Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours 15 minutes

Paper reference **9HI0/1G**

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1G: Germany and West Germany, 1918–89

Extracts Booklet

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Richard J Evans, *The Third Reich in Power,* published 2005.

War had been the objective of the Third Reich and its leaders from the moment they came to power in 1933. From that point, up to the actual outbreak of hostilities in September 1939, they had focussed relentlessly on preparing for a conflict that they hoped would bring European, and eventually world, domination for Germany.

Germany's destiny was linked in the minds of Hitler and the leading Nazis to conflict and war. Aryan racial theory, the pseudo-science that underlay so much of Hitler's thinking, envisioned a world in which nations and races were engaged in a perpetual struggle for survival.

Thus, there was an urgent need, as Hitler saw it, to make Germany and the Germans fit for combat. As war drew closer, above all from late 1937 onwards, the radicalism and ruthlessness of the regime grew with it. The thoroughness and ruthlessness of the Nazi attempt to remould Germany and Germans were without parallel.

The war launched against Poland on 1 September 1939 was a war of racial conquest, subjugation and extermination.

Extract 2: From AJP Taylor, *The Origins of the Second World War*, published 1964.

Little can be discovered about why war broke out in September 1939 as long as we go on attributing to Hitler everything that happened. He supplied a powerful dynamic element, but he was only contributing to a process that was already underway. Hitler was in part the creation of Versailles, in part the creation of ideas that were common in contemporary Europe. Most of all he was the creation of German history and of the Germany that he lived in and felt part of. He would have counted for nothing without the support and cooperation of the German people. Hitler was, to a large extent, articulating the feelings of the German people.

As supreme ruler of Germany, Hitler bears the greatest responsibility for starting the Second World War. However, Hitler's foreign policy was not remarkably different from the other powers in Europe. True, he aimed to make Germany the dominant power in Europe, and perhaps, in the world, but other powers pursued similar aims. It was the threat of German expansion that made Britain and France oppose Hitler.

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Acknowledgements

Extract 1 from: The Third Reich in Power, 1933 - 1939: How the Nazis Won Over the Hearts and Minds of a Nation by Richard J. Evans © Peguin, 2012

Extract 2 from: The Origins of the Second World War by Professor A J P Taylor © Penguin Books, 1991