



GCSE History

Teaching and assessing interpretations

Germany 2024 exam paper – interpretations

Interpretation 1: From *The Third Reich, A New History* by M Burleigh, published in 2000.

Goebbels, as Minister of Propaganda, aimed to spread Nazi ideas in a variety of subtle ways in daily life. For example, photographs in magazines showed the Führer laughing on the telephone or admiring cars on display at the Automobile Show. Radio broadcasts created an emotional tone, using fanfares and warlike music.

Mass rallies, such as those at Nuremberg, were a combination of popular celebration, military parade, political meeting and sacred ceremony. These rallies were spectacular, themed events, reflecting how the Nazi regime wished to see itself.

Interpretation 2: From *Coercion and Consent in Nazi Germany*, an article by R Evans, published in 2007.

The main technique used to create terror was the use of the law. It was against the law to belong to any political group apart from the Nazi Party. It was also illegal to tell jokes about Hitler and illegal to spread rumours about the Nazi government.

The police had the legal power to open people's letters and listen to phone calls. The police could also imprison people without trial. For example, in 1933, 100 000 people were imprisoned without a trial. New laws were passed to extend the use of the death penalty.



Question 3b – how interpretations differ

Question		
3 (b)		Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about Nazi methods of controlling the German people in the years 1933-39. What is the main difference between these views? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations. Target: Analysis of interpretations (how they differ). A04: 4 marks.
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited analysis of the interpretations is shown by the extraction or paraphrase of some content, but differences of surface detail only are given, or a difference of view is asserted without direct support.
2	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The interpretations are analysed and a key difference of view is identified and supported from them.
Marking instructions Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance (page 3).		
Indicative content guidance Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and other relevant material not suggested below must also be credited. <ul style="list-style-type: none">A main difference is that Interpretation 1 suggests the Nazis were able to control Germany through propaganda, which ensured that Nazi ideas were spread to the people. Interpretation 2, on the other hand, emphasises the Nazi creation of a police state, using the law to control people's behaviour.		

Exemplar answer 1

Interpretation 1 was mainly focusing on how Hitler spread his words and ideas in a ^{subtly} ~~strongly~~ way. However for example the highlighted quotation "Radio broadcasts created an emotional tone." this is using propaganda to get people to agree with Hitler and the Nazis. However, Interpretation 2 focused on mainly violence and the consequences if anybody talked bad upon Hitler and the Nazis "109,000 people imprisoned without trial" this is using interrogation and violence through law to get people to ~~g~~ like Hitler and the Nazis.



Question 3c – why interpretations differ

Question		
3 (c)		<p>Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about Nazi methods of controlling the German people in the years 1933-39. You may use Sources B and C to help explain your answer.</p> <p>Target: Analysis of interpretations (why they differ). A04: 4 marks.</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A simple valid explanation is offered but displaying only limited analysis. Support for the explanation is based on simple undeveloped comment or on the selection of details from the provided material or own knowledge, with only implied linkage to the explanation.
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An explanation of a reason for difference is given, analysing the interpretations. The explanation is substantiated effectively.
Marking instructions <p>Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance (page 3).</p> <p>Indicative content guidance</p> <p>Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive. The examples below show different approaches to explaining difference, any one of which may be valid. Other valid material must be credited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The interpretations may differ because the authors may have given weight to different sources. For example, Source C illustrates the use of the radio to convey messages, which provides some support for Interpretation 1 about various propaganda techniques used by Goebbels, while Source B gives some details about the systematic use of surveillance by the Nazi Party to control all aspects of people's behaviour and provides some support for Interpretation 2, which emphasises the use of the legal system to investigate and control people's behaviour.The interpretations may differ because the authors emphasise different techniques used to control the German people – Interpretation 1 focuses on the use of propaganda to persuade people to conform while Interpretation 2 emphasises the development of the police state to monitor behaviour and force people to obey.They may differ because the authors have a different approach to explaining Nazi policies – Interpretation 1 is suggesting Nazi control was done in a positive way, implying people were willing to conform to Nazi ideas, whereas Interpretation 2 is suggesting people were controlled in a negative way, through the state's legal powers and coercion.		



