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

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 significant was the problem of political extremism in challenging effective government in the years 1919–30?

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2 How far do you agree that Nazi censorship was the most effective method used to control the people in the years 1933–45?

(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 How far do you agree that the economic policies of the Nazi regime were remarkably similar to those of the FRG?  

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4 To what extent did the role and status of women change in the years 1939–89?  

(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 Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939 because he thought that the Western powers would not intervene?

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

(20)
Extracts for use with Section C.


Poland was the last country where Hitler could claim to have legitimate grounds to revise the terms set out in the Treaty of Versailles. After the destruction of Czechoslovakia Hitler announced that the Danzig question had to be solved. Hitler did not believe that the guarantee Chamberlain had given to Poland in March 1939 had changed the European situation.

Hitler thought the guarantee to Poland was pure bluff. On April 28 he ended the German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact and the Anglo-German naval agreement; he now demanded a passageway through the Polish Corridor. His moves followed the same pattern as 1938, and he ordered the plans for the attack on Poland on September 1, 1939. Hitler had told his top military leaders in May that Danzig was only an excuse for further expansion. He claimed that Lebensraum and achieving a guaranteed food supply for Germany were his real motives.

Hitler had good reason to be optimistic. Even though the Western powers had begun to produce armaments on a greater scale, they still wanted appeasement.


With the conclusion of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, which struck the Western capitals with the force of a thunderbolt, Hitler’s preparations for the next phase of his eastern plan were complete. Had Hitler wanted to achieve his objectives by negotiation he could have done so. The Poles were now clear on the reality of their position and were eager for an arrangement. But Hitler did not want another Munich. He declined the advice of other European leaders, including that of Mussolini.

Ciano, the Italian Foreign Minister, asked Ribbentrop, Hitler’s Foreign Minister, what Germany wanted from Poland. He was informed: ‘We want war.’ Ribbentrop was of course merely reflecting the thoughts of Hitler. At this point in his career no triumph seemed satisfactory to Hitler unless it involved devastating military force.

Hitler calculated that, if Western states intervened, it would give him the opportunity to destroy them and clear the way for the greater war against Russia that would fulfil Germany’s destiny. Hitler was not surprised when the British and French governments responded to the invasion of Poland by declaring war on Germany.

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