



History

Paper 20 (AS) Specimen Question Paper

Question 01 Student 1

Specimen Answer and Commentary

V1.0 26/02/16

Specimen Answer plus commentary

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

Paper 20 (AS): Specimen question paper

01 With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining why the Nazi movement began to attract mass support from 1930?

[25 marks]

Student response

Firstly source A gives valuable content that help to explain why the Nazis attracted mass support. To begin with the source shows that businessmen and those 'doing well' supported the Nazis and this is true as a higher percentage of middle-classes join the Nazis over ant other party at the time. Secondly it describes how farming issues could explain the increase in Nazi support and this is shown by the Nazis heavily emphasis on propaganda aimed at farmers and that in Thuringa (a small farming village in Saxony) in 1929 the Nazis gained 11.3% of the vote. The source also shows the authors belied that Jews were to blame for economic problems in Germany at the time, shown through strong anti-Semitic propaganda and the fact that Jews were strongly blamed for their corruption in the 1923 hyperinflation due to their heavy banking influence (they owned 50% of private banks). Source A also supports how former DNVP voters turned to the Nazis in 1930 as the votes went from 78 DNVP seats and 12 Nazi seats in 1928 to 41 DNVP seats and 107 Nazi seats in 1930. There are also comments on the strength of the Gauleiter and the influence of Nazi meetings in making people vote for them. Finally the source comments on how the Nazi message never changed but people were ready to hear it, showing how Nazi votes may have increased due to the circumstances i.e the depression. Overall this is valuable as it shows why a variety of people may have voted for the Nazis in 1930 and many reasons why they chose to do this and is representative of people's opinion at the time, which is valuable.

However, despite Source A having many valuable points there are some parts of the source which lessen the value. Firstly the source is only discussing one section of the electorate and is therefore not representative of the population of Germany at the time and it is therefore hard for the source to be valuable of why big groups of people voted Nazi. Also this source coms from a middle-class person with a farming background which is a very specific and personal case and once again cannot be related to the general population which greatly reduces the value as the majority of the population were working class.

Similarly to source A, Source B's content also provides value to understanding why the Nazis gained mass support. Firstly the source states how the economy stopped and consequently people lost everything due to it and hunger spread through Germany; 'the terrible burden of the depression', this is proven by the fact that unemployment rose above 6 million for the first time so people has less money to spend and couldn't afford food or a place to live. Similarly to source A the hunger is blamed on the Jews which, once again, could be partly due to anti-Semitic propaganda or the fact that people were still angry over the fact Jews were allegedly to blame for the first hyperinflation. Following on from this the author states that the government is also to blame for the hunger and high crime levels

which is proved by the fact the Brüning was labelled the 'Hunger Chancellor'. Furthermore the source is about the early 1930s and is actually giving a reason for why they personally voted Nazi; the reason being they lost everything through the economic conditions; which is shown through the use of 'and so..' showing causation and actual reasoning. Finally the source is showing anti-Communist views and the fact that they didn't yearn for better times like everyone else as they believed this showed that Capitalism didn't work and they were going to take over, showing a reason why people went extreme right not left as right offered a strong solution to the problem. Overall this shows the value of the source because it represents reasons as to why the mass population voted for the Nazis and gives circumstantial reasons as to why the support massively increases at the specific time of 1930.

On the other hand there are parts of the content which take away from the value. Where the source mentions that the government were to blame for laws against the people and for the hunger it is unclear as to whether any measures had actually been taken against people so it may be possible that the author is confusing this which therefore takes away from the value as parts of the source may be inaccurate and not actually telling us about 1930 which makes that section irrelevant to what we are trying to find. Moreover, like source A it is not representative of the whole population and may not fully explain why the Nazis gained mass support from the whole population, although it does represent more of the population than Source A.

The provenance of the sources also helps to give value to them. In source A, a very personal and specific account is given and this can help the value as it helps to explain why specific groups joined the Nazis and how certain groups were feeling at the time. Both sources are also primary sources and are close in the writer's memory as it is only four years on. Finally the sources conform to the time that the Nazis really started to gain votes as in the July 1930 elections they went up to 107 seats from 12. This helps the value of the sources as the origin of the sources conforms to the time and can explain someone's opinion which is helpful to help understand why the Nazis gained mass support. In source B the experience of an unskilled labourer which is therefore a working class man, this means the source is a lot more representative of the population and can help to explain why a lot more of the German public chose to vote Nazi. The tone of source B also goes with the general feeling of the working class population in the 1930s, that of anger and desperation; 'an honest working man' shows how many people are angry at how they've suffered in the depression and could show how people turned to the Nazis to help make the situation better.

However there are similar issues with the provenance which take away from the Value of both source A and B. The essay was published in a book by Theodore Abel who selected which essays were published from hundreds sent in which means the results could be subjective as he could select the ones he likes the most. Moreover the book was published in 1938 – at the height of Nazi power so all that was published would have had to have been approved by the Nazis so the essays picked would have had to have shown the Nazis in a positive light which means there may be bias and takes away from the value of the sources. Finally the people writing the essays may have wanted to look good themselves so could have elaborated from the truth, making the provenance of the sources less valuable to explaining the mass support for the Nazis.

Overall I believe that source B is the most valuable as it represents a larger proportion of the population which is more important in understanding why the Nazis gained mass support at this time and it shows the general feeling of the population and gives answers as to why they specifically turned to the Nazis as oppose to other parties like the KPD. Although source A has high content and incredibly specific reasons as to why people were angry and turning to the Nazis, its representing a

very specific section of the German population and therefore cannot explain mass support as well as source B can.

Commentary – Level 5

This is a very strong response. Each Source is carefully examined and there is excellent supporting information to corroborate or challenge what is argued. There is also a full assessment of the provenance of the sources. The only, very minor weakness is in relation to explicit assessment of tone, but this does not detract from what is a Level 5 response.