

Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship



Exam Practice Booklet

Interpretations – 1. How does interpretation B differ from A about...? 2. Why might...? 3. Which is more convincing about...?

1. How does interpretation B differ from A about...?

4 marks – 1 paragraph – 5 minutes

Do 1 clear paragraph. Low level answers will just focus on how they are different based on reading them, without clearly linking back to the issue in the question eg' role of opposition groups'. Ensure you pick out a quote to back up what unique view each interpretation gives about the issue in the question, this is what will get you 4/4.

'Interpretation A argues that the (role of opposition groups) was _____ this can be seen as the author states' _____.' In contrast to this, B focusses on this aspect _____ of the role of opposition groups. This can be seen as the author states ' _____.'

3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed analysis of interpretations to explain differences based on content
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple analysis of interpretations to identify differences based on content

2. Why might...?

4 marks – 1 paragraph – 5 minutes

Focus on who is writing the source and the circumstances under which it was produced. Use these to clearly explain why they may give the perspective they do on the issue in the question. You could look at who the author was, what their job may have been, when they were writing, the purpose of what they are writing, the access to information or audience of the interpretation.

'Because interpretation A was by produced by a _____ This would suggest that that person would be more likely to think _____'

'As B was produced during _____, this would mean that _____'

'A would have been produced in order to make people think _____ because _____. This would make it take the view that _____'

3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed answer that analyses provenance to explain the difference
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple answer that analyses provenance to identify reasons for difference

3. Which is more convincing about...?

8 marks – 2 paragraphs – 10 minutes

We are now looking to find which is the more convincing interpretation. This means looking at how each one links with our own knowledge, then making our judgment based on how they may link to each other.

Para 1 – Both sources – analyse content - big paragraph!

Pick out 2 key elements of each that you know to be true. Link with specific own knowledge.

'Int. A states 'x' – I know this to be true because'

'Int. B also states 'x' 'I don't find this very surprising as I know that...'

'Int. A/B offers a convincing reason for X as it states... to substantiate this I know that'

Para 2 – Link them together to judge which is more convincing - shorter paragraph

Furthermore while _____ makes valid point about _____, _____ I find _____ more convincing as when you compare them together _____

7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex evaluation of both interpretations • Sustained judgement about the most convincing • Considers the relationship between the two interpretations • Very good knowledge
5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed evaluation of both interpretations • Judges one as more / less convincing • Good knowledge
3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple evaluation of one interpretation • Some factual knowledge and understanding
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic analysis of interpretation(s)

Interpretation A: Article in a German newspaper – 22nd February 1943:

‘On 22 February 1943, the People’s Court sentenced to death the following persons:

Hans Scholl, aged 24; Sophie Scholl, aged 21. The sentence was carried out the same day. Typical outsiders, these two people shamelessly committed offences against the security of Germany, by painting slogans on houses and distributing leaflets. At this time of heroic struggle on the part of the German people, these despicable criminals deserve a speedy and dishonourable death.’

Interpretation B: Extract from a radio programme broadcast on 27 June 1943 by the famous German writer, Thomas Mann, whilst in exile in Britain. Thomas Mann left Germany in 1933:

‘Hans and Sophie Scholl put their heads on the block for the love of Germany. They went to their death after telling the judge at court to his face that ‘soon you will be standing here where we now stand’. Good splendid young people! You shall not have died in vain; you shall not be forgotten. The Nazis have built monuments to common killers in Germany- but the German revolution will tear them down and replace them with people like you.’

1. How does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the view of opposition groups? 4 marks
2. Why might the authors of A and B have a different interpretation about opposition groups? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 4 marks
3. Which interpretation do you find more convincing about opposition groups in Nazi Germany? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge.

‘Even in the days before the war the leaders had suggested the idea of revolution to the masses and fostered it, and the Social Democrats had been from time immemorial openly hostile to the earlier, monarchical form of government and had worked systematically towards its elimination.’

Interpretation A Extract from the memoirs of Kaiser Wilhelm II. He was the ruler of Germany until the end of the first world war in 1918. This interpretation was written in 1922 during his exile in the Netherlands.

‘Ever since the German Reich has existed ruthless and tireless criticism has been levelled by the German Social-Democrats in parliament and in the press against militarism, the whole of its content and its harmful effects. It has collected material to condemn militarism, enough to build a gigantic funeral pyre, and has waged the struggle against militarism as part of its general agitation with great energy and tenacity. In this respect our Party needs neither defence nor praise.’

