

**ACS INDEPENDENT 2026 Y4
HUMANITIES (HISTORY) PRELIM**

Suggested Answers

1a)	Study Sources A and B. Which source is more useful for understanding how Nazi policies affected the lives of German women? Explain your answer.	6m
L1	Identifies content which is/is not useful but no reason given/unsupported explanation	1m
L2	Answers based on provenance only (limited/weak purpose explanation) Source A is useful because it is a personal recollection from a woman who experienced Nazi policies firsthand. It provides insight into how these policies were implemented and how they affected at least some women's attitudes and ambitions. Source A is limited in usefulness as it represents the experience of one individual and may not reflect the views of all German women. Source B is limited in usefulness as because it is likely propaganda, it may present an idealised picture and does not show how most women actually experienced Nazi policies.	2m
L3	Evaluation of usefulness of source/s based on content analysis supported by source evidence. Award 3m for analysis of 1 source and 4m for both. Source A is useful as it provides direct evidence of how Nazi policies affected the lives of German women. Gertrud Draber recalls being taught "house-keeping, being a mother, and being a good wife" at an SS bridal school and states that becoming a mother was her "main ambition." This shows that Nazi policies influenced women's education, aspirations, and expected roles in society. The source therefore reveals how the regime sought to shape women's lives by preparing them for domestic and maternal responsibilities. Source A may not be fully useful because it reflects the experience of only one woman who willingly embraced Nazi ideals, making it unrepresentative of all German women. Gertrud Draber states that she "wanted to be a perfect housewife" and that her "main aim as a woman" was to fulfil this role, suggesting she accepted the Nazi expectation of women. Furthermore, Draber attended an elite SS bridal school, which trained women selected to marry SS officers and therefore represented a small, ideologically committed group rather than ordinary German women. As a result, the source provides only a limited perspective on the experiences of women under Nazi rule and is not fully useful. Source B is useful because it reflects the Nazi regime's strong emphasis on motherhood. By introducing Frau Mueller as a woman who has given birth to twelve children, the source suggests that large families and motherhood were highly valued under Nazi rule. This provides evidence that Nazi policies encouraged women to contribute to society through childbearing.	3-4m

L4	Evaluation of usefulness of source/s based on content analysis, supported with source evidence and valid cross reference. Award 4m for 1 source analysis and 5m for both. OR 4m for 1 purpose analysis only.	4-5m
	Source A is useful because it provides first-hand evidence that the Nazi regime trained women primarily for domestic roles. Gertrud Draber recalls that she was taught "house-keeping, being a mother, and being a good wife" and that her "main aim as a woman" was to fulfil these responsibilities. This is supported by contextual knowledge, as Hitler believed that women's primary role was <i>Kinder, Küche, Kirche</i> ("Children, Kitchen, Church"). The SS even established bridal schools to prepare women to become ideal wives and mothers for SS officers, while awards such as the Mother's Cross encouraged women to marry and have large Aryan families. Therefore, the source is useful in showing how Nazi ideology towards women was put into practice.	
	Source A may not be fully useful because it reflects the experience of only one woman who willingly embraced Nazi ideals, making it unrepresentative of all German women. Gertrud Draber states that she "wanted to be a perfect housewife" and that her "main aim as a woman" was to fulfil this role, suggesting she accepted the Nazi expectation of women. However, based on contextual knowledge, not all women shared these views. Many women continued working throughout the 1930s due to economic necessity, and by the late 1930s the Nazi regime increasingly relied on female labour as rearmament created labour shortages.	
	Source B is useful because it reflects the Nazi regime's strong emphasis on motherhood. By introducing Frau Mueller as a woman who has given birth to twelve children, the source suggests that large families and motherhood were highly valued under Nazi rule. This provides evidence that Nazi policies encouraged women to contribute to society through childbearing. This is supported by contextual knowledge, as Hitler believed women's primary duty was to produce racially "pure" Aryan children. The regime encouraged this through the Mother's Cross, awarded to women with four or more children, and marriage loans introduced in 1933 to encourage childbirth.	
	Source B is less useful because it exaggerates the extent to which Nazi policies reduced women solely to motherhood. The cartoon depicts "Frau Mueller" being introduced because she has "brought 12 children into the world," suggesting that a woman's only value under Nazi rule was producing large numbers of children. However, this presents only part of the picture. Based on contextual knowledge, although Hitler encouraged women to have large Aryan families through incentives such as the Mother's Cross, women were not expected only to bear children. They were also expected to manage the household and raise children according to Nazi ideals, while many remained employed, particularly in agriculture and domestic service.	

