

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Sample assessment materials for first teaching
September 2015

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1G

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Gordon A Craig, *Germany 1866–1945*, published 1992.

The basic principles of foreign policy were formulated in *Mein Kampf** – a dynamic policy was the only possible one for a country in Germany's position. The acquisition of new living space in Eastern Europe was essential to the future of the German race and must motivate German policy. Such a course involved a high risk of war, particularly with France, and must be accepted and prepared for. These were things that Hitler took very seriously indeed. That they were not merely a jumble of idle thoughts was shown by the fact that in 1928 Hitler wrote another book, which was never released to the public and was not discovered until after the Second World War, in which he repeated them, somewhat more concisely and categorically.

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**Mein Kampf* – published 1925–26

Extract 2: From Donald Cameron Watt, *How War Came*, published 2001.

Many historians believe that Hitler, filled with a vision of German dominance of the world, took successive steps which unfolded in a long-developed programme, which he set in action once he had achieved power. However, there is nothing in Hitler's previous record to show that he was capable of so long and sustained an effort of foresight and planning. Nor, despite the popularly-held beliefs to the contrary, is there anything in his one published work, *Mein Kampf*, which can be identified as a programme to which his later actions were to conform. *Mein Kampf* is an explanation of Hitler's political ideas and methodologies, not a programme in any meaningful sense of the word, and still less a 'blueprint' for aggression. Such programmatic elements as can be found in Hitler's foreign policy after 1933 were imposed upon him by external factors, not his own internal vision.

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Acknowledgements

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