Interpretation B: Adapted from Karl Liebknecht’s ‘Militarism & anti-Militarism’ written in 1907. Liebknecht was the son of one of the founders of the SDP. He was a lawyer and SDP MP, and defended many Social Democrats in political trials.

1. How does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the role of the SDP before WWI? 4 marks
2. Why might the authors of A and B have a different interpretation about the role of the SDP before WWI? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 4 marks
3. Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the role of the SDP before WWI? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 8 marks

‘Each point of that treaty could have been engraved on the minds and hearts of the German people and burned into them until sixty million men and women would find their souls aflame with a feeling of rage and shame.’

Interpretation A From Adolf Hitler’s book Mein Kampf published 1925-6 where he recorded his thoughts on the treaty of Versailles. Adolf Hitler would go on to become leader of Nazi Germany.

(hopefully you don’t need more info on the author!)

‘The Treaty of Versailles is severe, but it is amazing it is not more so. Thanks to Wilson’s insistence, Germany lost remarkably little territory, considering how thoroughly it had lost the war. True, the colonies were gone, but the European losses were relatively few. The real difficulty was not that the treaty was exceptionally severe, but that Germans thought it was, and in time persuaded others it was’.

Interpretation B: Adapted from a book by historian Sally Marks called The Illusion of Peace: International relations in Europe 1918-33, written in 1976. Marks is an expert on in interwar European (and some American) international politics, particularly in the pre-Hitlerian era from 1918 to 1933.

1. How does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?
2. Why might the authors of A and B have a different interpretation about the terms of the Treaty of Versailles? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 4 marks
3. Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the terms of the Treaty of Versailles? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 8 marks

Nazi propaganda...skilfully targeted specific groups in the German electorate...providing topics for particular venues and picking the speak to fit the occasion. The...Party recognized the growing divisions of German society into competing interest groups in the course of the Depression and tailored their message to their particular constituency. The Nazis adapted...a whole range of posters and leaflets designed to win over different parts of the electorate.

Interpretation A Richard J Evans in his book *The coming of the Third Reich*, published in 2004. Richard Evans is a British historian who specialises in German history. In this book he examines Germany from 1871 to 1933 describing the origins of Nazi Germany.

'...more and more Germans saw in Nazism – symbolised by its leader – the only hope for a way out of gathering crisis. Those now surging to join the Nazi party were often already willing victims of the 'Hitler Myth'. Even for the vast majority of the German people who did not share such sentiments, there was the growing feeling...that Hitler was not just another politician, that he was a party extraordinary, a man towards whom one could not remain neutral.

Interpretation B: Ian Kershaw in his article 'The Hitler Myth' published in *History Today* in 1985. Kershaw is a British historian who is an expert on Nazi Germany and WW2. He is known as a leading expert on Hitler.

1. How does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about Nazi tactics and support in the early 1930's? 4 marks
2. Why might the authors of A and B have a different interpretation about Nazi tactics and support in the early 1930's? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 4 marks
3. Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Nazi tactics and support in the early 1930's? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 8 marks

‘Never before, in no other land and at no time had an organisation attained such a comprehensive penetration of society, possessed such power and reach such a degree of terror and horror, as well as effectiveness. The Gestapo spotted or overheard every German’s slightest movement’

Interpretation A Jacques Delarue, in his book History of the Gestapo, published in 1964. Delarue was a member of the French Resistance who opposed the Nazis after the invasion of France during WW2. In researching evidence for this book, Delarue interviewed former agents and others who worked for the Gestapo.

Like all modern policing systems, the Gestapo was only as good or bad as the cooperation it received – and the files reveal that it received a high level of cooperation. Only around 10% of political crimes committed were actually discovered by the Gestapo; another 10% were passed on to the Gestapo by the regular police or the Nazi Party. Around 80% was discovered by ordinary citizens who turned the information over...Most of this unpaid cooperation came from people who not members of the Nazi Party – they were ‘ordinary’ citizens.

Interpretation B: Laurence Rees in his book, The Nazis: A Warning from History, published in 2001. Rees is a British historian. The book was based on his TV series of the same title was made up of film footage and interviews with a variety of people who lived through Nazi rule including Nazi Party members, opponents of the Nazis and ordinary Germans.

1. How does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the German public’s support for the Nazis? 4 marks
2. Why might the authors of A and B have a different interpretation about the German public’s support for the Nazis? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 4 marks
3. Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the German public’s support for the Nazis? Explain your answer using the interpretations and your contextual knowledge. 8 marks

Question 4 - Describe 2 issues.

