

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

- 1** Was popular support for Hitler the main reason for the lack of effective opposition to the Nazi regime in the years 1933–45?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

- 2** Were improved living standards the main consequence of German economic policies in the years 1933–45?

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)



SECTION A

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

20secA

Chosen question number:

Question 1 ☒

Question 2 ☒

I disagree that popular support for Hitler was the main reason for lack of opposition to the Nazis. One of the reasons for this is because the repression of opponents was key to preventing any opposition movement from gaining strength, and although Hitler's strong economic policies did gain him popularity, which helped the Nazi cause, it had not taken him long to consolidate his dictatorship and his stranglehold on the ruling of Germany.

Repression was key to the survival of the regime. Two groups that were especially important were the Gestapo and the SS, ^{led} by Heinrich Himmler. The Gestapo did not wear uniform and were the Nazi's secret police force. They would ~~the~~ attempt to seek out opponents of the state who were quieter in their opinions, and this was possible because ordinary members of the public could be Gestapo officers, because no-one knew who they were, because of a lack of uniform. The public knew about this, and the vast majority of them did not speak against Hitler, perhaps a fear of their ~~neighbours~~



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(Section A continued) neighbour potentially being an officer. The Nazis therefore caused a sense of distrust ~~in~~ within the public for one another, making alliances ^{against them} difficult.

If ~~members of the public were~~ people were caught, the likelihood is that they were sent to one of the numerous concentration camps run by the SS. 500000 political prisoners were sent to these camps throughout the length of the regime, where many would then die. This brutal punishment was a strong deterrent to speaking against the Nazis; again, it created a sense of fear within the population.

Hitler, did, however, have some popular support in his time as Führer. The slogan 'One People, One Nation, One Leader' was spread as propaganda, by one of his most loyal ~~colleagues~~ colleagues, Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda. This office did a huge amount to ~~present~~ spread good news about the Nazis to the public, and took inspiration from Italy and Mussolini's 'cult of Il Duce' to promote Hitler as a truly great leader, and the 'saviour of Germany'. However, the Nazis' main selling point to the population in the 1933 election, where they gained a majority, was the promise to fix the economy after ^{the} disaster of the 1929 Wall Street crash. From a peak of over 2.5 million unemployed in 1932, the Nazis halved this during the first 4 years of their power. Other policies such as



(Section A continued) agriculture helped too. The minister of this office, Richard Darré, forced German farmers into regulations over which crops to produce, to fuel the German economy, because less imports were needed. They were fined 10000 RM for failing to comply, so many did, and it made 80% of all produce being German by 1937. The drive towards war and the Four-Year Plan helped give the economy a real drive behind it, due to the production of new materials like Buna and synthetic oil. All helped the economy recover very well, and this led to popular support from the public towards Hitler.

Despite this, there were clear obstacles if people did want to oppose Hitler. In February 1933, Hitler persuaded the then-President Hindenburg to pass the Decree for the Protection of the People and the State, which gave Hitler emergency powers to rule by decree for a short time, and crucially, to arrest opponents of the state. After the Reichstag fire, the blamed KPD was banned, and then in March, the Enabling Act was passed, which meant that all political parties were banned. It was then tricky to restart movements due to the Gestapo seeking out opponents. Certainly, these rules ruled out diplomacy as a method of gaining power, and alliances were now near impossible to have. A small group of people voicing their opinions did not match up well to the



(Section A continued) permitted SS's 1 million soldiers, so force was now almost impossible as a means of gaining power. Many therefore saw opposition as pointless and dangerous.

In conclusion, the main reason was not Hitler's popularity, but rather the repression constitution and repression, ^{particularly} that led to the retention of power. The Gestapo and the SS were a lethal partnership that were ruthless in picking opponents out, and punishing them, which deterred others from following.

