

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates

Study the background information and all 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.

What can you learn from Source A about German reactions to the Night of Long Knives? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

What is the message of the source? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Source C.

How useful is this source in showing German support for Hitler? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Sources D and E.

Does Source E make you surprised about Source D? Explain your answer. [6]

(e) Study **all** the sources.

“The Night of Long Knives increased German support for Hitler.”
How far do the sources support this view? Use the sources and knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Did the Night of Long Knives increase German support for Hitler?**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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

The Night of the Long Knives happened from 29 June to 1 July 1934. It was a significant purge that Adolf Hitler ordered against the leadership of the Sturmabteilung (SA). During this event, SA leader Ernst Rohm and many of his followers were killed, as tensions rose within the Nazi party and the SA grew more assertive.

The SA had around two million members and had been instrumental in Hitler's rise to power. But by 1934, rumours spread that Rohm was planning to overthrow Hitler. In a strategic move to consolidate power and secure support, Hitler portrayed the purge as a necessary action against a supposed coup attempt.

Reports say between 150 and 1,000 SA leaders were executed. While the purge helped Hitler tighten his control over the Nazi party and remove potential threats to his power, many people were appalled by the use of excessive force against the SA.

To what extent did the Night of Long Knives increase German support for Hitler?

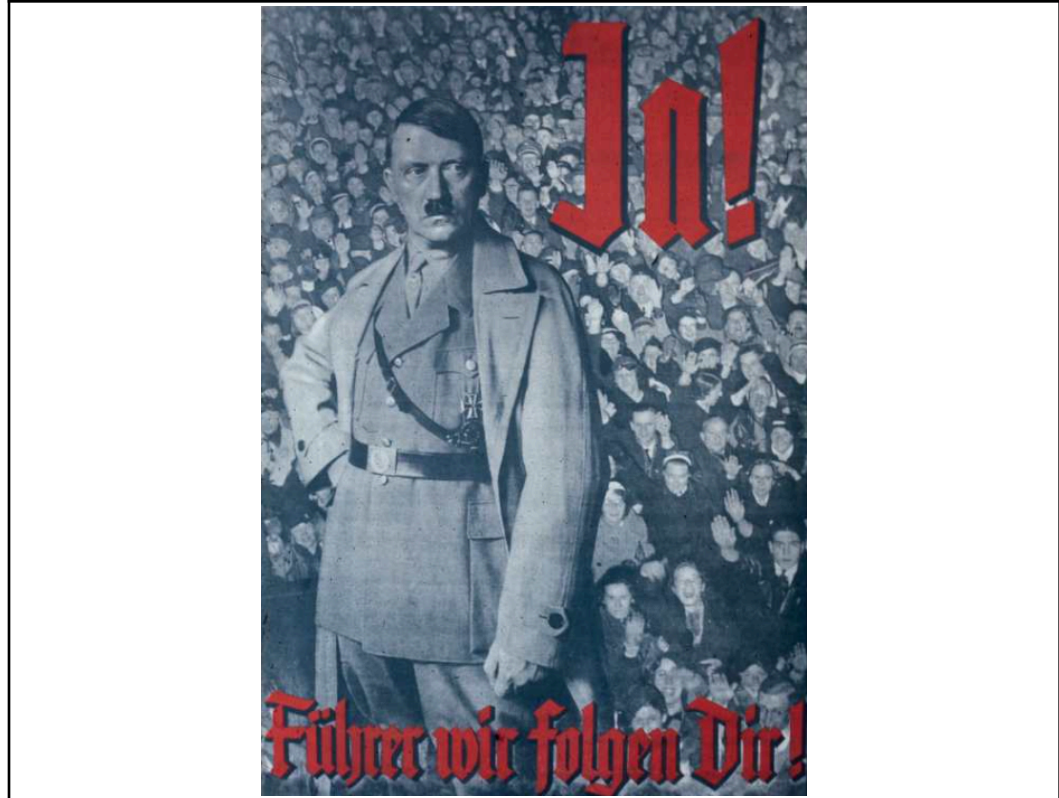
Source A: *An account by Christabel Bielenberg, a British woman who had become a German citizen after her marriage to a German, published in her autobiography in 1989.*

With the murder of Rohm and his storm troopers, the purge was accepted to be of respectable intents and purposes. Once everything distasteful had been neatly swept under the carpet, there was something almost touching about the pleasure and hope with which the Germans discovered. Unpleasantness, if talked about at all, must be seen in perspective. There were so many more positive aspects of the regime to chat about.