Exemplar answer 2

This is because people have different opinions on certain things that happen causing there to be two writings about the same objective but different views. This is also because interpretation 1 matches with source C, while interpretation 2 matches with source B, therefore the writers have different reference materials.

Exemplar answer 3

One reason interpretations 1 and 2 differ is because the historians have given weight to different sources. Interpretation 1 focusses on Nazi use of propaganda: 'photographs in magazines... radio broadcasts... mass rallies'. This means that the historian may have used a source like source ^C which also focusses on the use of propaganda: it shows Goebbels making a speech on a radio broadcast. Whereas interpretation 2 focusses on the use of the police: 'the police had the legal power to open people's letters and listen to phone calls'. This means that the historian would have used a source similar to source ^B which also focusses on the role of the law and the duty people had to report others: 'report them to your local Party Leader so that those people can be reported to the authorities'.



Q3d Interpretations essay

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Answer offers simple valid comment to agree with or counter the interpretation. Limited analysis of one interpretation is shown by selection and inclusion of some detail in the form of simple paraphrase or direct quotation. Generalised contextual knowledge is included and linked to the evaluation.
2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Answer offers valid evaluative comment to agree with or counter the interpretation. Some analysis is shown in selecting and including details from both interpretations to support this comment. Some relevant contextual knowledge is included and linked to the evaluation. An overall judgement is given but its justification is insecure or undeveloped and a line of reasoning is not sustained.
3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Answer provides an explained evaluation, agreeing or disagreeing with the interpretation. Good analysis of the interpretations is shown indicating difference of view and deploying this to support the evaluation. Relevant contextual knowledge is used directly to support the evaluation. An overall judgement is given with some justification and a line of reasoning is generally sustained.
4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Answer provides an explained evaluation reviewing the alternative views in coming to a substantiated judgement. Precise analysis of the interpretations is shown, indicating how the differences of view are conveyed and deploying this material to support the evaluation. Relevant contextual knowledge is precisely selected to support the evaluation. An overall judgment is justified and the line of reasoning is coherent, sustained and logically structured.

The interpretation to be evaluated suggests that the Nazis controlled the German people through legal coercion and the creation of a police state.

Relevant points from the provided material and own knowledge which support the claim made in the interpretation may include:

- Interpretation 2 explains that the police had legal powers to investigate and intimidate people.
- Interpretation 2 suggests that the state had wide-ranging powers to investigate people's attitudes and punish any signs of dissent.
- The Nazis systematically eliminated sources of potential opposition from other political parties, trade unions, the Churches and the army.
- The first concentration camp was opened at Dachau in March 1933.
- 'People's Courts' were set up in 1934 to try people accused of crimes against the state, showing that legal intimidation was a key element in Nazi control from the start.

Relevant points from the provided material and own knowledge which counter the view may include:

- Interpretation 1 shows that Goebbels controlled information reaching the public through a range of media.
- Interpretation 1 illustrates the positive aspects of the Nazi regime that were presented to the people in propaganda.
- Goebbels' Ministry of Propaganda controlled aspects of culture, such as the theatre, films, literature, music etc.
- Nazi propaganda targeted various groups in society in order to portray Nazi rule as beneficial, and celebrated achievements, such as in the economy and the Berlin Olympics, in order to maintain popular support.
- Ownership of radio sets dramatically increased during the 1930s.



their funds. Therefore, it is clear that the law played a major role in allowing him to control people and parties, consequently allowing the Nazi party to gain more support. Arguably, the most significant example of Hitler using the law as a means of control was the Enabling Act in 1933 which was later passed again in 1937. This Act allowed him to propose laws that would override the Weimar constitution, essentially allowing him to create any law, giving him complete control over the German people.

However, there may be certain aspects of Interpretation 2 that force me to only partially agree with its sentiments. It may be argued that law was not used to completely control the German people and that it instead was a facade for Hitler to arrest those he simply saw as undesirable. Therefore, it may be argued that the main way of controlling people was by simply using brute force.

I know that 150,000 people were put under protective arrest in 1933 showing that Hitler simply used force and ~~did~~ did not consider the law.



