer had to join the DAF
- Any disputes between employees and their workers were settled by the DAF
- Any German who became unemployed was put to work by the DAF, building roads, hospitals, or other public buildings

Strength through Joy – KDF (Kraft Durch Freude)

- Part of Volksgemeinschaft
- The Nazi’s did not want people spending their leisure time outside of Nazi control.
- KDF arranged holidays, day trips, concerts, sports groups, clubs, etc so workers could enjoy Nazi approved leisure time
- Highly successful



Men on RAD duty

RAD – Reich Labour Service

- Basically forced labour service for all German men
- Like National service – all men aged between 18-25 had to do 6 months compulsory state labour
- Building roads, schools, etc
- Unpopular as work was very hard and with low pay

Beauty of Labour

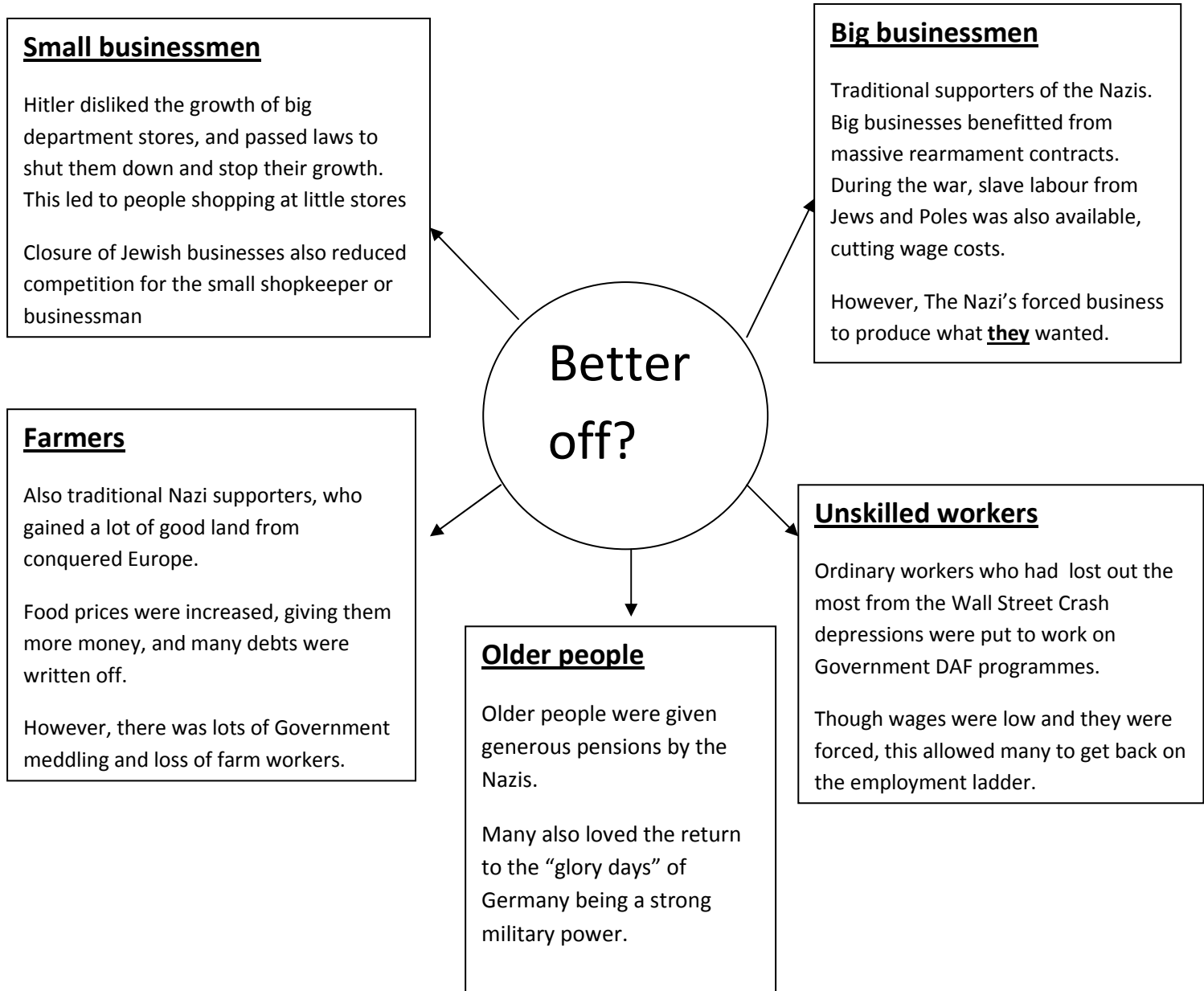
- This organisation was aimed at persuading private employers to give workers better conditions”
- Nazi’s “looking out for the workers”
- They arranged campaigns such as “good ventilation in the workplace” or “hot meals at lunch”