Source B: *A cartoon published in British newspaper on 3 July 1934 with the caption "The Double Cross". The words at the bottom left says "SA Army".*



Source C: *A Nazi poster published in 1934 after the Night of Long Knives. The text says: "Führer, we will follow you."*



Source D: *An extract from Hitler's speech to the Reichstag on 13 July 1934.*

The traitor was abandoned, left alone and shunned by all. But what was to be commended was the behavior of the millions of upright SA men and SA leaders who, standing outside the circle of treason, did not waver in their duty. This gives me the conviction that the newly appointed chief of the SA, will succeed in rejuvenating the organisations according to my guidelines and making them an even stronger part of the movement. Millions of them have since joined our ranks and are faithfully working with us to rebuild the Reich. I had hoped that it would not be necessary to ever again defend this state with weapons in our hands.

Source E: *A diary entry, dated 14th July 1934, of Victor Kemplerer, a German Jew who lived through the key events under Nazi rule.*

We have no sympathy at all for those executed, only delight that they are eating one another up. Admittedly, I was depressed when everything remained calm during the days that followed. But then we told ourselves: the Nazis cannot survive this blow.

There was much confusion among the Germans. My neighbour, who is not at all National Socialist, said to me: "Well, he simply sentenced them. A Chancellor sentences and shoots members of his own private army!"

Source F: *An extract from a history website on the Night of Long Knives, published in 2024.*

Dr Hans Frank, the Nazi's leading expert in law, raised concerns over the legal implications of the planned executions. The killings went on despite these legal concerns and voices of disapproval. In all, 478 people were murdered in the purge, often shot in their homes or places of work without warning.

The attack on the SA was later on widely seen by the public as a necessary control on what was known as a gang of thugs. The Night of the Long Knives might have been a bloody affair, but it had, said Hitler, avoided a much bloodier civil war. The former president Hindenburg agreed with this assessment and publicly praised Hitler's actions against the SA: "You have saved the German nation from serious danger", he said.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 "The main reason for German objections to the Treaty of Versailles was due to financial losses." How far you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 "The main reason for Japan's defeat in World War II was due to America's prowess". How far you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 "The main reason for the outbreak of Cold War was the ideological conflict between the superpowers". How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A: Facing History & Ourselves, <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/night-long-knives>
 Source B: Wikimedia commons
 Source C: <https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/posters2.htm>.
 Source D: <https://der-fuehrer.org/reden/english/34-07-13.htm>
 Source E: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/modules/hi31z/bibliography/kemplerer.pdf>
 Source F: https://www.worldhistory.org/Night_of_the_Long_Knives/

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**Secondary 4 Prelims
History Elective (2261/02)
Source-Based Case Study
Suggested Answer Scheme**

1(a) Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about German reactions to the Night of Long Knives?
Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
1	Description/Lifting E.g. The Germans accepted the purge.	1
2	Sub-message E.g. The Germans did not like it.	2
3	Message, supported E.g. I can learn that the Germans supported the Night of Long Knives and acknowledged that it was something necessary to be done. The source says “the purge was accepted to be of respectable intents and purposes. Once everything distasteful had been neatly swept under the carpet, there was something almost touching about the pleasure and hope with which the Germans discovered.” This means that the event has done good to the Germans and though there were some unhappiness, the people generally were happy and hopeful about the benefits that it will bring.	3-4
4	Message + CK E.g. Based on my CK, the Germans were happy that the power of the SA was diminished through the night of Long Knives. The SA has been using violence against Nazi opponents and use force to intimidate the people into supporting the Nazi party. Hence the Germans were glad to see most of the SA leaders being removed from power.	5

1(b) Study Source B.

What is the message of the source? Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
1	Provenance e.g. This source is talking about the double cross.	1
2	Sub-Message e.g. This cartoon was published to show Hitler killing SA members.	2
3	Message , supported e.g. This cartoon was published to criticize Hitler for turning against the SA and using violence to eliminate them. The source shows Hitler with a knife that has blood dripping from it. He was standing over the bodies of men from the SA army. This means that Hitler killed many members of the SA through the NOLK. The caption says “the double cross’ which signifies Hitler turning against the SA which has always pledged their loyalty towards Hitler.	3 – 4
4	Message + CK	5

