

WJEC GCSE History

Sample responses

Unit 2 – Studies in Depth - History with a European / world focus

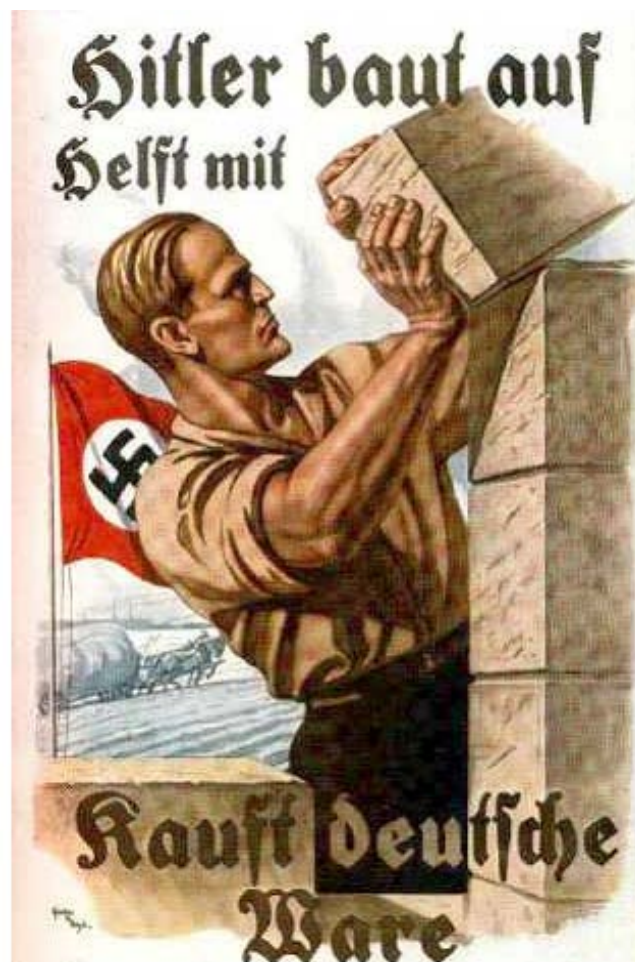
2C: GERMANY IN TRANSITION, 1919-1939

QUESTION 3

This question is about the Nazi use of terror and persuasion.

Study the source below and then answer the question which follows.

Source B



[A Nazi poster from the mid-1930s. The caption says *Hitler is building. Help him. Buy German goods.*]

What was the purpose of Source B?

[8]

[Use details from Source B and your own knowledge and understanding of the historical context to answer the question.]

Candidate A

Source B is a Nazi poster from the mid 1930s. The poster shows a man working and building. The purpose of the poster is to show Germans that Hitler is helping Germany to recover. It is asking Germans to help Hitler by buying German goods so that German companies will succeed. The poster is trying to make Hitler and the Nazis look good and strong with the Nazi flag in the background. The man in the poster is meant to look like a good, strong and healthy German, building for the future.

Analysis

- The purpose of the source has been addressed and some evaluation of the content has taken place.
- The response reaches Band 2 AO3 due its focus upon the imagery and language used.
- However, the historical context has not been established.
- Greater discussion of the attribution and audience is needed; the focus is almost totally upon the imagery used.

AO1: Band 1 - Demonstrates basic understanding of the historical context.

AO3: Band 2 – The purpose of the source is partially analysed and evaluated. A judgement regarding purpose is reached.

AO1 – 1/4

AO3 – 2/4

Total - 3/8

Candidate B

The purpose of Source B is clearly to promote Hitler and the Nazis. It is a piece of propaganda showing Germans that Hitler was responsible for the economic growth seen in the mid 1930s. It is an appeal to Germans, to help Hitler rebuild Germany. The poster has been produced to encourage Germans to buy German goods and therefore further develop the German economy. The image of the man working in the poster clearly stands out from the background and conforms to the Nazi ideal of the Aryan worker, healthy, industrious and hard working.

The poster was produced at a time when Hitler had introduced a series of measures aimed at rebuilding the German economy following the depression of the early 30s. Public work schemes run by the RAD had built autobahns, and the poster suggests how Germans had been building again due to the Nazi policies. There is an image of farming in the background, suggesting the importance of the land and farming to Germany and the Nazis. This was a period of recovery in Germany, and the Nazis are taking credit for the success of their policies. While the poster appeals to Germans to buy German goods, it also contains a message to Germans that the reason for the recovery is due to Hitler and the Nazis.