Perhaps, Interpretation 1 holds greater weight when considering how the Nazis achieved control. I partially agree with the sentiments of Interpretation 1, notably the phrase "Mass rallies, such as those at Nuremberg".

From my own knowledge I know that the Nuremberg rallies were attended by 200,000 people, with 20,000 flags and 130 anti-aircraft lights, it was a spectacle for all.

This allowed the Nazis to exert control by suggesting that this well-organised and grand event represented the success the Nazi Party brought. Perhaps it was a way to almost deceive its supporters, shining a light on its grandeur and hiding them from their harsh and ~~the~~ totalitarian laws. Furthermore, control was also exerted by the arts, notably magazines and literature. The interpretation needs "photographs in magazines". From my own knowledge, I know that Goebbels had control over these creative outlets, subsequently controlling the attitudes and viewpoints of the German people. He would provide briefings on what journalists could and couldn't publish. I know that a total of 1,600 newspapers were banned. Therefore I agree that the arts were a significant way in which the Nazis controlled the German people.

However, it may be argued that these ~~aspects~~ ~~aspects~~



forms of propaganda did not actually allow people to be controlled, instead it simply influenced. I know that foreign attitudes could still be accessed such as the Swing Youth importing American records. Therefore, perhaps the greater means of control were the military forces of the Nazi Party such as the SA and the SS. The SA numbered 6 million and were renowned for their terror such as their brutal actions on Kristallnacht where one threw an 18 year old man out of a window. The SS were also a way of extreme control, numbering 240,000 and acting as Hitler's personal bodyguards. The SD were in charge of removing opposition, governed by Heydrich. Therefore perhaps the police State was more effective in granting Nazis control.

Ultimately, I would agree with Interpretation 2 as I believe that the laws Hitler introduced granted complete control. This is evident through his introduction of the 'People's Court' and changing the law so that the actions of his SA, SS and SD were excused. Although the propaganda techniques in Interpretation 1 gave the Nazis influence, it was the law that ensured that people expressed these attitudes and influences.

(Total for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology = 4 marks)

(Total for Question 3 = 36 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 36 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 52 MARKS



Exemplar answer 5

To some extent I agree with this interpretation and that the Nazis main way of control was through the use of ~~the law~~ ^{the law}. During many rallies/Reichstag voting elections members of the SA were known for targeting and physically attacking members of the communist party in hopes of scaring them into stepping down from elections. As a result of this the Nazis won 203 ~~votes~~ ^{seats} in the 1932 election and as a result very quickly changed the laws and created some new ones in order to support their ideologies. The most famous being the Nuremberg laws these were a set of laws implemented by the Nazis that helped to go against Judaism these laws involved things such as Jews could not hold any high level occupation e.g. doctor/teacher/judge and that Jews could not attend school. The laws were quickly followed by boycotts and attacks on both Jewish shops and places of worship.

However to some extent I disagree with this interpretation. I believe that the Nazis also mainly



Used violence and fear as their main way of control. They used to make public examples of those who did not follow Nazi orders. People would be beaten or even in some cases killed in the street for disregarding the usual Nazi regime. The most infamous use of violence to threaten and control was aimed at the Jewish population in Germany and came in the place of the night of broken glass or Kristallnacht as it is better known. Kristallnacht was a night that involved many people mostly Nazis breaking windows and doors of Jewish shops or synagogues. They also burnt books written by Jewish authors in the streets. This included holy books.

In conclusion, I believe that the Nazis mainly used violence and fear to control the German population and that they knew nobody would oppose them if they did so.



Exemplar answer 6 (16 marks)

Purple underline = evaluation of views and judgement

Yellow underline = analysis of interpretations

Green underline = contextual knowledge

Spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology will be assessed in part (d).

Tone

(d) How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about Nazi methods of controlling the German people in the years 1933–39?

Explain your answer, using **both** interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

(16)

In the years 1933–39, the ~~main aim~~ maintenance of Nazi control over the German people was paramount in securing popularity for the party, and establishing a future in which Hitler's idea of the 1000 year Reich could survive. Some historians argue that the main method of Nazi control came from creating terror, and using the law to mitigate uprisings or rebellion. Others argue that propaganda like radio, television and newspapers was a more instrumental method of control. I would argue that in fact, the most successful method was a combination of these; by establishing fear, and relying heavily on propaganda at the same time, the Nazis could effectively control the German people (almost) completely.