L5	Evaluation of usefulness of source/s based on purpose (1C 1P/2P). Award 5m only if impact/evidence is lacking. Source A is useful because its purpose was to inform readers/create awareness about the experiences of women under Nazi rule. The interview was conducted by a historian for a book on Nazi women published in 2001, with the audience being readers interested in understanding women's lives in Nazi Germany. Gertrud Draber recalls that she wanted to be "a perfect housewife" and was taught "house-keeping, being a mother, and being a good wife," showing how Nazi ideology shaped women's education and aspirations. The intended impact was to provide readers with an authentic first-hand account of how Nazi policies influenced women's lives. As the interview was conducted for historical research rather than Nazi propaganda, its purpose makes it useful for understanding how women experienced and interpreted Nazi expectations of their role in society. Source B is limited in usefulness because its purpose was to mock/criticise Nazi policies towards women rather than provide an objective account. Source B depicts Frau Mueller, who has given birth to twelve children, appearing physically aged and exhausted despite being publicly introduced for her achievement. This exaggerated portrayal suggests that the policy of encouraging large families placed a heavy burden on women. It was produced in Czechoslovakia in 1935, a democratic country with a free press, for readers who could openly criticise developments in Nazi Germany. The intended impact was to ridicule Nazi ideology and encourage readers to view it as backward and extreme, thereby discouraging support or sympathy for the Nazi regime. Due to this ulterior motive, Source B has a questionable purpose and hence limited in its usefulness / As the cartoon was designed to criticise rather than provide a balanced account of Nazi policies, it exaggerates reality and is therefore not fully useful as evidence of how women were actually treated under Nazi rule. If only 1 source is analysed in the entire answer, max marks possibly awarded: 4m	5-6m
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b)	Study Source C. Why did Joseph Goebbels make this speech at that time? Explain your answer.	5m
L1	Inference in general/misinterpretation/no purpose	1m
L2	Answer based on valid message/impact, unsupported / context only. At the time, the Nazis were introducing measures to encourage marriage and increase the Aryan birth rate while discouraging women from pursuing careers and political roles.	2m
L3	Answers on valid message or valid impact, supported. Goebbels emphasised that “Women has the task of being beautiful and bringing children into the world,” portraying motherhood as a noble and natural duty. By comparing women to “the female bird” that “hatches her eggs” while the male “takes care of gathering the food and stands guard,” he justified separate roles for men and women as part of the natural order. The intended impact was to convince women to embrace their domestic responsibilities, have more Aryan children, support their husbands, and willingly accept Nazi gender ideology as essential to building a strong German nation.	3m
L4	Explains purpose in full: message with evidence, context <u>and</u> intended impact. Award 4m only if impact/evidence/context about the time is lacking/absent. Goebbels made this speech in 1934, shortly after the Nazis had consolidated power, to persuade German women to accept the Nazi ideal of womanhood and support the regime's social policies. <u>At the time, the Nazis were introducing measures to encourage marriage and increase the Aryan birth rate while discouraging women from pursuing careers and political roles (context).</u> Speaking to German women and female Nazi supporters in Munich, Goebbels emphasized that “Women has the task of being beautiful and bringing children into the world,” portraying motherhood as a noble and natural duty. By comparing women to “the female bird” that “hatches her eggs” while the male “takes care of gathering the food and stands guard,” he justified separate roles for men and women as part of the natural order. The intended impact was to convince women to embrace their domestic responsibilities, have more Aryan children, support their husbands, and willingly accept Nazi gender ideology as essential to building a strong German nation. Accept other valid answers.	4-5m

c)	Study Source D. Are you surprised by this source? Explain your answer.	5m
L1	Identifies content which surprise/does not surprise but no reason given/unsupported explanation/ Provenance only explained.	1
L2	Surprise/lack of surprise based on ‘common sense’/ undeveloped purpose analysis I am not surprised because political parties often criticize their opponents to gain public support. As an SPD election poster, it is expected to present the Nazis negatively and persuade voters to support Social Democracy instead.	2
L3	Surprise/ lack of surprise supported with source evidence only. I am not surprised by this source because it reflects concerns that Nazi policies would restrict women to traditional domestic roles. The poster depicts a woman kneeling to tie the boots of a Nazi man, suggesting that women would be subordinate to men in the Third Reich. This is consistent with Nazi beliefs that women should focus on being wives, mothers, and homemakers rather than participating in politics or pursuing careers. The text states that "the woman must once again become a maid and servant," reinforcing the idea that women would have a lower status under Nazi rule. Accept other valid explanations.	3
L4	Surprise/lack of surprise supported with source evidence and cross-referencing to CK or other sources <u>OR purpose only explained.</u> NOT SURPRISED: In terms of content , I am not surprised by this source because it reflects concerns that Nazi policies would restrict women to traditional domestic roles. The poster depicts a woman kneeling to tie the boots of a Nazi man, suggesting that women would be subordinate to men in the Third Reich. This is consistent with Nazi beliefs that women should focus on being wives, mothers, and homemakers rather than participating in politics or pursuing careers. <i>The text states that "the woman must once again become a maid and servant," reinforcing the idea that women would have a lower status under Nazi rule and her main role would be to serve.</i> Contextual knowledge supports this interpretation. Nazi ideology emphasised <i>Kinder, Küche, Kirche</i> ("Children, Kitchen, Church"), encouraging women to prioritise family life. After 1933, women faced restrictions in certain professions and were discouraged from pursuing higher education OR/AND The Nazis also promoted marriage and motherhood through policies such as marriage loans and the Mother's Cross. Therefore, the poster's warning that women would be expected to serve men/family is broadly consistent with the direction of Nazi policy.	4

