

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class      Index Number

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# METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Founded in 1887



## PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026 Secondary 4

### HISTORY

Paper 1    Extension of European control in Southeast Asia and  
              challenges to European dominance, 1870s-1942

Friday

2174/01

21 August 2026

1 hour 50 minutes

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#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Login to Student Learning Space (SLS) under e-Assessment and key in your responses there.

#### Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

#### Section B

Answer **two** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [   ] at the end of each question.

**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 which 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.

How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer. [5]

**(b)** Study Sources B and C.

Having read Source B, why do you think Hitler made the radio broadcast in Source C? Explain your answer. [6]

**(c)** Study Source D.

What is the message of this cartoon? Explain your answer using details from the cartoon. [5]

**(d)** Study Sources E and F.

How far does Source F prove that what Röhm says in Source E is mistaken? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'Hitler purged the SA because Röhm threatened to seize power.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

## Why did Hitler purge the SA in 1934?

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

By June 1934, the brown-shirted Sturmabteilung (SA) had swelled to over three million, dwarfing the 100,000-sized German army. Violent and unruly, the SA, a paramilitary force, had been vital to the Nazi rise but was despised by conservative elites, including President Hindenburg and the army. The SA leader, Ernst Röhm, pressed for the revolution to continue by breaking the power of the wealthy and merging the army into the SA. Within the SA sat Himmler's black-shirted Schutzstaffel (SS), disciplined and loyal solely to Hitler. As tensions between the SA, the SS, and the elites mounted, Hitler ordered the arrests, claiming Röhm had plotted against him. The resulting purge—the Night of the Long Knives, 30 June 1934 to 2 July 1934—was carried out chiefly by the SS and Gestapo, killing up to 200 people and making hundreds of arrests.

Did Hitler turn against the SA in the Night of the Long Knives because Röhm threatened to seize power?

**Source A:** *From a Nazi Field-Marshal's description of events in June 1934. He was a commander in the army.*

About 24 June 1934, I was warned that an attack by the SA on the army was imminent. On 28 June 1934, I asked the local SA leader to come to see me. I told him I knew of his plans. He replied that he had only put his men on alert to resist my attack.

I told the government that I had the impression that the army and the SA were being egged on against each other by Himmler.

**Source B:** *From a testimony by Hitler's driver about Röhm's arrest on the Night of the Long Knives, 30 June 1934.*

Hitler suddenly broke his silence, 'Drive carefully when we come to the hotel. You must drive up without making any noise. If you see an SA guard in front of the hotel, don't wait for him to report to me; just drive on and stop at the hotel entrance.' Then, after a moment of deathly silence, Hitler said, 'Röhm wants to carry out a coup\*.'

I drove up carefully to the hotel entrance as Hitler had ordered. Hitler jumped out of the car, and after him Goebbels and the army officers. Right behind us was another car with a squad of detectives.

Later a detective told me about Röhm's arrest. Hitler entered Röhm's bedroom alone with a whip in his hand. Behind Hitler were two detectives with pistols. Hitler spat out the words, 'Röhm, you are under arrest.' Röhm looked up sleepily from his pillow, saying, 'Heil, my Führer.'

