



History

Paper 20 (AS) Specimen Question Paper

Question 01 Student 2

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

Both of these sources provided both show value to showing how the Nazi movement gained mass support from 1930 as they are from the public at the time. Source A is an adapted recollection of a businessman discussing how 'Jewish money lenders' were making life difficult involving their families debt. Source B was a recollection of an unskilled labourer whom was suffering during the depression and the economic standstill. These sources show that before the Nazi's gained mass support, Germans were struggling with day to day life.

Source A shows clear value as it informs us of farming difficulties. From my own knowledge I know that Germany was struggling with its agriculture. For example in 1913 German farmers would produce 30 million tonnes on average. Supporting this, the SA would destroy auctions of farm land to prevent sales of farms. The source then goes on to talk about how the 'preachers' of the National Socialists were talking about how the Jews were at the bottom of the crisis all along. The Nazis gained a reputation for the propaganda at this time too, targeting the Jews calling them 'puppet masters'. The Nazis also made propaganda for the farmers insisting they would join the National socialist party nearer this time (1929).

Source A also mentions how he turned his back on the DNVP and chose to join the National Socialists instead. This shows that farmers and middle class businessmen chose to move parties leaving the DNVP. For example, from my own knowledge I know that in 1930 the Nazis gained votes against the DNVP taking over with 18.3% opposing to 7%. This shows that over the two years gap, many of the public chose to move to the Nazis over the DNVP.

As the essay was based during 1930 this gives us an experience from this period. This helps to give an accurate picture of why people chose to join the Nazis. From my own knowledge I also know that 1930 was a big breakthrough for the Nazis election, explaining why that was when the businessman chose to move to the Nazi party. However, source A is less valuable because this is one person's opinion, making the source subjective to the whole German public at the time. The time period of the source was also sent to Theodore Abel in 1934. Meaning unless these essays were written nearer to the 1930 they may have remembered what happened as more rational than how they remember. As the source was after 1930, as they became supporters of the Nazis this could influence their essay to make them sound better than what they were in the context of their story.

Source B was valuable too because it mentions the 'terrible burden of depression'. From my own knowledge I know that for labourers this was a tough time. For example, mining companies reduced their workforce by 56,000 between 1925-29. This made many people unemployed, specifically

1.89million were made unemployed due to the great depression with a knock on effect of making many homeless. The source also talks about how 'all fellow citizens except communists yearned for better times'. This shows that almost everyone was effected by the great depression and wanted change. Although from my own knowledge this statement becomes less valuable because communists welcomed the Wall St Crash thinking it would lead to capitalism to disintegrate.

Source B also blames the government for this time claiming that 'the government carried out measures..' going on the talk about saying they made the public starve. However the government had churches and charities giving out food to the public. I also know that the government didn't pass many measures against the German people. As this is a late source from the actual date of 1930 they could have associated this time period with the time of Bruning.

The person who wrote this source has been said to have been a unskilled labourer. This shows that people were unexperienced as the time of depression was a time of unemployment restricting people from obtaining skills. The writer also refers to Germans as honest working men, saying that they don't want to be like thieves but they're being forced into it by being deprived of the government showing it is a time of depression.

Source A was a valuable source as the highest percentage of middle class joined the Nazi party over any other party. Equally source B can be supported as the largest single group of supporters for Nazis was the working class (30%). As the question is about mass support and with the paragraphs on the value of the sources, Source B is most valuable as it produced the largest vote contribution to the Nazi party.

Commentary – Level 3

There are strengths in this answer. It attempts to assess the significance of the provenance of each source and it deploys knowledge of context to challenge and corroborate the content and arguments. However, it does not comment on what is the central contrast of the sources: A is the view of something who was 'doing well', B of someone unemployed, but both ended up supporting the Nazis. It does not comment also, on the significance of the reference to communists in Source B.

The answer is unclear in places and the use of 'I know from my own knowledge' is to be discouraged. The lack of focus on important elements limits this to level 3.