1(c) Study Source C

How useful is this source in showing German support for Hitler? Explain your answer. [6]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
1	Useful/Not useful based on provenance e.g. C is useful to show Germans will follow Hitler.	1
2	Useful/Not useful based on source content e.g. Source C is useful in showing German support for Hitler as the poster shows Hitler standing in front with a large group of Germans behind him. The Germans were raising their hands in the Nazi salute to show their strong allegiance to Hitler. The text on the poster says "Führer, we will follow you." This clearly shows strong support for Hitler by the Germans.	2-3
3	Useful/Not useful by Source C based on cross-reference to other sources/contextual knowledge e.g. When I cross reference to Source A, A supports Source C. Hence C is reliable and useful to show German support for Hitler. Source A says "the purge was accepted to be of respectable intents and purposes. Once everything distasteful had been neatly swept under the carpet, there was something almost touching about the pleasure and hope with which the Germans discovered." This means that the event has done good to the Germans and though there were some unhappiness, the people generally were happy and hopeful about the benefits that it will bring.	4-5
4	Useful/Not useful due to purpose/context e.g. In my final analysis, Source C is not reliable and hence not useful to show German support for Hitler. It is a Nazi poster published in 1934 after the NOLK. Hitler was facing some backlash from the Germans for executing his loyal followers in the SA. He needed to justify his actions and continue to show he has strong support from the party as well as the people. Hence this poster has a hidden purpose and is not reliable.	6

1(d) Study Sources D and E.

Does Source E make you surprised about source D? Explain your answer. [6]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Undeveloped Provenance. Source E makes me surprised about Source D as they are written by different people.	1
L2	Surprised due to difference in content Source E makes me surprised about Source D as they are different in showing whether the NOLK increased German support for Hitler. Source E claims that the Germans were confused and felt that Hitler was taking things into his own hands and betrayed his followers which showed some form of German displeasure. The source says "There was much confusion among the Germans. My neighbour, who is not at all National Socialist, said to me: "Well, he simply sentenced them. A Chancellor sentences and shoots members of his own private army!" D claims that the NOLK increased support for Hitler as the source says "Millions of them have since joined our ranks and are faithfully working with us to rebuild the Reich."	2-3
L3	Surprised/not surprised due to cross-reference	4
L4	Not surprised due to consideration of context of both sources Source E does not make me surprised about Source D as I understand the context of both sources. Source E is a diary entry of a German Jew who lived through the NOLK. He expressed his pleasure at seeing the infighting within the Nazi Party and recorded his neighbour's comment that Hitler was killing his own followers. As a Jew, he was unhappy with how Hitler had been discriminating against the Jews. Hence he was convincing himself that the NOLK brought about some form of German displeasure against Hitler and that it was a matter of time before the Nazi Party collapsed. Source D is a speech by Hitler to the Reichstag on 13 July 1934 after the NOLK. He was trying to justify his actions and claimed that many people supported him and even more joined the new SA. He was worried about a backlash after the event and wanted to project an image of strength and increasing support. Hence he claimed that the NOLK increased support for him.	5-6

(e) Study all the sources.

“The Night of Long Knives increased German support for Hitler.” How far do the sources support this view? Use the sources and knowledge to explain your answer [8]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use.	1
L2	Yes OR No, supported by valid source use. <i>Award 2 marks for one Yes or No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 4 marks.</i> Yes Source A supports the view. This is evident in “the purge was accepted to be of respectable intents and purposes” and “pleasure and hope with which the Germans discovered” This means that Germans came to view the killings as justified and there is genuine public optimism that follows the event. Thus, the night of long knives helped to consolidate German support for Hitler. Source C supports this view. This is evident in the Nazi poster showing support for Hitler through the text “Führer, we will follow you”. This means that the Night of Long Knives have invoked a sense of loyalty in Hitler, reinforcing the public’s faith and support in Hitler. Source D supports this view. This is evident in “The traitor was abandoned, left alone and shunned by all” and “Millions of them have since joined our ranks and are faithfully working with us to rebuild the Reich”. This means that the purge has helped to remove the political opponents and have helped to strengthen public loyalty to Hitler as people are now more committed to the Nazi cause. Source F supports this view. This is evident in “The attack on the SA was later on widely seen by the public as a necessary control on what was known as a gang of thugs.” and “Hitler, avoided a much bloodier civil war”. This means that the purge was widely supported as it was to remove political opponents that could threaten political stability of Germany. As a result, the event strengthened public support for Hitler, who had averted a civil war through the night of long knives. No Source B does not support this view. The source shows Hitler with a knife that has blood dripping while standing over the bodies of men from the SA army. This means that Hitler killed many members of the SA through	2-4