Who was better off under the Nazi's?

An easy question is “who was worse off under the Nazi's?” Straight away you can think of Jews, opponents, women, minorities, non-Germans, and some of the young people.

A harder questions is “who was better off?” Actually, this isn't a hard question at all, and knowing which groups did well out of Hitler and why will stand you in very good stead for the exam.



World War II

Congratulations! You have looked at the Weimar Republic, how Hitler got into power and what life was like in Nazi Germany. All that is left is to have a look at how the lives of Germans were affected by World War II.

This is broken into 4 sections – the lead up to war and destruction of the Treaty of Versailles, the early, successful part of the war, then the period between 1943-44 when the tide was turned, and 1944-45 and defeat.

The Treaty of Versailles 1933-1939

Money - Reparations

Hitler had a simple solution to the huge problem of reparations – he simply stopped paying them.

By 1935 the Nazis stopped paying, and the allies did nothing

Army

Hitler started rearming straight away, but started doing it in public in 1935.

The new air force, the Luftwaffe, was used to help Spanish Fascists in 1936

Land - Rhineland

The Rhineland (next to France) was not supposed to have any German military in it.

The Nazi army marched into it in 1935, and again, the French and British did nothing to stop them

Land - Austria

Anschluss (union) with Austria was forbidden in the TOV. But this Union was vital to Hitler, who was Austrian himself.

The Nazi's marched into Vienna in 1938 and were welcomed as heroes

Land – Saar

The Saar coalfields had been given to France for 15 years.

In 1935, 98% of people living there voted to return to Germany. Nazi's celebrated having so many rich raw materials back



Land – Sudenenland, Czechoslovakia

Hitler invaded an area of Czechoslovakia that he claimed had a lot of Germans. The allies let him and signed an agreement, but months later he invaded the rest of the country that he had no claim to.

Nazi Soviet Pact

Frustrated the Britain would not sign an alliance or peace Treaty with him, Hitler turned the Stalin and Soviet Russia, who he intended to invade later on. They signed a non aggression pact that Hitler had no intention of keeping to.

1939-43 – The Successful war years.

Rationing

- Rationing of food was introduced straight away in Germany, as it was in Britain.
- Because of neglect of the food side of the economy, food available was very boring.
- Extra rations were given to miners and heavy industry workers



Everyday items

- Tobacco – became very hard to find as the British Navy made it hard to import goods
- Hot water available only two days a week.
- Toilet paper was also not available!!!!
- Most nice items went to the families of high Nazi officials

Spoils of war

- Many fine clothes, perfumes and luxury goods were brought in from conquered countries such as France, Poland and Holland
- These could be bought on the black market
- Generally these items went to high Nazi officials



Overall

- Life was generally good.
- There were restrictions and everyday luxuries were hard to find
- Rationing was much tighter than in Britain.
- People didn't moan as they enjoyed all the military victories

1943-44 – The turning of the tide.

