

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**

Thursday 23 May 2024 – Morning

Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

Extracts Booklet

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

Contents

Page

3–4 Extract 1

5–6 Extract 2

Extracts for use with Section C.

EXTRACT 1: From Gerhard L. Weinberg, *The Nazi-Soviet Pacts: A Half-Century Later*, published 1989.

Hitler did not invade Poland as part of a well-thought-out plan, his strategy evolved.

Hitler's primary method for gaining influence over Poland was to get them to join the Anti-Comintern Pact. The leaders of Poland were strongly anti-Communist but they did not want to surrender Poland's independence. When the Poles refused to submit to Hitler's demands, he then decided that a war against Poland was necessary.

Hitler now required an opportunistic change in Germany's relationship with the Soviet Union. Working with the Soviets to partition Poland appeared to offer Germany a number of advantages. It would isolate Poland for a quick attack,

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

Extract 1 continued.

and might deter Britain and France from coming to Poland's aid.

20

The prospect of an alliance with Stalin looked even more attractive to Hitler at a time when he could not persuade Italy to join him in fighting a war. Hitler believed that a quick and decisive war on the west would allow him to make war on Russia later. The German military leaders were very keen on war against Poland and then a one-front war on the west.

25

**EXTRACT 2: From Milan Hauner,
Did Hitler want a World Dominion?,
published 1978.**

**During the first stage of his plan Hitler 30
wanted Germany to achieve domination
of the European continent. The enlarged
Third Reich, which would emerge in
defiance of the Treaty of Versailles, was
to be called the Greater German Reich 35
and it was to last for a thousand years.
German-speaking groups were to be
brought together and lost territories,
mostly in Poland, recovered.**

**Additionally, Poland, once subdued, 40
would give Hitler's armed forces an
important land base from which to
attack Russia. This explains why Hitler's
acceptance of the Anglo-German Naval
Treaty of 1935 occurred. He did not 45
envisage using the fleet during the initial
stages of his aggressive moves on
the Continent.**

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Turn over

Extract 2 continued.

**Anschluss with Austria was the first act
of direct Nazi aggression. Hitler, who was 50
convinced that Britain and France would
remain passive, was then ready to risk
a limited war against Czechoslovakia
as early as Autumn 1938. When the
Sudetenland was taken without war, the 55
rest of Czechoslovakia swiftly followed.**

**In September 1939 the invasion of Poland
completed the first stage of Hitler's plan.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

EXTRACT 1 FROM: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/1989-09-01/nazi-soviet-pacts-half-century-later>

EXTRACT 2 FROM: Did Hitler Want a World Dominion?, By Milan Hauner, © Journal of Contemporary History, 1978.