	the NOLK. The caption says “the double cross’ which signifies Hitler turning against the SA which has always pledged their loyalty towards Hitler. This led to Germans being unhappy with his betrayal and would not have led to increase support for Hitler. Source E does not support this view. This is evident in “A Chancellor sentences and shoots members of his own private army”. This means that the Germans view the night of long knives as an alarming abuse of power, with a leader turning against his own men. This suggests that there is no trust in Hitler. Source F does not support this view. This is evident in “raised concerns over the legal implications of the planned executions. The killings went on despite these legal concerns and voices of disapproval”. This means that people are troubled by the fact that Hitler bypassed legal processes, thus seeing this as an abuse of power rather than a justified action. This raises doubts about Hitler’s rule and thus would not have increased support for Hitler.	
L3	Yes AND No, supported by valid source use <i>Award 5 marks for one Yes and No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 7 marks.</i> <i>For L2 and L3, award a bonus of up to two marks (ie +1/+1) for use of contextual knowledge to question a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency etc. The total marks must not exceed 8.</i>	5-8

Section B: Essays
Suggested Answer Scheme

2	“The main reason for German objections to the Treaty of Versailles was due to financial losses.” How far you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.	[10]
L1	Identifies/Describes financial losses or other reasons for German objections	1-3
L2	Explains financial losses or other reasons for German objections	4-5
L3	Explains financial losses and other reasons for German objections I agree that financial losses were the main reason for German objections to the Treaty of Versailles, as the reparations imposed placed severe economic strain on Germany. Under Article 231, the War Guilt Clause, Germany was forced to accept full blame for the war, which gave the Allies legal grounds to demand £6,600 million in reparations. With Germany's economy already weakened by the war, this crippled her post-war recovery, contributing to hyperinflation in 1923 and forcing an invasion by French and Belgian forces when Germany failed to make payments. This left ordinary Germans facing severe economic hardship, job losses, and poverty. This shows that financial losses were a key reason for German objections, as the reparations directly caused widespread economic suffering that Germans blamed on the treaty. I disagree as the disarmament clauses also led to German objections. The German army was reduced to 100,000 men, conscription was banned, and most weapons had to be destroyed under Allied supervision. The area west of the Rhine, and 50km east of it, was made a demilitarised zone. This left Germany's once-proud army badly weakened and unable to defend the country from internal or external threats. This shows that the disarmament clauses were an equally important reason for German objections, as Germany's national security was left vulnerable, leaving them open to attacks.	6-8
	Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons. The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks: i.e. L3/6+2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2).	

3	The main reason for Japan's defeat in World War II was due to America's prowess". How far you agree with this statement? Explain your answer	[10]
L1	Identifies/Describes America's prowess or other reasons for Japan's defeat	1-3
L2	Explains America's prowess or other reasons for Japan's defeat	4-5
L3	Explains America's prowess and other reasons for Japan's defeat	6-8

