



History (Higher): assignment

Candidate evidence

Candidate 1 evidence

History Higher Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
Evidence	
<p>1933, Article 48, liberties, freedoms, opposition, 44, 81, Enabling, dictator, no involvement, structure, quote, July banned, legal, complete control, underground opposition, oppressive, challenge, 1934, control, enforce.</p> <p>Volksgemeinschaft, conform, 'true' German, 1935 Nuremberg Laws, 1938 Kristallnacht, 'outsiders', enemy, quote, youth, allotted roles, obedience, Hitler, Edelweiss, official, political, detectable, social, lifestyle, avoid, 32, resisted.</p> <p>Uniformed, visible violence, consequences, quote, Gestapo, informants, identify, web, omnipresent, organised, difficult, ministers spoke, public, unwarranted, rebellion, reasonable, legitimate, struggling, Swing Kids, protest.</p> <p>Goebbels, media, message, positives, quote, critical information, Fuhrer cult, above politics, figure, faith, repetition diminished, bored, late, resented.</p> <p>1939, 6, delivering, self-sufficiency, women, Jews, conscription, imprisonment, hollow, small impact, struggling, carried out, guns, domestic, rearmament.</p> <p>Ideal, obedient generation, loose, lifestyle, restrictive, frequent, opposite, widely accepted, necessary, political, ultimate, eliminate opposition.</p>	
References	
<p>Finlay McKichan, 'Germany 1815-1939' 'The Nazis used the power given to them by the Enabling Act to dispose of any organisation which may obstruct or oppose them and to ensure that people in positions of authority supported them.'</p> <p>David Welch, 'The Third Reich' 'Antisemitism was not only the core of Nazi ideology, but the Jewish stereotype that developed from it provided the focal point for the feeling of aggression inherent in the ideology.'</p> <p>Gordon Craig, 'Germany 1866-1945' 'The force that prevented the regime from dissolving into chaos was terror and its instrument was the SS.'</p> <p>Noakes and Pridham, 'Nazism 1919-1945 Volume Two' 'The media was strictly controlled... in short, an independent public opinion did not exist in the Third Reich.'</p>	

Q- To what extent was the establishment of a totalitarian state the most important reason why the Nazis were able to retain power 1933-39?

The Nazi Party had its origins as a small local party formed in Munich after the First World War. Adolf Hitler, who became the leader of the Nazis in 1921, first attracted a national audience during his trial after the Beer Hall Putsch and later after the release of the book he wrote in prison detailing his beliefs titled 'Mein Kampf'. During the economic crisis following the Wall Street Crash of 1929, support for the Nazi ~~part~~ Party grew exponentially and by 1932, the Nazis were the largest single party in the Reichstag. The Nazis held power in Germany up to and beyond the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. The most important reason why the Nazis were able to retain power was the establishment of a totalitarian state. However, other factors must also be considered such as social policies. Fear and state terrorism was significant also. Another important factor was propaganda. Finally, economic policies must also be considered.

~~The most important reason~~

The most important reason why the Nazis were able to retain power was the establishment of a totalitarian state.

~~At~~ At the end of February 1933, following the Reichstag fire, a decree was issued

by the President under Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution that removed many civil liberties from the German population. This was important because among the rights removed were freedom of speech, freedom to hold protest and freedom from unreasonable arrest, and the Nazis used this to attack the opposition such as the Communists. However, despite having these measures in place, in an election held in March 1933, the Nazis party only won 44% of the vote and the Communist Party won 81 Reichstag seats. In March 1933, the Enabling Act was passed which gave Hitler full power as a dictator for four years. This act was later renewed in 1937 for another four years. This was important because it meant that Hitler could pass laws without any involvement of the Reichstag and this allowed Hitler to move Germany towards the totalitarian structure that he wanted. Historian E.J. Hobsbawm agreed in 'Germany 1815 - 1939' when he said 'The Nazis used the power given to them by the Enabling Act to dispose of any organisation which may obstruct or oppose them and to ensure that people in positions of authority supported them'. By July 1933, it was illegal to form a political party, and all existing parties beside the Nazis were banned, including the Communists. Trade unions

