

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

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

9HI0/1G

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Mary Fulbrook, *A History of Germany 1918–2008*, published 2009.

On the foreign policy front, desires for the revision of the Treaty of Versailles were widespread among the Germans. Already in the closing years of the Weimar Republic, after the death of Stresemann, more forceful tones had been evident in German foreign policy. These revisionist tendencies were unleashed with vigour by Hitler.

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In 1939, Hitler turned his attention to Poland and the Baltic states. Lithuania handed over the port of Memel to Germany, but the Poles stood firm on Danzig. At this point, the British took a stronger stand, issuing a guarantee of Polish independence. Hitler chose not to take too much notice of this. In a surprise move Hitler concluded a pact with his ideological arch-enemy, the communist leader Joseph Stalin. In a further agreement in September, Hitler and Stalin carved up the Polish and Baltic states to achieve strategic aims. On 1 September 1939, German troops used the pretext of incited border incidents for a well-organised invasion of Poland.

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Extract 2: From William Carr, *A History of Germany 1815–1985*, 3rd edition published 1987.

Hitler intended in the case of Poland to eliminate what he regarded as a potential threat in Germany's rear. War [with Poland] was not at first in his mind. Strenuous efforts were made in the winter of 1938-39 to win the Poles over as junior partners by dangling before them the prospect of territorial gains in the Ukraine. Though attracted by the offer, the Polish Foreign Minister dared not contemplate a pact with Germany for fear of Russia. By the end of March Hitler was already moving round to the view that Poland must be crushed by force.

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On 22 August, while the negotiations were still proceeding, he told his senior army commanders that the chances of British and French intervention were now slight and in any case they could not help Poland if they did intervene. Whatever happened, the moment had arrived for Germany to strike while her chances of success were greater than they would be in two or three years' time. On 29 August, Hitler offered to negotiate with the Poles but this was not a serious proposal. In fact the Poles refused the offer and began to mobilise. In the early hours of 1 September 1939, the attack on Poland began.

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Acknowledgements

Extract 1 is from Mary Fulbrook, *A History of Germany 1918–2008: The Divided Nation*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2008. © 2009 Wiley-Blackwell; Extract 2 is from William Carr, *A History of Germany 1815–1990 (3rd Edition)*, Hodder Arnold 1987.

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