Instructions

• Use black ink or ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
• There are three sections in this question paper. Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE question from Section B and the question in Section C.
• Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Information

• The total mark for this paper is 60.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.

Advice

• Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
• Check your answers if you have time at the end.
SECTION A
Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

1  How far do you agree that opposition to the Weimar constitution was the most significant problem for governments to deal with in the years 1919–33?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2  How far do you agree that throughout the years 1934–45 the Nazi government was a popular dictatorship?

(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)
SECTION A

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☐ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number:  Question 1 ☐  Question 2 ☐
SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3  To what extent was German culture shaped by political ideology in the years 1918–45?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4  How far do you agree that government intervention was the most important factor in German economic development in the years 1945–89?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
SECTION B

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☐. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☐.

Chosen question number:  Question 3 ☐  Question 4 ☐
SECTION C

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

5 In the light of differing interpretations, how convincing do you find the view that the outbreak of the Second World War was a result of ‘blunders by Hitler and his opponents’ (Extract 1, lines 15–16)?

To explain your answer, analyse and evaluate the material in both extracts, using your own knowledge of the issues.

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Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History
Advanced
Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations
Option 1G: Germany and West Germany, 1918–89

Friday 9th June 2017 – Morning

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.
Extracts for use with Section C.


The economic advance of Soviet Russia obsessed Hitler. It was indeed startling. During the ten years between 1929 and 1939, while the manufacturing production of Germany increased by 27 per cent and that of Great Britain by 17 per cent Soviet Russia’s increased by 400 per cent; and the process was only beginning. By 1938 Soviet Russia was the second industrial power in the world, ranking only after the United States. She had still far to go: her population was still impoverished, her resources were hardly developed. Hitler had not much time if he was to escape being overshadowed, and still less if he hoped to seize the Soviet Ukraine*. It would have made sense for Hitler to plan a great war against Soviet Russia. But, though he often talked of such a war, he did not plan for it. German armaments were not designed for such a war. Hitler’s rearmament was only intended to reinforce a diplomatic war of nerves. It is hard to tell whether Hitler took the project of war against Soviet Russia seriously, or whether it was an attractive illusion with which to fool Western statesmen. The war of 1939, far from being premeditated, was a mistake, the result of blunders by Hitler and his opponents.

*Soviet Ukraine – land seized by Germany in 1918 and retaken by the Soviet Union by 1922


The attempt to explain the causes of the Second World War by the shortcomings of European statesmen is profoundly mistaken. The foreign policy of the Third Reich was dynamic in character, limitless in its aims to achieve domination and entirely lacking the idea of a ‘diplomatic solution’. Expansionism is sometimes treated by historians merely as the restoration of German power in Europe, but the desire to expand was in itself a cause of war. The outbreak of a European war over Danzig was not just a matter of miscalculation on Hitler’s part. Hitler took the straightforward risk that Britain and France would declare war in the event of a German invasion of Poland. The decision to take the risk launched the Second World War. Hitler would have preferred Britain and France to remain inactive, but the risk was so obvious that we must presume that he was ready to accept war with them if they were prepared to support Poland.

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