

Class:	Candidate Name:	Candidate Index Number:
--------	-----------------	-------------------------



EDGEFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL
2026 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Secondary 4/5

O
Syllabus

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

Paper 2: The Making of the 20th Century Modern World, 1910s–1991

AUGUST 2026

Additional Materials: Answer Booklets

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST.

Answer Booklets will be provided with this question paper.
Respond to the questions on the Answer Booklets provided.
Label each section and question or part question clearly.
If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Begin each section on a fresh sheet of paper.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.
Write your responses in Answer Booklet A.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.
Write your responses in Answer Booklet B.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
Submit Sections A & B separately. The total marks for this paper is 50.

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

Why was this cartoon published in 1933? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

What is Source B saying about the motivations behind Hitler's economic policies? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

How far does Source D prove that Source C is wrong? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Source E.

Are you surprised by this source? Explain your answer. [6]

FOR EXAMINER'S USE	
SECTION A	/ 30
SECTION B	/ 20
TOTAL	/ 50

My target grade/mark: _____

Parent's Signature

This document consists of 6 printed pages.
[Turn over]

(e) Study all the sources.

'Hitler's rule was good for Germany.' How far do the sources support this statement? Explain your answer. [8]

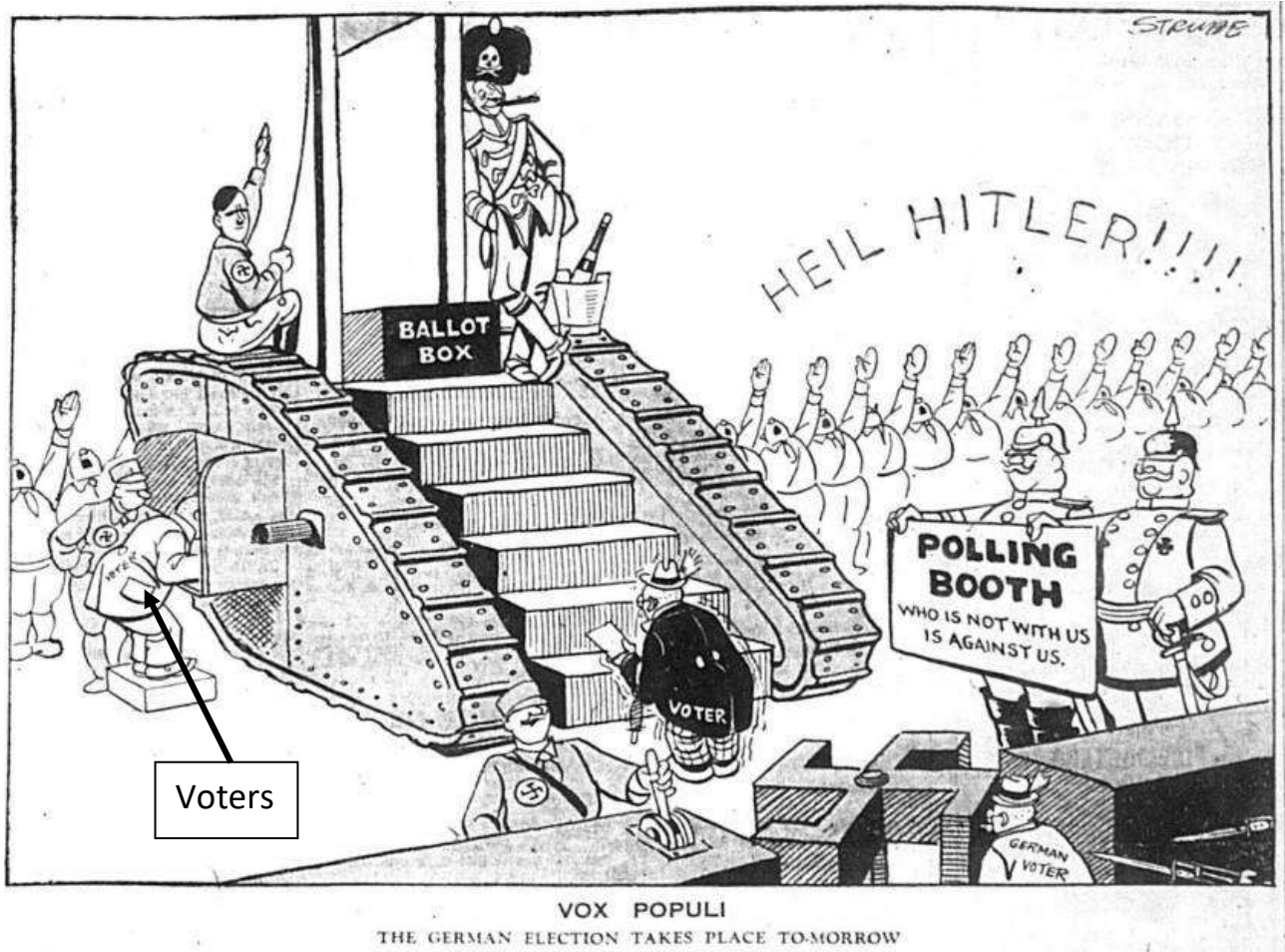
Hitler's rule in Nazi Germany

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

Adolf Hitler joined the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP or Nazi Party) and became its leader in 1921. He was imprisoned in 1923 after the failed Munich coup where he spent his time writing his memoir, *Mein Kampf* (or 'My Struggle') which also outlined his political beliefs. After his release, Hitler quickly gained popular support through his leadership, personal abilities and his promises to the Germans. By 1934, he became the supreme leader of Germany. During his rule, he implemented many social, economic and political policies and measures. Did Hitler's rule improve the lives of the people?

Source A: *A cartoon from a British newspaper, 'The Daily Express', titled, 'Voice of the the People' 1933.*



Source B: *An extract from a research paper by German economist N. Voigtländer in 2014 on the economic situation in Nazi Germany.*

Highway construction began shortly after Hitler's takeover of the government, and was one of the regime's most important projects. Our research shows that highway construction was highly effective in boosting popular support and helping to entrench the Nazi dictatorship. These effects are unlikely to reflect direct economic benefits. Instead, highway construction signalled economic 'competence' and an end to austerity*, so that many Germans credited the Nazi regime for the economic recovery. In line with this, support for the Nazis increased particularly strongly where highway construction coincided with greater radio availability - a major source of propaganda. Our results suggest that infrastructure spending can win 'hearts' for autocracy when 'minds' are led to associate it with visible economic progress and an end to political instability.