Analysis

- A good analysis of the content of the source has been undertaken.
- This includes appropriate references to the language and imagery used.
- A substantiated judgement has been reached regarding the purpose of the source.
- The candidate has also displayed understanding of the historical context.
- References to the audience reflect the historical context as well as an understanding of how the source and therefore the poster fits into this period of history.

AO1: Band 3 – Demonstrates very detailed understanding of the historical context.

AO3: Band 3 – The purpose of the source is fully analysed and evaluated. A substantiated judgement regarding purpose is reached.

AO1 - 4/4

AO3 - 4/4

Total - 8/8

QUESTION 4

This question is about the recovery of Weimar.

Study the sources below and then answer the question that follows.

Source C

Three million people lack work. The government work to conceal the misery. They speak of silver linings. Things are getting better for them and worse for us. Only the complete collapse of our people can follow from these irresponsible policies.

[Joseph Goebbels, a member of the Nazi Party, writing in a pamphlet called *We Demand*, published in 1927]

Source D

The economic position is only flourishing on the surface. Germany is in fact dancing on a volcano. If the short-term loans are called in by America, a large section of our economy would collapse.

[Gustav Stresemann, the German Foreign Minister, in a speech given to the League of Nations (September 1929)]

Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the economy of the Weimar Republic? [12]

[You should refer to both sources in your answer and use your knowledge and understanding of the historical context.]

Candidate A

Source C is useful to an historian because it says that three million people didn't have work. It says that the government are hiding the misery of Germans. It says that the German people will collapse because of the irresponsible policies followed by the government. It was written by a member of the Nazi Party Joseph Goebbels and is therefore very biased.

Source D shows the opinion of Gustav Stresemann who says that Germany is only flourishing on the surface. He says that Germany is dancing on a volcano and there would be economic collapse if America called in its loans. This is useful because it shows an opinion from the German Foreign Minister. Both sources are therefore useful to an historian.

Analysis

- The candidate has mainly paraphrased the source material.
- Little understanding of the key feature has been demonstrated.
- The answer begins to address the issue of utility mainly through the content and authorship, but development of the historical context is not there.
- The judgement is very generalised and unsubstantiated, but just reaches low Band 2 AO3.

AO1: Band 1 – Limited understanding of the key feature in the question.

AO3: Band 2 – Begins to analyse and evaluate the usefulness of the source material. Limited analysis of the content and authorship. Unsubstantiated judgement.

AO1 – 1/6

AO3 – 3/6

Total - 4/12

Candidate B

Both sources are very useful to an historian studying the economy of the Weimar Republic. Source C clearly shows the author thought that there were problems with the Weimar economy. It refers to the mass unemployment in Germany at the time, and that the government was trying to conceal the truth. Goebbels states that only the complete collapse of Germany can follow from these irresponsible policies. This is partially supported by the over reliance on foreign loans and the economic collapse that was to follow the Wall Street Crash in 1929. This source is very useful as it was written by Goebbels, a leading Nazi and the man responsible for Nazi propaganda. This makes the source very biased as it was written in a pamphlet trying to persuade people to follow the Nazis. It does however reflect the despair felt by many Germans at the time.

Source D is also very useful because it reflects the views of Gustav Stresemann, the foreign minister. It says that the German economy was dancing on a volcano, over reliant on foreign loans due to the Dawes Plan. Stresemann clearly states that there would be an economic collapse if the USA was to call in its foreign loans. This is exactly what happened and was a key reason for the Depression that was to follow in Germany in the 1930s. This source is very useful as it is from Stresemann. He was a former Chancellor and was a key player in the partial economic recovery in the late 1920s. His speech is aimed at the League of Nations and can be seen as a warning of things to come.

Although both sources are useful, I think source D is more useful as it reflects the view of Stresemann. Source C is biased and the view of Goebbels, a Nazi. It does however show the problems faced by Germany even during the late 1920s, when there was a recovery in the German economy.

Analysis

- The candidate has addressed the main issue in the question by evaluating both sources in their historical context.
- Full understanding of the key feature has been demonstrated.
- The historical context has been established to good effect, with understanding shown of the Weimar economy. There could however be room to develop the key feature in the question.
- A fully substantiated judgement has been reached.

AO1: *Band 3 – Demonstrates detailed understanding of the key feature in the question.*

AO3: *Band 3 – Relative usefulness evaluated; content and authorship of both sources have been analysed to produce a clear and reasonably well substantiated judgement; appropriate historical context established.*

AO1: 6/6

AO3: 6/6

Total 12/12