were also banned. This was important because it meant that the Nazi Party was the only legal political party and therefore they had complete control over the German political debate. However, although groups opposed to the Nazis were illegal, underground opposition continued with an estimated half a million Germans actively opposing the Nazis at the time. In evaluation, the establishment of a totalitarian state was the most important factor in why the Nazis were able to stay in power. This is because the enforcement of such oppressive rules that stripped the German electorate of many rights left people powerless to ~~oppose~~ ~~the~~ ~~Nazi~~ challenge the Nazis. This is supported by the fact that after 1934, ~~the~~ German soldiers had to pledge allegiance to Hitler himself rather than the German constitution as they had done before. This demonstrates the extremely high position that the establishment of a totalitarian state put the Nazis in, and we can see that the Nazis had control over every demographic. Ultimately, their control over the military allowed them to enforce their harsh rules and to keep the public in check.

Another important reason do to

* in 1938, there was

Why the Nazis were able to retain power was social policies. The Nazis aimed to create a sense of Volksgemeinschaft - a shared feeling of German national community in which they were all one together. This was important because this ~~helped to~~ helped to create a society in which Nazi ideals were the norm, and created an overwhelming pressure on individuals to conform. Nazi propaganda portrayed Jewish people as lesser than 'true' Germans. The 1935 Nuremberg laws stripped Jewish people of German citizenship and * a coordinated attack ~~on~~ on Jewish people and their property ~~was~~ referred to as Kristallnacht. This was important because the portrayal of Jewish people as 'outsiders' strengthened the sense of German community as other Germans had people that they could feel superior over and unite against as a common enemy. In ~~the~~ 'The Third Reich', historian David Welch commented on this when he ~~said~~ said 'Antisemitism was not only the core of Nazi ideology, but the Jewish stereotype that ~~was~~ developed from it provided a focal point for the feeling of aggression inherent in the ideology'. ~~The Nazis~~ ~~set up~~ Nazi organisations were set up for young people - the Hitler

Youth for boys and the League of German Maidens for girls were made compulsory in 1936. This was important because these groups prepared the boys and girls to fulfil their allotted roles ~~as~~ as adults in Nazi Germany. Obedience to Nazi leaders such as Hitler began to replace obedience to parents. However, not all children participated with ~~the~~ youth groups such as the Edelweiss Pirates opposing Nazi social controls and even fighting with the Hitler Youth. In evaluation, ~~the~~ social policies were not as important as the establishment of a totalitarian state ~~and~~ why the Nazis were able to regain power. This ~~is~~ was because the rules put in place under the establishment of a totalitarian state were official laws restricting political freedom, and therefore ~~the~~ were easy to police as deviations from them could be more easily identified. On the other hand, social policies were more likened to social guidelines that merely restricted lifestyle, and therefore were much easier to work around. This is supported by the fact that although all teachers were pressured to join the Nazis, by 1936 only 32% of teachers in Germany actually had. This shows how social policies could be resisted.

One quite important reason for the Nazis being able to ~~se~~ stay in power was ~~the establishment of a totalitarian~~ ~~state~~ fear and state terrorism.

The SS were the uniformed division of the Nazis and they repressed acts of opposition with highly visible acts of brutal violence. This was important because anyone who wasn't seen as being unquestionably loyal to Hitler would be afraid of violent consequences for themselves ~~and~~ or their families. This deterred people from opposing the Nazis. As historian Gordon Craig said in 'Germany 1866-1945',

'The force that prevented the regime from dissolving into chaos was ~~the~~ terror and its instrument was the SS.' The ~~SS~~ Gestapo (secret police) was the plain-clothed branch of the German police and they used a network of informants to identify the opposition. This was important because it created a web of mistrust as the Gestapo was seemingly omnipresent and so Germans didn't know who to trust. It created an atmosphere in which organised opposition was difficult to achieve. However, despite the risks, some church ministers spoke out against the Nazi regime such as Martin Niemöller. In evaluation, ~~the~~ fear and state terrorism was not as important as

the establishment of a totalitarian state as to why the Nazis were able to retain power. This is because the establishment of a totalitarian state was more widely accepted as a legitimate, reasonable move to help what had been a deeply struggling Germany before Nazi rule. Therefore, Germans were more likely to comply with rules that they agreed with. In contrast, fear and state terrorism sparked outrage in many, and ^{sometimes} caused the opposite of the desired effect ~~at~~ and caused people to rebel against the Nazis. This is supported by the fact that groups such as the Neuten Gangs and the Swing Kids deliberately broke rules set by the Nazis in protest of their harsh methods.

