



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate  
Principal Subject

**HISTORY**

**9769/73**

Paper 51 Special Subject: Germany, 1919–1945

**May/June 2012**

**2 hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



**Answer the following question.**

**Nominated topic: Hitler's foreign policy to 1941**

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer all the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents, it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

**A** *The recently-appointed Chancellor declares his view of foreign policy to a press conference.*

We in this new Germany are filled with deep understanding of the rightful claims to life of other nations. We have suffered too deeply from the madness of our time to be able to contemplate treating others in the same way. We have no use for the idea of forcing Germanisation on others. The French, the Poles etc. are our neighbours and this cannot be altered. The Treaty of Versailles did not provide a settlement in the east which would have met the needs of both Germany and Poland, but no German government will break an agreement of its own accord unless it can be replaced by a better one. The German government wishes for nothing more than can be shown to be necessary and just.

Hitler, *Speech to representatives of the Associated Press*, 17 May 1933.

**B** *As recorded in the Hossbach Memorandum, Hitler outlines his foreign policy aims.*

The aim of German foreign policy was to make secure and preserve the racial community and to enlarge it. It was a question of space. The German racial community comprised over 85 million people, and by reason of their number and the narrow limits of habitable space in Europe, it constituted a tightly packed racial core such as was not found in any other country and, as such, implied the right to a greater living space than in the case of other peoples.

The annexation of Czechoslovakia and Austria would mean an acquisition of foodstuffs for 5–6 million people. The incorporation of these two states with Germany meant a substantial advantage from a political-military point of view because it would mean shorter and better frontiers, the freeing of forces for other purposes.

Hitler, *Address to a meeting of German military leaders*, 5 November 1937.

**C** *Hitler's military aide recalls a briefing given to German diplomats and generals in 1938.*

I remember that Hitler summoned a meeting of leading figures on 28 May 1938 and made the following statement, 'I am utterly determined that Czechoslovakia should disappear from the map'. Hitler then revealed the outlines of his plan of attack on Czechoslovakia. 'Then I give you three or four years and we shall sort things out in the West.' By this he meant war with Britain and France. I was very shocked. I said to Neurath,\* 'Well, what do you think?' He said, 'The situation is not so serious as it looks. Nothing will happen before Spring 1939.'

Franz Wiedemann, *The Man the Officer Wanted To Be*, 1964.

*\*Constantin von Neurath had been a member of the cabinet with responsibility for foreign affairs. He had been eased out in February 1938 and was Minister without Portfolio but chairman of a secret Cabinet committee on foreign policy.*

**D** *The Führer outlines his views on foreign policy to senior officers.*

Living space proportionate to the greatness of the State is fundamental to every power. One can do without it for a time, but sooner or later the problem will have to be solved. The alternatives are either rise or decline. In fifteen or twenty years, the solution will be forced on us. No German statesman can shirk the problem. It is not Danzig that is at stake, but the expansion of our living space to the east and making food supplies secure, and also solving the problem of the Baltic States. If fate forces us into a showdown with the West, it is good to possess a large area in the east. The population of non-German areas will be available for labour service. Poland will also be a barrier against Russia.

Hitler, *Speech*, 23 May 1939.

**E** *A modern historian considers how far Hitler planned for and was responsible for war.*

Hitler's foreign policy was based on rigid racial and expansionist ideas. Nothing can be more misleading than the idea that Hitler was a traditional continental statesman who wanted merely to promote Germany's interests as a great power and proceeded far more patiently than was commonly supposed. The facts are otherwise. World War II was Hitler's war. Starting in 1937, he came to believe that his time was running out and told his generals that 'No one knows how much longer I shall live, therefore better a war now.' However, the German people were not psychologically prepared for war in 1939, and even the Führer was temporarily speechless when he was informed that Britain had declared war, asking his foreign minister in an accusing tone 'What now?'

Klaus Fischer, *Nazi Germany, A New History*, 1995.

- (a)** To what extent does Document C corroborate the evidence presented in Document B about Hitler's foreign policy aims? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents that Hitler followed a clear plan in his foreign policy between 1933 and 1939?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

**Answer one of the following questions.** *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied, as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2** 'Hitler became Chancellor more as a result of the political intrigues of others than his own political abilities.' Discuss. [30]
- 3** How far did Nazi policies towards women succeed in their aims? [30]
- 4** Assess the view that the main reason for limited German resistance to the Nazi regime was the genuine popularity of Hitler and his policies. [30]

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

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