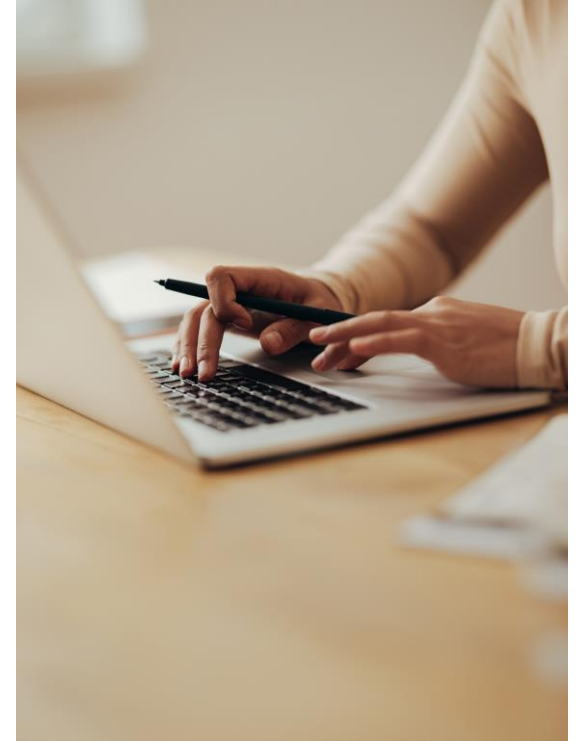


How interpretations differ

An **interpretation** is a secondary extract such as a book, webpage or magazine article. It is written later, after the event, usually by a historian who is attempting to portray or make meaning of the past using sources from the period as evidence of what happened. Interpretations should be treated differently from sources and **not as evidence** of the past. They are **views**!

People can have different views on an issue. It is perfectly possible for two historians writing about the same issue to reach completely different or opposing views, even if they have had access to the same evidence (sources).

In this question you will be provided with two different views (interpretations) on an issue. You will be asked to summarise the **main difference between the views** then to simply **support your answer with a bit of detail** from each of the two interpretations.



How interpretations differ

The key to scoring highly in this question is being able to identify and stress the **overall difference** in the two views provided!

Can you summarise the **main difference** between these two views?

Interpretation 1: From *Germany 1918–45* by J Cloake, published in 1997.

Many young people were attracted by the exciting and interesting activities of the youth movements. There were many outdoor events such as camping and hiking as well as sports. Some enjoyed the military aspects of the youth movements, the uniforms, the marching and the discipline. Other young people liked the music that was a frequent part of cultural activities or the military parades. There was great comradeship among the Hitler Youth.

Interpretation 2: From *Germany 1858–1990: Hope, Terror and Revival* by A Kitson, published in 2001.

The movement became less popular towards the late 1930s as the activities became increasingly focused on preparations for war and the discipline became more strict when membership became compulsory. There was a growing resentment at the way Hitler Youth leaders acted as if they were better than members who were barely younger than they were. Some youngsters began to kick against the restrictions of the Hitler Youth.

This table shows some of the ways you could support your answer.

	Interpretation 1 emphasises positive attitudes	Interpretation 2 emphasises negative attitudes
Language and tone	Exciting, interesting, enjoyed, liked, comradeship	Less popular, growing resentment, kick against
Selection of information	Outdoor events, sports, music, parades Some enjoyed the marching and discipline	Discipline became more strict, membership compulsory, resentment of HY leaders
Points of emphasis	Many young people were attracted; there was great comradeship	Movement became less popular towards late 1930s when focused on preparation for war Some youngsters began to kick against restrictions

How interpretations differ

Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the attitudes of young people towards the Hitler Youth movement. What is the **main difference** between these views? Explain your answer, **using details** from both interpretations.

The main difference is that Interpretation 1 focuses on the fun and positive aspects of the Hitler Youth by mentioning hiking, sports and music. However, Interpretation 2 focuses on more negative, less attractive activities which made the Hitler Youth unpopular as it was preparing young people for war

The answer identifies the main difference between the views...

...then supports this by direct reference to the detail in the interpretation that tells us this.

Interpretation 1: From *Germany 1918–45* by J Cloake, published in 1997.

Many young people were attracted by the exciting and interesting activities of the youth movements. There were many outdoor events such as camping and hiking as well as sports. Some enjoyed the military aspects of the youth movements, the uniforms, the marching and the discipline. Other young people liked the music that was a frequent part of cultural activities or the military parades. There was great comradeship among the Hitler Youth.

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You do not need to demonstrate any knowledge of the topic to answer this question! It is testing your skills as a historian to analyse interpretations.