~~One important reason~~
A less important reason ~~was~~ why the Nazis were able to stay in power was propaganda. Joseph Goebbels was the propaganda minister during the Nazi reign and he effectively controlled the spread of the Nazi message through media such as newspapers, radio, cinema and posters. This was important because it allowed the Nazis to control the narrative and ~~only~~ allow people to ^{only} see the positive side of the Nazi regime. ~~Historians~~ Historians, Noakes and Pridham agree in

'Nazism 1919-1945 Volume Two' when they said 'The ~~the~~ media was strictly controlled... in short, an independent public opinion did not exist in the Third Reich'. However, there could never be a fully effective ban on information entering from other countries, and so some information that was critical of the Nazis did enter the country.

The 'cult of the Führer' was a common theme in Nazi propaganda. Hitler was portrayed as being above party politics and ~~was presented as~~ ^{was presented as} a figure of national loyalty and focus. This was important because it ~~was~~ encouraged those who ~~the~~ were not yet Nazi party members to have faith in Hitler and believe in his politics. In evaluation, propaganda was not the most important reason why the Nazis were able to stay in power. This was because while the use of propaganda was hugely influential at the beginning of the Nazi reign, the repetition of the same messages diminished their impact and some Germans began to be bored or irritated by propaganda which made it less impactful. This is supported by the fact that some Germans purposefully arrived late to watch films at the cinema to prevent having to watch the Nazi propaganda newsreels shown before the film.

Evidently ~~some~~ some of the German population began to resent having the same information forced on them, and so went out of their way to avoid ~~being~~ ^{influence} being

The least important reason why the Nazis were able to retain power was economic policies. Hjalmar Schacht was in charge of a state-funded programme of the construction of many new public buildings and motorways (autobahns). This was important because these projects were symbols of German renewal and encouraged Germans that positive change was being caused by the Nazis. However, not all of these projects actually happened such as the complete rebuilding of Berlin that was supposed to happen but never did. By 1939, unemployment was at almost 0 people from around 6 million people unemployed when the Nazis first took power. This was important because tackling unemployment was a huge promise of the Nazis and it was good for them to be seen delivering ~~it~~ on this. Also, jobs gave individual Germans pride and self-sufficiency, as well as a better standard of living. However, ~~this~~ this new figure was unreliable as it did not include women or Jewish people (as they had been forced out of employment) and

many unemployed people had been conscripted into the armed forces or imprisoned in concentration camps.

In evaluation, economic policies were not as important as the establishment of a totalitarian state in the reasons why the Nazis could retain power.

This is because most of ~~the~~ Nazi economic policies were hollow promises or false claims that did very little to help Germany's economy. In contrast, the establishment of a totalitarian state was carried out in full and therefore had a much larger impact on German society. This is supported by the ~~fact~~ 'guns or butter' model of Joseph Goebbels. Goebbels used this model to describe how Germany's ~~own~~ economy was struggling as it had to choose between domestic essentials or rearmament. This demonstrates how little of an impact economic policies had.

~~the~~
In conclusion, the establishment of a totalitarian state was the most important factor in why the Nazis were able to retain power. ~~On~~ On one hand, several policies were important because they ~~also~~ molded Germany's population into ideal Nazis and created a whole ^{new} generation of obedient subordinates. However the establishment

* under the establishment of a totalitarian state of a totalitarian state was more important because social policies were loose lifestyle rules that could be easily worked around, whereas the rules put in place were unmovable, harsh restrictions that removed the power from the people. On the other hand, fear and state terrorism was less important because the public act of violence caused many to stop supporting the Nazis and to rebel. The establishment of a totalitarian state was more important than this as it was seen as a necessary political strategy to help restore Germany's former glory, and therefore people were more willing to abide by the rules it enforced. Overall, the most important reason why the Nazis were able to stay in power was the establishment of a totalitarian state because it was these series of laws that took power from individual Germans and gave it to the Nazis, and therefore allowed them ultimate control over Germany and its inhabitants, as well as the power to eliminate the ~~oppose~~ any groups of opposition.