4 marks – 1 paragraph – 5 minutes

For this question give 2 specific bits of evidence and clearly explain how these would cause problems for the government. The important bit for this questions is to make sure you read the question, taking care to think about any dates you are given. This will dictate what content you can include, so be careful.

'This would cause an issue for the Kaiser because...'

'This would challenge the power of the established government because...'

'The impact of this change was that those in power...'

3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of simple sequence of events • Supported by relevant knowledge
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge and understanding of the events

- Describe two problems faced by Kaiser Wilhelm II's governments in ruling Germany up to 1914.
- Describe two problems Hitler faced as Germany's leader when he became Chancellor in January 1933.
- Describe two problems faced by the Weimar Government between 1919-1922
- Describe two problems faced by Germany during the war
- Describe two problems faced by the Weimar government in 1923
- Describe two problems faced by Germany between 1939-1945
- Describe two problems faced by Kaiser Wilhelm II's governments in foreign policy up to 1914
- Describe two problems faced by the German government during the Great Depression

Question 5 - In what ways were...affected by...? 8 marks

8 marks – 2 paragraphs – 10 minutes

This question is all about how things have changed over time. In your answer you need to pick out several aspects that changed and use specific evidence to explain the **consequences** of that ‘thing’ changing. To go for full marks on this question explain how and why certain groups may have had different experiences.

Make sure you link your knowledge to the question!

‘This was a key development as previously’

‘Over the period we can see how their experience had changed from...to...’

‘Not all groups experienced the same change, an example would be...’

7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex explanation of at least 2 consequences • Consider differences of e.g. time, group, socio-economic impact
5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed explanation of 2 consequences • Good knowledge
3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple explanation of change • Some knowledge
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies change(s)

- In what ways were the lives of people in Germany affected by the First World War?
- In what ways were the lives of Germans affected by the Depression? Explain your answer.
- In what ways were the lives of women in Germany affected by Nazi social policies? Explain your answer.
- In what ways would the behaviour of ordinary Germans be affected by the police state? Explain your answer.
- In what ways were art and culture used by the Nazis? Explain your answer.
- In what ways were the lives of workers changed under the rule of the Kaiser before 1914?
- In what ways did the political rights of people change after the First World War?
- In what ways did political rights change with Hitler as Chancellor?

Question 6 – Which of the following...Essay Questions

12 marks – 3 paragraphs – 15 minutes

This question expects you to use your knowledge on two large topics to make a judgment on why something happened or was important. Ensure you:

Make sure you give 3 clear bits of evidence for each reason, using specific dates and detailed evidence eg numbers/key names/places. Ensure you link your evidence to the question eg explain how that reason made event happen. To get full marks ensure you give a clear judgement and make this clear from the start. In your conclusion summarise your argument and hit home again with your main point in your final sentence.

'This area was significant as it demonstrates that...'

'Political/other factors were so important because they proved that...'

'Unlike (X), (Y) was a more significant reason for this because...'

10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex explanation of stated factors • Considers the links between the factors • Clear judgement, using the links between them to inform it • Very good specific knowledge
7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed explanation of two factors • Some explanation of the other • Good knowledge
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple explanation of 2 factors with some knowledge
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic explanation of one factor with some knowledge

Which of the following had the greater impact on the German people:

- The Treaty of Versailles
- The hyperinflation crisis of 1923?

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the more important reason why the Nazis became more popular :

- Fear of communists
- The appeal of Hitler and the Nazi Party?

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following groups of people were more affected by Nazi policies between the years 1933 and 1945:

- workers
- young people

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the more important reason why resistance and opposition to Hitler was not effective:

- The strength of the Nazi police state
- The weakness of the protesters

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the most important reason why Germany was under threat in the years 1890-1914?

- Foreign Policy Threats
- Economic Developments

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the most important reason why Germany was under threat in the years 1890-1914?

- Political challenges
- Economic Developments

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the most important reason why Germany was successful from 1924-29?

- Foreign Policy
- Economic Developments

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the most important reason why Hitler became chancellor?

- Threat of Communism
- Hitler's abilities

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the most important reason why the Nazis maintained control?

- Economic policies
- Control of daily life

Explain your answer with reference to both events.

Which of the following was the most important reason why the Nazis maintained control?

- Propaganda and Censorship
- The Police State

Explain your answer with reference to both events.