



**GCE A level**

476/12

**HISTORY – HI6**

**UNIT 6 (Synoptic Assessment)**

**IN-DEPTH STUDY 9**

**NAZI GERMANY, c. 1933-1945**

P.M. MONDAY, 16 June 2008

50 minutes

(of a 1 hour 40 minutes examination)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **one** question.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

The sources or quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

**You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.**

## UNIT 6

## IN-DEPTH STUDY 9

## NAZI GERMANY, c. 1933-1945

Answer **one** question.

Candidates are reminded that their answers should demonstrate a synoptic approach to the question, and should draw together, where appropriate, the political, social, economic, religious and cultural aspects of the topic.

**1. The changing fortunes of the Nazi party, c. 1933-1945.**

Study the two sources below and answer the question which follows.

**Source A**

‘Popular support for the Nazis weakened in early 1934 as a result of their inability to deal with the economic problems, which disappointed both the working classes and businessmen. Another problem was the unpopularity of many local Nazi bosses, the so-called ‘little Hitlers’ who were seen as corrupt and self-serving. The SA was widely disliked for its thuggish, bullying character.’

[Graham Goddard, an academic historian and specialist on Nazi Germany, writing in an article in a historical magazine, *The rise and fall of the Hitler Myth*, published in the *Modern History Review*, (September 2003)]

**Source B**

‘On July 20<sup>th</sup> 1944, I left the office for home. As usual the first thing I did was switch on the radio. The first sentence swept my feet from under me. An attempt had been made on Hitler’s life. I cried out loud and felt sick; although the second sentence did give reassuring news that, as if by a miracle, the Fuhrer was almost unharmed. A friend who lived next door arrived. I think we were both in tears. To us, Hitler’s death would have meant the complete breakdown of our world. The perpetrators of such a deed could only be criminals or madmen.’

[Melita Maschmann, a former head of the Department for Press and Propaganda of the German Girls League (BDM), writing in her autobiography, *Account Rendered: a dossier of my former self* (1963)]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting the changing fortunes of the Nazi Party, 1933-1945? [80]

## 2. Hitler's relations with the German military, c.1933-1945.

*Study the two sources below and answer the question which follows.*

### **Source A**

'In the immediate aftermath of the Night of the Long Knives, it seemed as if the army was in a position of considerable strength. However, with hindsight, it is clear that although the army had succeeded in preserving its influence in the short term, this had been achieved by a compromise, which was to be fatal in the long term. This is most clearly shown by the new oath of loyalty demanded by Hitler of all soldiers, and accepted by Field Marshal von Blomberg.'

[Geoff Layton, an academic historian and specialist in the history of Nazi Germany, writing in an A-Level study guide, *Germany and the Third Reich 1933-1945* (1992)]

### **Source B**

'I had no problem or psychological inhibitions about killing Hitler. Equally I had no difficulties about the oath sworn to Hitler. For me it never had any meaning, it was fundamentally valueless, and I never had any intention of either keeping it or using it as an excuse for inaction. How could one take an oath to a criminal under duress seriously? Our actions were firmly grounded on moral certainty.'

[Ewald von Kleist, an officer in the German Infantry recalling his feelings in a meeting with Colonel von Stauffenberg in June 1944. This was given in evidence to the Nuremberg Trials in 1945]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting Hitler's relationship with the German military, 1933-1945? [80]

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*The rise and fall of the Hitler Myth* is published by Philip Allan.

*Germany and the Third Reich 1933-1945* is published by Hodder Arnold.