

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 6W**

**HS6E**

**Alternative E: Hitler and the Origins of the Second World War, 1933–1941**

Thursday 12 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS6E.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and coherently and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part (c).

---

Answer **all** questions.

---

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** Adapted from *Khrushchev Remembers*, a book written by Nikita Khrushchev in 1971. Khrushchev is writing about the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact in August 1939

5 We knew perfectly well that Hitler was trying to trick us with the treaty. I heard with my own ears how Stalin said, 'Of course it's all a game – I know what Hitler's up to. He thinks he's outsmarted me, but actually it's I who have tricked him!' I believe that the Pact was historically inevitable, given the circumstances of the time, but it was very hard for us to accept the idea of joining forces with Germany. For their part, the Germans too were using the treaty as a manoeuvre to win time.

**Source B** Adapted from Hitler's address to the Reichstag on 7 March 1936

5 In accordance with the fundamental right of a nation to secure its frontiers and ensure its defence, the German Government has today restored full sovereignty in the demilitarised zone of the Rhineland. In order to avoid any misinterpretation of its intentions and to establish beyond doubt the purely defensive character of these measures, the German Government declares itself ready to conclude new agreements for the creation of a system of peaceful security for Europe. We have no territorial claims to make in Europe. I now ask the German people to support me in my struggle for real peace.

**Source C** War could only have been avoided in one of three ways. First, Germany might have chosen to settle for her gains of 1938, and allow Europe a period of calm. Second, her potential enemies might have combined together in a coalition so formidable that Germany would have been deterred from further adventures.

5 Third, those same opponents might have decided to accept German expansion, and get the best terms they could for themselves. In the event, none of these things came about. Germany pressed on, and war came.

Adapted from P BELL, *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe*, 1986

- (a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Assess the validity of the views in **Source A** about the Nazi–Soviet Pact. *(10 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence of Hitler’s aims and methods in foreign policy?  
*(10 marks)*

- (c) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

‘War became inevitable by 1939 and, when it came, it was a surprise to hardly anyone.’  
Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Question 1 Source A: D WELCH, *Modern European History 1871–1975*, 1994. Reprinted by permission of Harcourt Education

Source C: P BELL, *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe*, Longman, 1986.

Copyright © 2008 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.