In 1941 Hitler ripped up the Nazi Soviet pact and invaded Russia. It went well at first, but the freezing Russian winter halted the Nazi army just outside Moscow. The Russians, who were used to it, fought and pushed the Nazi's back.

In 1942 Germany's ally, Japan, attacked America at Pearl Harbour, bringing the USA into the war. It became obvious that the war was no longer going Germany's way



Propaganda

- Goebbels put out a huge amount of propaganda posters and films to raise moral.
- Extra food rations were given at Christmas 1942 to improve morale
- People were urged to contribute by saving fuel, food and clothing

Total war

This meant that anything not essential to the war effort was ended.

- In 1943 all professional sport was ended
- Non-war magazines were closed
- Non essential businesses, such as sweet shops also closed.
- Hairdye was banned, as were most hairdressers
- Nazi's stopped making non army clothing in 1943, meaning women had to make clothes or swap with other families.

Labour Shortage

Most men were in the armed forces. As things went wrong, even men in reserved occupations were being sent to war.

Women had to be drafted into the workforce more and more.

The slave labour from Jews and minorities in the death camps also became vital.



However, propaganda and cinemas still received a lot of money. One propaganda film cost 8.5 million marks. These films were designed to make Germans believe in Victory

Air Raids

By 1941 Britain was strong enough to begin bombing Germany.

In 1942 the American's entered the war with their massive air force.

Air raids became very regular and intense – by 1945 cities such as Cologne and Hamburg were little more than rubble

Most doctors went into the army – there was only one doctor for every 10,000 people.



Cologne in 1945 after Allied bombing raids.

1944-1945 – Downfall

By 1944 the war was going very badly. On June the 6th, The British and American forces landed on the beaches of France and began to liberate Europe. This was known as “D-Day”.

By early 1945, The British and American's began to invade Germany from the West, while the Russians were pushing through Poland towards Berlin. Germany awaited its downfall.

Desperate Measures

Goebbels tried for one last effort to survive

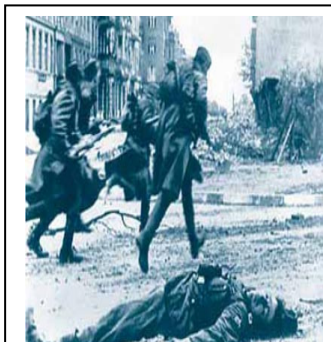
- All postal services and railways were closed to save resources.
- All forms of entertainment (except cinemas of course) were closed.
- Women were forced to work at fifty
- The home guard was formed, mainly from Hitler Youth and the elderly.

Bombing intensifies

- 150,000 people were killed in just two nights in Dresden by allied carpet bombing.
- Most defences were in ruins, allowing the allies to bomb in the day when they could see their targets.
- Thousands of Germans who had gone to live in conquered countries had to flee back to Germany as the allies re-took them.

Collapse

- The Nazi government could not cope with the destruction.
- Hitler became increasingly erratic
- Ration cards could no longer be honoured – people could only get things on the black market or by scavenging



Soviet Soldiers in Berlin

The July Bomb Plot, 1944.

- A group of army generals led by Count Von Stauffenberg felt that Hitler's leadership was disastrous for the war effort.
- They launched operation Valkyrie, which was to put two bombs in his briefcase.
- They decide to do it at a conference in Rastenburg
- Von Stauffenberg put the briefcase under Hitler's table, then made his excuses and left.
- The bomb went off, but Hitler survived, his hair singed and leg burned.
- The plotters don't take their chance to rebel, and Hitler has 5000 opponents murdered.



Surrender

- The Russians entered Berlin from the East at the end of April. The meagre defences were obliterated.
- Hitler married his girlfriend, Eva Braun, and then they both committed suicide. Goebbles did the same and the bodies were burned.
- The Nazi's briefly carried on, but surrendered on May 5th.
- Until the Americans got there, Berliners were at the mercy of angry Russian soldiers.

