

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Wednesday 16 May 2018 – Afternoon

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1G

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Ian Kershaw, *Hitler: Nemesis 1936–45*, published 2001.

The British government and their French allies had helped Hitler to gain a unique power-base. Now his actions could determine the fate of Europe.

Hitler's combination of bullying and blackmail could not have worked but for the weaknesses of the post-First World War settlement. The Treaty of Versailles gave Hitler the means to blackmail European statesmen. The western governments, although Britain more than France, did everything possible to avoid a new war. Their diplomats were no match for the techniques of lying and threatening used by Hitler. They went out of their way to appease him, but he simply increased his demands, as blackmailers do. By the time the western powers realised what they were up against, they were no longer in any position to bring the 'mad dog' to heel. 5 10

Extract 2: From Klaus Fischer, *Nazi Germany*, published 1996.

Hitler's foreign policy was based on rigid racial and expansionist ideas. Hitler's preferred method was the use of ruthless terror on behalf of evil policies of race supremacy, the subjugation and domination of inferior 'breeds', and the conquest of 'living space'. He believed that the Aryan race had evolved to the top of the biological and cultural order, and was destined to conquer the world under German leadership. In Hitler's mind the concept of race was intimately linked to that of space. This required the availability of land. He warned that the German people were doomed to slavery if they limited themselves to the national borders of 1914. It is perfectly legitimate to speak of a basic continuity in German foreign policy between 1890 and 1933, but Hitler ended it. 15 20

For Hitler war was not a last resort of foreign policy; it was a preferred means of achieving Germany's ends. Reliance on war meant Hitler's opponents were expected to give in completely.

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