Interpretation 2 gives the view that "the main technique used to create terror was the use of law" and Evans therefore implies that by creating terror, and fear, through use of



The law, Nazi control was guaranteed. The amount of evidence to support Interpretation 2's view is substantial. In April 1933 the Gestapo was founded, led by Goering but subsequently handed to be controlled by Himmler. The Gestapo were a secret police that infiltrated every nook and cranny of society, so that no German citizens knew who was a member of the Gestapo and who wasn't; they ~~Gestapo~~ had huge legal power and, like the police, they could "open people's letters and listen to phone calls" as it says in Interpretation 2. The existence of the Gestapo alone is hugely significant in why I agree strongly with Interpretation 2's view on Nazi methods of control, as it ^{created} ~~led to~~ a huge amount of fear ^{of} ~~for~~ being imprisoned amongst the German people; they refrained from even suggesting ideas that could get them imprisoned due to the central role that the Gestapo played in society. As well as this the idea of the "law" being used as a method of control is important; in the existence of the German Lawyers Front meant that every judge and lawyer had to swear oath to Hitler, leading to Nazi beliefs



being upheld even in courtroom. This strongly supports Interpretation 2's view, because it highlights how the law affected ~~the~~ trials and imprisonment in a huge way, leading to 100,000 people being imprisoned without a trial in 1933. From this evidence it is clear ~~that~~ the extent of truth that can be found in Interpretation 2, and therefore it is rational to agree strongly with the viewpoint Interpretation 2 holds. However, the tone of Interpretation 2 detracts from this, one could argue, as there is almost no nuance or recognition of other methods of Nazi control. The extent of the use of propaganda was huge, yet Evans fails to even recognise this and implies that it wasn't important, when one could argue it was just as important as the use of law. Therefore, I would conclude I only moderately agree with Interpretation 2's view on Nazi control.

Interpretation 1 states the view that propaganda and rallies, which worked their way into the everyday lives of German people, were in fact the most important methods of Nazi control. However, unlike Interpretation 2, in



interpretation 1 the writer effectively refers to several methods of control, ~~noting~~ portraying, with a nuanced tone, that there was not one ultimate method of control but ^{that} several ideas worked together, and I would argue this is extremely accurate. In 1933-1939 every year in Nuremberg, ^{rallies} ~~Rallies~~ were held that were extremely popular, and Burleigh refers to these as a combination of "celebration, military parade, political meeting and sacred ceremony". The rallies became a part of German citizens' lives and were an unmissable event, thus I would argue that they were an extremely effective and integral part of the Nazis' method to control German people in everyday lives. Also, Burleigh refers to "magazines" and "radio broadcasts" as important methods used by Goebbels, minister of Propaganda, to establish control in people's every day lives. Propaganda was seen everywhere the Nazi message repeated so much that it was broadcast on loudspeakers in public, and ~~cheap radios were sold to~~ the 'people's radio'.

(Total for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology = 4 marks)

(Total for Question 3 = 36 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 36 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 52 MARKS

Cont. on paper



③ d) was developed to increase national exposure. Goebbels famously remarked on how propaganda should be insinuated so deeply into society that people aren't aware of their reception of it, and I would argue that this idea of propaganda was hugely important in maintaining Nazi control over German people. The Nazis were able to spread anti-semitic ideas, as well as images of idyllic Aryan households, effectively spreading Nazi ideology throughout society.

Examiner comments:

This exemplar was awarded 16 marks. Notice that contextual knowledge is relatively brief but precise and used effectively to support the evaluation of the interpretations. Students should also know that they can use details from the sources as contextual knowledge.

Some students write extra paragraphs comprising solely contextual knowledge which is not being used to evaluate the interpretation. This is not necessary. Please note the marking instructions for Q3d in the mark schemes: 'No credit may be given for contextual knowledge unless it is linked to evaluation of the interpretations.'