Remember – it is important for you to think about the impact of the war on the Nazi's policies and how much it caused them to lose the support and loyalty of the people.

Possible exam questions on these topics

Minorities

Explain why Kristallnacht happened (7)

Explain why the Nazi regime persecuted Jews in the 1930's (7)

Women and Youth

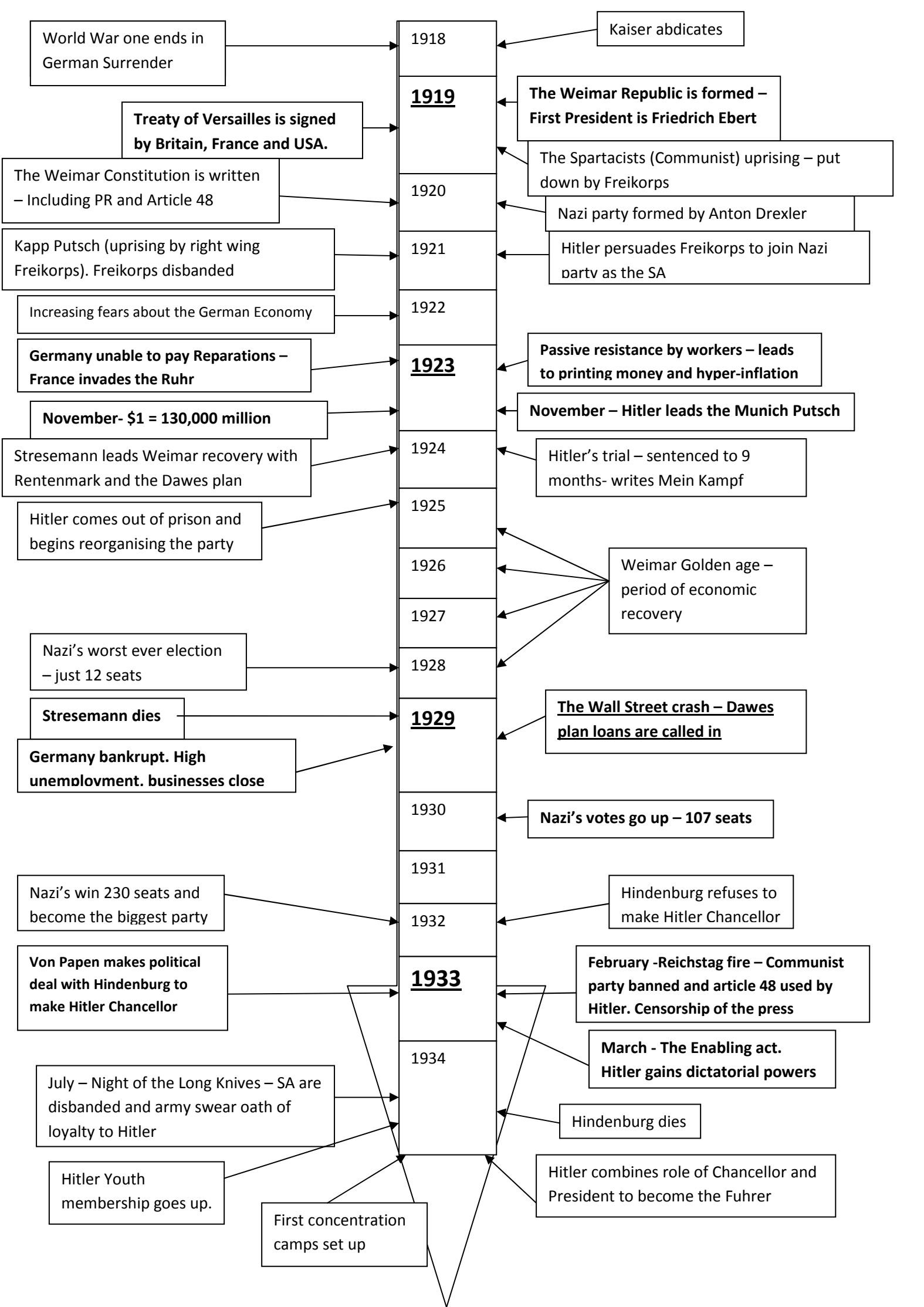
- Briefly describe the activities of the Hitler Youth (5)
- What were the attitudes of the Nazi regime to women (5)
- How successful were Nazi policies towards young people? (7)
- Explain how the Nazi's used the Hitler Youth to win the loyalty of Young people (7)
- How successful was the Nazi regime in winning the loyalty and support of Young people? (8)
- Were German women better or worse off? Explain your answer (8)

