

Paper Reference(s) 9HI0/1G
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

Extracts Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET WITH
THE QUESTION PAPER.**

Extracts for use with Section C.

EXTRACT 1: From Richard J Evans, *The Third Reich in Power*, published 2005.

War had been the objective of the Third Reich and its leaders from the moment they came to power in 1933. From that point, up to the actual outbreak of hostilities in September 1939, they had focussed relentlessly on preparing for a conflict that they hoped would bring European, and eventually world, domination for Germany.

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Germany's destiny was linked in the minds of Hitler and the leading Nazis to conflict and war. Aryan racial theory, the pseudo-science that underlay so much of Hitler's thinking, envisioned a world in which nations and races were engaged in a perpetual struggle for survival.

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Thus, there was an urgent need, as Hitler saw it, to make Germany and the Germans fit for combat. As war drew closer, above all from late 1937 onwards, the radicalism and ruthlessness of the regime grew with it. The thoroughness and ruthlessness of the Nazi attempt to remould Germany and Germans were without parallel.

15**20**

The war launched against Poland on 1 September 1939 was a war of racial conquest, subjugation and extermination.

EXTRACT 2: From AJP Taylor, *The Origins of the Second World War*, published 1964.

Little can be discovered about why war broke out
 in September 1939 as long as we go on attributing
 to Hitler everything that happened. He supplied
 a powerful dynamic element, but he was only
 contributing to a process that was already underway. 5
 Hitler was in part the creation of Versailles, in part the
 creation of ideas that were common in contemporary
 Europe. Most of all he was the creation of German
 history and of the Germany that he lived in and felt
 part of. He would have counted for nothing without the 10
 support and cooperation of the German people. Hitler
 was, to a large extent, articulating the feelings of the
 German people.

As supreme ruler of Germany, Hitler bears the greatest
 responsibility for starting the Second World War. 15
 However, Hitler's foreign policy was not remarkably
 different from the other powers in Europe. True,
 he aimed to make Germany the dominant power in
 Europe, and perhaps, in the world, but other powers
 pursued similar aims. It was the threat of German 20
 expansion that made Britain and France oppose Hitler.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Extract 1 from: The Third Reich in Power, 1933–1939:
How the Nazis Won Over the Hearts and Minds of a Nation
by Richard J. Evans © Penguin, 2012**

**Extract 2 from: The Origins of the Second World War by
Professor A J P Taylor © Penguin Books, 1991**