

Beer Hall Putsch Coursework Assignments

GCSE HISTORY COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Teacher Information

Introduction:

These assignments comprise sources, questions and mark schemes which will enable your pupils to fulfil the coursework requirements in history for Edexcel Foundation specifications for first examination in summer 2003. You may use these assignments as they stand. They have been designed to assess the full range of grades targeted by the syllabus (Grades G-A*). Assistance may be given in class to aid the comprehension of the sources.

You may also adapt these assignments if wished by:

- providing additional or replacement sources
- providing additional or replacement questions.

However, if you wish to make changes you should submit these to the Edexcel Foundation for approval to ensure that revised sources or questions give candidates appropriate opportunity to meet the targets specified at the appropriate level.

Management of the assignment:

The assignment has been designed to accommodate some flexibility of classroom practice. The following points should be borne in mind:

- Although all the questions *may* be tackled as part of a single task, this is not necessary. The timing of individual questions within an assignment may be staggered over a period of time and integrated into the programme of study.
- Candidates may use the sources provided in the pack as part of their preparation for Assignment 1 but this is not a requirement.
- your candidates should draw upon their contextual knowledge when using the sources for Assignment 2. The historical content listed below should be familiar to candidates before they attempt to answer the questions.

The Beer Hall Putsch

This assignment should arise from a teaching programme designed to occupy approximately half a term. Before candidates begin this assignment they should have knowledge of:

- The Weimar Republic: strengths and weaknesses
- The origins and appeal of National Socialism
- The impact of economic problems in the 1920s
- The role of Hitler and the rise of the Nazi Party in the 1920s

Introduction

Many people in Germany felt angered and betrayed by the peace settlement at the end of the First World War. This was one reason why so many people opposed the Weimar government which was set up in 1919.

In November 1923 the National Socialist Party attempted to seize power in Munich, the state capital of Bavaria in southern Germany. This attempt was a failure, but the events of November 1923 changed the Nazi Party, and Hitler's ideas about how he could come to power in Germany.

This assignment asks you to consider why Hitler decided to take on such a dangerous task. What actually happened in Munich on 8 and 9 November 1923? Why did things not go as Hitler planned? You will also be able to investigate the importance of the Munich Putsch and the ways that the events of November changed Hitler's ideas and his party.

SOURCE A: an eyewitness account of events in the Burgerbraukeller on the evening of 8 November 1923. This was written by a member of the Nazi Party who left the party and Germany in the 1920s.

Hitler was standing with Rosenberg near the entrance with a watch in his hand. The minute hand advanced – 8.27 – 8.28 – 8.29 – 8.30. The door was flung open; steel-helmeted men burst through, pushing maxim guns into the hall. Other steel helmets appeared menacingly at every window. Hitler snapped his watch back into his pocket, seized his revolver and elbowed his way through the crowd behind his heavily armed bodyguard. The hall was thrown into the wildest commotion. Within a few seconds no one could be heard above the uproar. Hitler jumped up on a table and fired two shots into the ceiling demanding quiet. In an instant the silence was absolute; one could even hear Hitler breathing hard.

SOURCE B: a reconstruction of the meeting in the Burgerbraukeller on the evening of 8 November 1923. This was painted in 1937 by an official Nazi Party artist.



SOURCE C: the bill for the evening of 8 November. This was sent to the Nazi Party by the owner of the Burgerbraukeller on 15 November; he also sent a separate demand for the damage caused.

| | | |
|----------|------|----------------|
| Consumed | 800 | Meals |
| | 2372 | Pints of beer |
| Broken | 98 | Chairs |
| | 143 | Tankards |
| | 80 | Glasses |
| | 2 | Music Stands |
| Stolen | 148 | Set of Cutlery |

SOURCE D: from Hitler's speech at the Burgerbraukeller on the evening of 8 November 1923.

The government of the November Criminals and the Reich President are declared removed. The National Revolution has begun. This hall is occupied by 600 heavily armed men. No one may leave. A provisional government will be formed this very day, here in Munich. The army and police barracks have been occupied, troops and police are marching on the city under the swastika. Now I am going to carry out the vow I made five years ago when I was a blind cripple in the army hospital.

SOURCE E: a description of the events of 9 November in Munich in a biography of Hitler published by the Nazi Party in Germany in 1934.

Hitler shouted, "Close the ranks" and linked arms with his neighbours. The body of the man with whom Hitler was linked shot up into the air like a ball, tearing Hitler's arm with him, so that it sprang from the joint and fell back limp. Hitler went to the man and stood over him. A boy was severely wounded. Blood was pouring from his mouth. Hitler picked him up and carried him on his shoulders. "If I can only get him to the car", Hitler thought, "then the boy is safe".