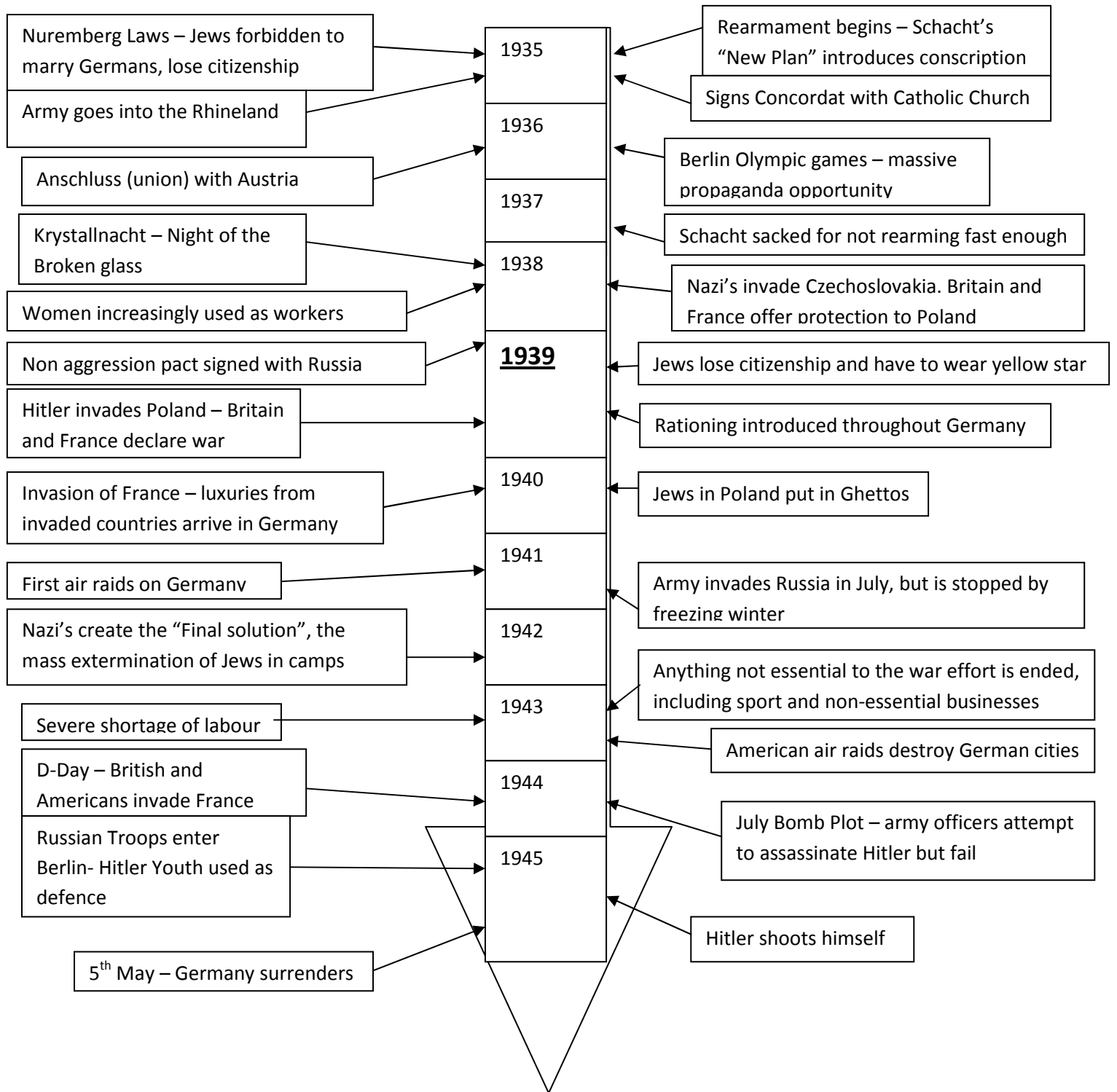
Propaganda and control

- How did the SS and Gestapo help to keep the Nazis in power? (5)
- Briefly describe the different methods of propaganda used by the Nazis (5)
- Explain how the Nazi's used mass media to win support of the German people (5)
- Which was more important in making ordinary Germans accept the Nazis in the 1930's – economic policies or fear of the Gestapo and SS? Explain your answer (8)
- Did the Second World War make it easier or harder for the Nazi's to keep control of Germany? Explain your answer using your own knowledge

General

- Why were the Nazi's accepted by so many groups in the 1930's? (7)
- How far were the German people better off in the 1930's? Explain your answer (7)





The 9's and 3's

Remember that the most important years are the ones that end in a 9 or a 3 – 1919, 1923, 1929, 1933, 1939. You need to know about these 5 dates and why they were important

Paper 2

Paper two is a source based paper lasting 1hr 30mins. Your teacher will have told you what topic it is on, but it is usually medicine.

The point of this paper is to test your skills in using sources to answer questions and find out about the past. Big themes of the paper are comparing sources, explaining how they are different, explaining whether a source is useful and explaining which sources are more reliable.

Here is a breakdown of rough timings for questions:

6 marks – 5-6 minutes

8 marks – 10-12 minutes

10 marks 12-15 minutes

12 marks 15-20 minutes

Types of Question

1. What can we find out?

This is usually a lower mark question for 5-6 marks. You are given a source and asked to explain what it shows you about the topic or the time.

Aim for 3 explained points about what it shows, backed up by evidence from the source.

2. Is this source useful/not useful?

This type of question is usually an 8 or 10 marker. You are being asked whether a source is useful a source is to a historian studying the time. Look at ways it is useful and not useful, then conclude.