**austerity refers to strict economic policies implemented by governments to improve the country's economic situation.*

Source C: *A comment by Norman Thomas, an American writer who was anti-Nazis, about German employment statistics in 1936.*

Under the Nazis, there has been much “invisible unemployment.” The number of unemployed Jews is great and is increasing, but they are not counted as unemployed. There has been the wholesale discharge of women and unmarried men under 25. None of these are included among the unemployed in official statistics. Part-time workers are counted as fully employed. The re-introduction of conscription has taken hundreds of young men off the labour market.

Source D: *An account by Frau Margit Fishcher, a member of the National Socialist Women's League (Nazi Women's Wing), reflecting on life in Nazi Germany during the 1930s.*

In the thirties, things went uphill. There was order and there was work. We didn't have those horrible lines of unemployed anymore. Most people tried at the very least, even when they didn't agree one hundred percent with National Socialism, to adapt themselves. There were certainly eighty percent who lived productively and positively throughout the time. We also had good years. We had wonderful years.

Source E: *A Nazi poster showing a female worker bringing in the harvest, 1943.*



Source F: *An extract from a book by a historian on Nazi Germany, published in 1990.*

The idea that the majority of Germans were terrorised into submission is a myth. Most did not perceive the Gestapo to be terribly threatening to them personally. In fact, terror was not imposed on an unwilling population but built on indifference and co-operation. Instruments of terror such as concentration camps were well publicised to discourage dissent and opposition. As terror was only targeted at selected group such as the Jews, Communists and political opponents, most Germans had little to fear and were indifferent to the sufferings of these groups. Nazi Germany is hard evidence that although they used violence and repression, it still managed to maintain popular support because most people were not directly targeted and either cooperated or remained indifferent.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'The outcomes of the Paris Peace Conference were primarily influenced by President Wilson's vision for lasting peace.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'The breaking of the Enigma code was the main reason Germany was defeated in World War II.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'The main reason China became involved in the Korean War was to secure its own borders.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

END OF PAPER

Copyright Acknowledgements:

- Source A: 'The Fuhur Speaks', by Paul Mathias Padua, 1939 <http://www.thirdreichruins.com/kunsthhaus1.htm>
- Source B: '*Highway to Hitler*', a research paper on the Autobahn programme by German economist N. Voigtländer in 2014. https://tuck.dartmouth.edu/uploads/content/Highway_to_Hitler.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- Source C: 'Labor under the Nazis', by Norman Thomas, *Foreign Affairs* April 1936. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20030742>
- Source D: Alison Owings, *Frauen*, Rutgers University Press, 1993.
- Source E: <https://germanpropaganda.blogspot.com/2009/01/nazi-postcards-series-women-working-for.html>
- Source F: Robert Gellately, 'The Gestapo and German Society: Enforcing Racial Policy 1933–1945 (1990).