SOURCE F: from *'Hitler the Pawn'*, this was written in 1936 by a member of the German SDP; it was published outside of Germany.

One the night of 8 November 1923, Hitler wanted to make himself scarce, to retreat to Rosenheim. This meant flight. General Ludendorf had other ideas. He was not certain of success. No German, at any rate no German in uniform, would shoot at the 'General of the First World War', at the national hero.

At about noon on 9 November, a procession of 2000 Nationalists marched, twelve abreast, through the town. At the first shot, Hitler flung himself to the ground. He sprained his arm, but this did not prevent him from running. He found his car and drove into the mountains.

SOURCE G: from a biography of Adolf Hitler written by a British historian and published in 1973.

The march took place on the morning of 9 November 1923 at about 11 o'clock. It started at the Burgerbraukeller and was intended to reach the War Ministry which had been occupied by Roehm and the SA.

The marchers passed through one police cordon without a fight, but in the centre of the city met a further police road-block. The police were armed, but there were only about one hundred of them. However, the narrowness of the street gave them a strong position. There was some shouting at them from the column. Hitler shouted "Surrender", but almost immediately firing broke out. It is not clear which side started it. Within a minute sixteen of the marchers and three of the police were lying on the ground.

To what extent Hitler behaved in a cowardly manner was much disputed. It could be that he merely behaved like an experienced soldier in dropping to the ground at the sound of gunfire. He himself explained that he was pulled down by the mortally wounded man next to him.

Assignment One: Objective 1

1. Describe the main events in Hitler's political career from 1918 to 1922. (15)

2. Why did the Munich Putsch fail? (15)

3. In what ways did the events of November 1923 change the political views of Hitler and the policies of Nazi Party in the years to 1930? (20)

(Total: 50 marks)

Assignment Two: Objectives 2 and 3

1. Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about the events in the Burgerbraukeller on the evening of 8 November?

(6)

2. Study Sources A and B.

Source B gives a different impression of the events of the evening of 8 November from that given in Source A.

How do you explain the differences between the sources?

(8)

3. Study Sources C and D.

How useful are these sources in helping you to understand the events in Munich of 8 November 1923?

(10)

4. Study Sources E, F and G.

Use the sources and your own knowledge to explain what happened in Munich on 8/9 November 1923.

(12)

5. Study all of the Sources.

‘The events in Munich of 8/9 November greatly increased the influence of Hitler and the Nazi Party in Germany.’

Use the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view of the Munich Putsch.

(14)

(Total: 50 marks)

Coursework Assignments Mark scheme

The Beer Hall Putsch

Assignment One

1. *Describe the main events in Hitler's political career from 1918 to 1922.* (15)
- Target: Key features/recall of knowledge**
- Level 1:** Simple statements offering some events, e.g. demobilisation, the DAP, campaigns etc. (1-5)
- Level 2:** Developed statements giving the main events supported by relevant knowledge e.g. the events after demobilisation and his work as a Bavarian Government agent, what happened when he joined the DAP etc. (6-10)
- Level 3:** Development answer, based on appropriately selected knowledge to show of the significance of the main events in Hitler's career, e.g. his memories of the war and the situation in Bavaria in 1919, career as a 'V' man and his decisions to join and develop the DAP into the NSDAP etc. (11-15)
2. *Why did the Munich Putsch fail?* (15)
- Target: Causation/recall of knowledge**
- Level 1:** Simple statements giving reasons for failure supported by some knowledge, e.g. the Nazis were disorganised, there were police in the way, Hitler ran away etc. (1-5)
- Level 2:** Developed statements giving reasons supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. Putsch was badly planned (details of 8 November), too many people knew what was happening (Kahr Lassow etc.), Hitler got up late and only reached the Beer Hall at about midday etc., also worst of the effects of inflation in Germany were past by November. (6-10)
- Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by appropriately selected knowledge showing understanding of the sequence of events on 8/9 November and the links between them, e.g. disorganisation led to advance warning, policy were ready, Hitler did not expect to have to fight, Stresemann had become Chancellor and was already tackling the economic problems etc. (11-15)

3. *In what ways did the events of November 1923 change the political views of Hitler and the policies of the Nazi Party in the years to 1930?* (20)

Target: Change/analysis of key features/recall of knowledge

Level 1: Simple statements giving changes supported by some knowledge e.g. he had to accept peaceful methods, work constitutionally etc. (1-5)

Level 2: Developed statements giving changes supported by relevant knowledge e.g. the Nazis were forced to become a 'legitimate' party, Hitler had to accept that he would have to win power by democratic means and that would mean changes in the methods employed hitherto, they became a national party etc. (6-10)

