

# Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

## History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1G: Germany and West Germany, 1918–89

Wednesday 18 May 2016 – Afternoon

Paper Reference

**Extracts Booklet**

**8HI0/1G**

**Do not return this booklet with the question paper.**

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### Extracts for use with Section C.

**Extract 1:** From Stephen J. Lee, *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, published 1998.

Hitler was above all an opportunist. The sequence of events which led to war played into Hitler's hands. Hitler was given his opportunity to remilitarise the Rhineland by the diversion of Britain and France against Italian aggression in Abyssinia the year before. He was able to take Austria with so little effort because Mussolini, who had originally opposed German schemes there, was now concentrating on an expanded overseas empire. The Sudetenland went Hitler's way because of Chamberlain's strong determination to avoid a European conflict which the lessons of the Spanish Civil War seemed to suggest might happen all too easily. The outbreak of war in 1939 was not the deliberate escalation of policy but rather Hitler's misreading of the Anglo-French guarantee made to Poland in March. Therefore war broke out because of the miscalculations of others, rather than it being the plan of a determined and evil genius.

**Extract 2:** From Ian Kershaw, *Hitler: Nemesis 1936–1945*, published 2001.

By 1939 Hitler constantly felt under pressure to act so that the military advantage would not swing to Britain. This strong driving force in Hitler's mentality was compounded by other strands of his extraordinary psychological make-up. Hitler thought of himself as a military genius, who having secured Austria and Czechoslovakia, would be able to take the next step in bringing about German greatness. This led him to a disastrous over-estimation of his own abilities. This was made worse by his extreme contempt for others – particularly in the military – who argued more rationally for greater caution. In the Polish crisis of August 1939, not just external circumstances, but also his personal psyche pushed him forwards, and made him risk everything. Hitler's dismay on 3 September at hearing of the British ultimatum [to declare war if Hitler refused to retreat from Poland] quickly gave way to optimism. There was no going back.

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