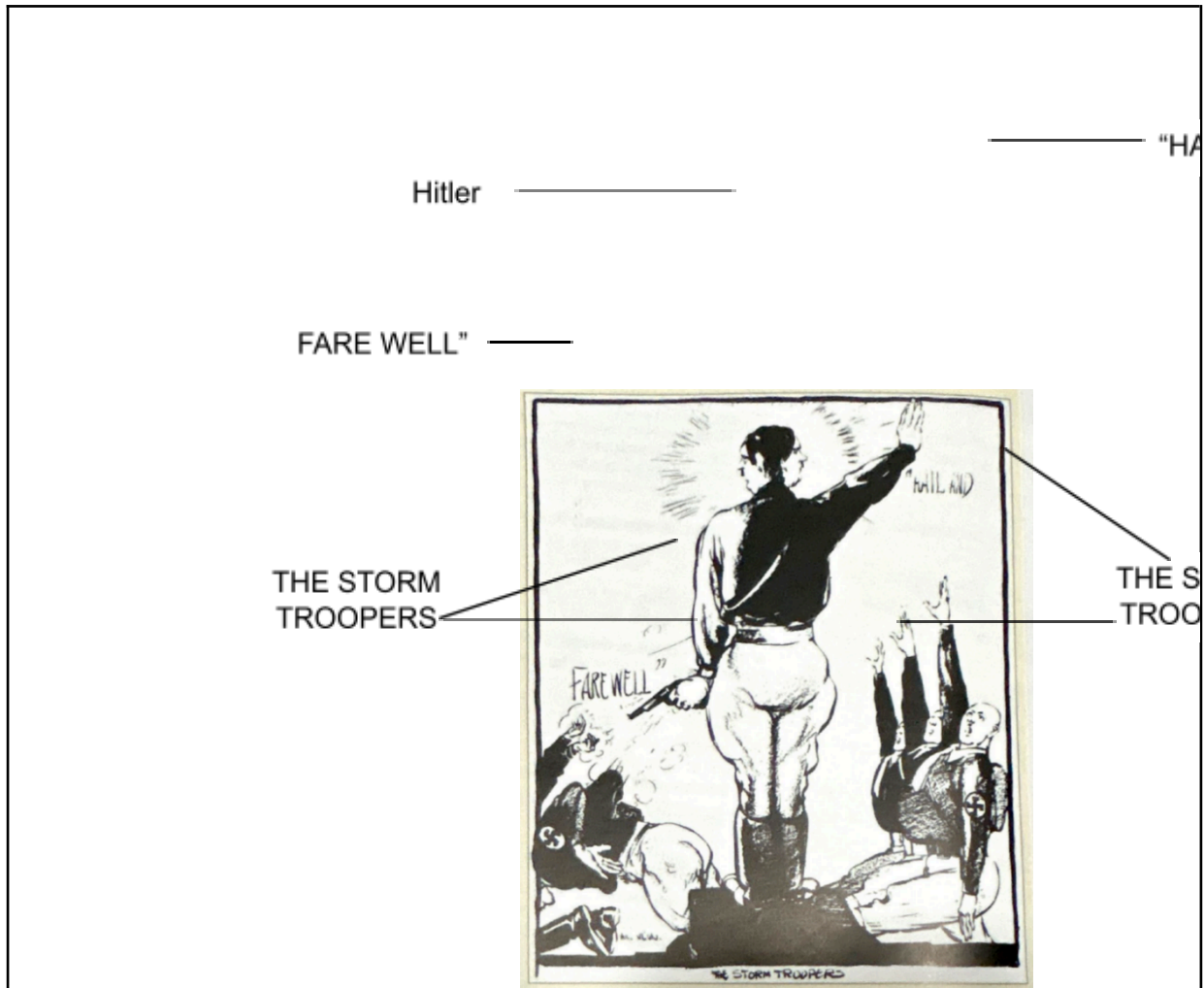
coup\*: an attempt to seize power

**Source C:** *From extracts of Hitler's address that lasted several hours to the Reichstag on 13 July 1934. Hitler's address was broadcast on the radio.*

Everyone will know in future that if he lifts his hand against the state, certain death is his fate. Every National Socialist will know that no rank and no position allow him to escape punishment.

If anyone reproaches me and asks why I did not resort to the regular courts of justice for conviction of offenders, then all I can say to him is this: in this hour, I was responsible for the fate of the German people and thereby became the Supreme Judge of the German people.

**Source D:** *From a British cartoonist on Hitler and the Storm Troopers, also known as the SA, published in the Daily Herald, 3 July 1934.*



**Source E:** *From a report of a conversation in 1934 with Röhm, written by a former Nazi who fled Germany. He wrote this account in 1940.*

Röhm had drunk a few glasses of wine. He said, 'Adolf is a swine. He is betraying all of us. He is getting friendly with the Prussian generals. His old friends are not good enough for him. He is turning into a gentleman. All he wants to do is sit up in the mountains and play God. Adolf knows exactly what I want, and it isn't to turn the SA into a branch of the army. And guys like us are told to cool our heels when we're burning for action. The chance is to do something new and great, something that will turn the world upside down! Are we revolutionaries, or aren't we? I've told him often enough. The generals are a lot of old fogeys. I can be the creator of a new army; don't you see that? Hitler puts me off.'

**Source F:** *From an extract of an American historian's biography of Hitler, published in 1976.*

Enemies of Röhm in the SS were already involved in a plot to destroy him. Himmler was then joined in the plot by Göring and Goebbels, both of whom were jealous of Röhm's growing power. They convinced Hitler that Röhm was about to stage a revolution, and so a bloody purge began, with many old scores being settled that had nothing to do with the so-called Putsch. Perhaps two hundred men—the exact number will never be known—were executed. Ironically, Röhm had no intention of revolting, and many of those murdered, including Gregor Strasser and Generals Kurt von Schleicher and Kurt von Bredow, had no connection with Röhm.

### Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2** 'The development of the rubber industry was the greatest economic impact of British colonial rule in Malaya.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3** 'Censorship was the most powerful method used by the Japanese militarists in the 1930s to increase their influence over its people.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4** 'The United States (US) economic policy on Japan was the most important cause of World War II in the Asia-Pacific.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

**END OF PAPER**

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*Acknowledgements:*

- Source A © Lacey, G. & Shephard, K. (2025). *Germany 1918 – 1945: a study in depth*. Hodder Education.
- Source B © Lacey, G. & Shephard, K. (2025). *Germany 1918 – 1945: a study in depth*. Hodder Education.
- Source C © Evans, R. J. (2005). *The third Reich in power*. Penguin.
- Source D © Waugh, S. (2001). *Essential modern world history*. Nelson Thornes.
- Source E © Hite, J., & Hinton, C. (2024). *Weimar & Nazi Germany* (official text). Hodder Education.
- Source F © Toland, J. (1976). *Adolf Hitler: The definitive biography*. Doubleday.