I agree that American prowess, in this case, American economic resources contributed to the defeat of Japan. After Pearl Harbour, the USA overcame domestic objections to war and mobilised its industry, rebuilding its armed forces and producing enough weapons to sustain the fight. By 1944, the USA was able to outproduce Japan, earning the title "Arsenal of Democracy." Throughout the Pacific War, both sides suffered heavy losses, but the USA was consistently able to replace its equipment and field superior technology, such as better planes and ships, while Japan could not keep pace and was increasingly outclassed. As a result, Japan found itself steadily worn down over the course of the war, unable to replace the losses it suffered as the Allies grew stronger. This shows that American resources were significant in causing Japan's defeat, as Japan eventually realised it could no longer continue fighting and was forced to surrender. I agree that American prowess, in this case, America's military strategies in the Pacific was significant in defeating Japan. The USA launched the Island-Hopping Campaign, advancing steadily towards Japan by seizing strategic Pacific islands, putting the USA in a strong position to launch attacks on and eventually invade Japan itself. This inflicted a series of heavy defeats on Japan, leaving it depleted of both resources and armed forces as the Americans continued their advance. This shows that America's military strategy was significant in causing Japan's defeat, as Japan, worn down and facing imminent invasion, realised the hopelessness of its situation and moved towards surrender. I agree that American prowess, in this case, the use of the atomic bomb was a decisive factor in bringing about Japan's surrender. Having developed the bomb over several years, it was ready for use by August 1945. The decision to use it was driven by Japan's refusal to accept unconditional surrender, as well as fears of heavy Allied casualties given Japan's fierce resistance and kamikaze tactics during the island-hopping campaign. This led the USA to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This caused catastrophic destruction and heavy casualties, resulting in the devastation of both cities. This shows that the atomic bomb was significant in ending the war, as the devastation and fear of further atomic strikes led Japan to finally decide to surrender unconditionally. I disagree as it was Soviet Union's entry into the war against Japan was a significant factor in bringing about Japan's final surrender. The USSR entered the Asia-Pacific war in August 1945, three months after Germany's defeat, launching an invasion of Manchuria and inflicting heavy defeats on the Japanese Kwantung Army, liberating many parts of China from Japanese occupation. This destroyed Japan's last field armies and any remaining hope of resisting the Americans, leaving Japan outnumbered and unable to continue fighting as the Red Army advanced into China. This shows that Soviet entry into the war was significant in causing Japan's defeat, as Japan, already shaken by the atomic bomb strikes, realised that further resistance was futile in the face of the Soviet invasion, leading to its acceptance of unconditional surrender. I disagree as Japan's defeat was also significantly caused by its overstretched empire, which proved too large to defend effectively. Japan's empire stretched from the borders of India and Burma to northern China, but Japan lacked sufficient soldiers and equipment to defend such a vast territory in depth. Poor rail
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	and road infrastructure also meant supplies had to travel mainly by sea, leaving them vulnerable to Allied attack. This left Japanese forces thinly spread across the empire, making them vulnerable to the US island-hopping strategy. This shows that the overstretched empire was significant in causing Japan's defeat, as it allowed the USA to wear Japanese forces down and seize strategic islands, positioning itself to directly threaten Japan and ultimately forcing its surrender.	
	Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons. The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks: i.e. L3/6+2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2).	

4	"The main reason for the outbreak of Cold War was the ideological conflict between the superpowers". How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.	[10]
L1	Identifies/Describes ideological conflict or other reasons for outbreak of Cold War	1-3
L2	Explains ideological conflict or other reasons for outbreak of Cold War	4-5
L3	Explains ideological conflict and other reasons for outbreak of Cold War I agree that ideological differences between the USA and USSR were the main reason for the outbreak of the Cold War, as they created a fundamental and irreconcilable divide between the two superpowers. The USA championed capitalism and liberal democracy, believing in free markets, private enterprise, and political freedom, while the USSR promoted communism, based on state control of the economy and a one-party political system. These conflicting worldviews meant each superpower viewed the other's system as a direct threat to its own values and way of life. Once Germany's defeat removed the common enemy that had united the wartime Allies, these deep-rooted ideological divisions resurfaced, replacing wartime cooperation with mutual suspicion. This ideological rivalry meant that both sides increasingly viewed each other's actions with distrust, interpreting even defensive moves as signs of aggression. This shows that ideological differences were significant in causing the Cold War, as they formed the underlying basis for the hostility, suspicion and superpower rivalry. I disagree as the Cold War broke out mainly due to the Marshall Plan. Facing poor economic conditions, high unemployment, and the rising popularity of Communism in Western Europe, the USA introduced the Marshall Plan to help European countries recover and resist Communism. Significantly, the USA also extended this offer to the USSR and its satellite states, and when Poland and Czechoslovakia expressed interest, Stalin forbade them from accepting, fearing they would fall under US influence. In response, the USSR tightened its control	6-8

	over Eastern Europe through COMECON and COMINFORM. This shows that the Marshall Plan caused the Cold War, as it directly led to the formation of two rival power blocs loyal to opposing superpowers, deepening Cold War bipolarity. I disagree as the Cold War broke out mainly due to Soviet salami tactics. From 1945–1948, Stalin used salami tactics to eliminate political opposition and install loyal Communist governments across Eastern Europe, typically by supporting coalition governments before isolating and suppressing non-Communist parties, sometimes through exile or murder — as seen with the likely murder of non-Communist leader Jan Masaryk in Czechoslovakia. This growing pattern of Communist takeovers alarmed the West, who feared Communism could spread beyond Eastern Europe. This shows that Soviet salami tactics were more significant in causing the Cold War, as they directly prompted the West to adopt the policy of containment through the Truman Doctrine in 1947, drawing the USA and USSR into open competition for influence.	
	Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons. The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks: i.e. L3/6+2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2).	