Level 3: Developed explanation supported by appropriately selected knowledge showing understanding of the nature of change, e.g. the Nazis change from a local Bavarian party to a national party with various sections and figures such as Goebbels; they organised election campaigns, e.g. in 1928 with a view to obtaining a majority in the Reichstag etc. (11-15)

Level 4: Sustained argument supported by precisely selected knowledge showing clear understanding of the nature and degree of change, e.g. of the methods used by the Nazis to win support from 1924 onwards, i.e. targeting the north German farmers in the 1928 election campaign and attempting to attract both nationalists and socialists and show awareness that Hitler's political objectives hardly changed. (16-20)

Coursework Assignments Mark Scheme

The Beer Hall Putsch

Assignment Two

1. *What can you learn from Source A about the events in the Bergerbraukeller on the evening of 8 November?* (6)
- Target: Comprehension of and inference from a source**
- Level 1:** Information taken from the source at face value, e.g. Hitler was there, armed men etc. (1-3)
- Level 2:** An inference from the source, e.g. the room was thrown into uproar, confusion, Hitler could not be heard at first etc. (4-6)
2. *Source B gives a different impression of the events of the evening of 8 November from that given in Source A*
- How do you explain the differences between the sources?* (8)
- Target: Comprehension, comparison and evaluation of sources/recall of knowledge**
- Level 1:** Simple statements using the nature of the sources, e.g. Source A is by someone who was there, Source B is an official picture, so they would bound to differ. (1-3)
- Level 2:** Developed statements using the nature of the sources, e.g. the Nazis would want to play down the version of events in Source A, therefore Source B gives the impression that all was calm and Hitler was in control etc. (4-6)
- Level 3:** Developed explanations using the nature and provenance of the sources and drawing on appropriately contextual awareness. Source B was propaganda produced in the 1930s to create a deliberately false impression of what had happened, this was important as the Beer Hall Putsch had been an example of a defeat for Hitler etc. (7-8)

3. *How useful are these sources in helping you to understand the events in Munich of 8 November 1923?* (10)

Target: Analysis of sources for assessment of utility

Level 1: Makes simple statements about value based on content or nature of sources, e.g. Source C gives details of what happened in the Burgerbraukeller on the night of 8 November, Source D tells us what is happening in Munich or Source D is more useful because it is a speech by Hitler himself. (1-3)

Level 2: Developed statements about usefulness drawing inferences from nature and/or content of sources e.g. the bill gives us some idea of what the meeting must have been like, the speech only tells us what Hitler hoped would happen. (4-6)

Level 3: Developed analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the two sources leading to a balanced judgement about events in Munich using nature and content of the sources, e.g. the speech is aimed at persuading the people in the beer cellar to support Hitler; the bill, which may be inaccurate, gives an alternative view of what went on etc. (7-10)

4. *Use the sources and your own knowledge to explain what happened in Munich on 8/9 November 1923.* (12)

Target: Analysis of sources and cross-referencing, with factual recall

Level 1: Simple statements giving facts, e.g. Hitler fell, he flung himself to the ground etc. (1-3)

Level 2: Simple statements about events, using sources and some own knowledge (4-6)

Level 3: Developed statements about events from all three sources, using own knowledge to reconcile differences. e.g. Source G says the Nazis were forced to return fire, Source F says Hitler was a coward and ran away when he heard gunfire. (7-10)

Level 4: Developed explanation of events taken from all three sources and own knowledge. (11-12)

5. *'The events in Munich of 8/9 November 1923 greatly increased the influence of Hitler and the Nazi Party in Germany'. Use the sources, and your own knowledge, to help you explain whether you agree with this view.* (14)

Target: Analysis of interpretation of events

Level 1: Simple statements offering points in support using sources or own knowledge e.g. Hitler became more popular and more widely known etc. (1-3)

Level 2: Developed statements offering points of support of choice using sources, and supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. specific instances quoted (4-6)

Level 3: Developed explanation giving a judgement about view making confident use of sources and supported by appropriately selected knowledge, e.g. shows how the sources reflect the potentially damaging nature of the events of November 1923 and the ways that Hitler sought to put these to his advantage; understands that the real influence only came after the Wall Street Crash in 1929. (7-11)

Level 4: Sustained argument giving reasoned choice using the sources as evidence and supported by precisely selected knowledge, which critically evaluates the significance of the Beer Hall Putsch and assesses its part in making Hitler and the Nazis more influential, e.g. to what extent did the propaganda of the Nazis have any effect, argues the worldwide depression had much greater influences. (12-14)