3 points with evidence for useful, 3 explained points why its not useful, then a conclusion with evidence.

3. Comparing sources – agreeing/disagreeing

Again, usually an 8-10 marker. You are presented with 2-3 sources and have to explain how far they agree or disagree with each other. Make sure you explain ways that the sources agree **and** disagree, and give some reasons **why** they might disagree

4. Comparing sources – usefulness

This can often be a 10 mark question. You have to look at both sources, explain how each one is useful to a historian and how it is not useful, then write a conclusion where you explain which is the more useful source and why. Make sure you stick to the question, and you will usually gain extra marks for explaining which source is more reliable.

5. Does the source support this view?

Very common 8 mark question – you are given a statement and have to explain how far the source supports it. 3 explained points on how the source does support it, 3 explained points on how it doesn't, then a conclusion where you explain how far the source supports the statement

6. Why was this source made?

Often an 8-10 marker. You are given a source and have to use your own knowledge to explain why that source would have been created at the time and what its purpose is. Your this question you **must** use your own knowledge, eg something that isn't on the paper

7. Do all the sources support this view?

This is always your final 12 mark question. You are given a statement, and have to use all the sources to explain how far they agree or disagree with it.

Literally go through every source, explaining how each one agrees or disagrees with the source and give evidence – then write your conclusion and justify it.

Remember – you will get the final two marks if you discuss the reliability of the sources.

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