	OR SURPRISED: I am surprised because the poster suggests that women would be treated merely as servants, whereas Hitler and the Nazis viewed women primarily as mothers who played a vital role in building the Aryan nation. Nazi ideology emphasised that a woman's greatest contribution was to marry and produce racially "pure" children for Germany. Contextual knowledge refutes this exaggeration: Although women were expected to remain subordinate to men and focus on Kinder, Küche, Kirche ("Children, Kitchen, Church"), they were also honoured and rewarded for fulfilling what the Nazis considered their essential duty to the nation. They were even awarded the Mother's Cross (Cross of Honour of the German Mother) to women who had large families.	
L5	Explains surprise/ not surprise through purpose analysis/critical analysis of provenance respectively. Supported with source evidence and CK/CR. (Award 4m only if explanation lack evidence). I am not surprised because the source was produced by the Social Democratic Party in the early 1930s, when it was campaigning against the Nazi Party before Hitler came to power. As political opponents of the Nazis, the expected purpose of the poster was to persuade German voters, particularly women, not to support the Nazis. The message is that life for women under the Third Reich would be one of subservience and inequality, as shown by the image of a woman kneeling to tie a Nazi man's boots and the caption, "Women, this is what it will be like in the Third Reich!" By portraying women as servants to men, the poster highlights what the Social Democrats believed would be the consequences of Nazi rule. The intended impact was to convince women that voting for the Nazis would threaten their rights, status and independence, and instead encourage them to support Social Democracy. Therefore, it is not surprising that the source presents Nazi policies towards women in a highly negative light, as this is consistent with its purpose as an election campaign poster produced by a rival political party.	4-5

	Study Sources E and F. How far does Source E prove that Source F is wrong about the impact of Nazi policies on German women? Explain your answer.	6m
L1	Inference unsupported/ misinterpretation/describes source only.	1m
L2	Proves/does not prove through limited analysis of provenance.	2m
L3	‘Does not Prove’/Agreement content analysis, supported with source evidence. Source E does not prove that Source F is wrong because both sources agree that some Nazi policies encouraged women to have larger families. Source E acknowledges that the Nazi regime actively campaigned to encourage women to become more domestic by referring to its “vigorous campaign against the employment of women,” showing that the government attempted to promote women’s traditional role as wives and mothers. This is consistent with Source F, where the German woman explains that she received “30 marks per child from the Hitler government and 20 marks per child from the city,” enabling her family to benefit financially because they were “child-rich.” Therefore, both sources recognise that Nazi policies encouraged women to have larger families.	3m
L4	‘Proves’/Disagreement content analysis, supported with source evidence. Source E proves that Source F is wrong because it presents Nazi policies towards women as economically harmful rather than beneficial. Source E argues that although more women were employed, they were “squeezing them out of better paid positions into sweated trades” with “miserable wages and long hours”, suggesting that Nazi policies worsened women’s working conditions and family life instead of improving them. In contrast, Source F presents a positive experience, with the German woman stating that she received “30 marks per child from the Hitler government and 20 marks per child from the city”, which she describes as “a lot of money.” This suggests that Nazi policies benefited mothers by providing generous financial support to encourage larger families. Therefore, the two sources disagree over the impact of Nazi policies on German women: Source E emphasises economic exploitation, whereas Source F highlights financial assistance and improved welfare for mothers.	4
L5	Proves/does not prove content analysis, supported with source evidence and cross reference to CK or another reliable source/Background Information Award 5m for a well-developed answer (1 CR) L3 + This agreement is supported by contextual knowledge. The Nazi government introduced a range of pro-family/birth measures, including marriage loans, child allowances and the Mother’s Cross to encourage women to marry and have more children. Women who produced large Aryan families often received financial assistance and social recognition. (4m only for explanation on ‘agreement’)	4-5m

	L4 + This disagreement is supported by contextual knowledge. Nazi labour shortages caused by rearmament meant that increasing numbers of women were drawn back into the workforce from the mid-1930s. Many worked in lower-paid jobs, particularly in textiles, agriculture and domestic service, supporting Source E's claim that women were often pushed into poorly paid employment rather than enjoying genuine economic security, lending support to Source E's criticism of Nazi policy.	
L6	Proves/does not prove purpose analysis/critical analysis of provenance. Award 5m only if evidence/impact is lacking. Source E does not prove that Source F is wrong because its purpose is questionable, making it less reliable. Written by an American journalist in 1937 for an international audience, its purpose was to criticise Nazi policies towards women by exposing their negative effects. This is reflected in the emotive language that women were “squeezed... into sweated trades” with “miserable wages and long hours”, encouraging readers to view Nazi Germany negatively. The intended impact was to persuade foreign audiences that Nazi policies had failed, with the ulterior motive of strengthening international criticism of the Nazi regime/that the regime was exploiting women despite its emphasis on motherhood. Due to this ulterior motive, Source E is unreliable and hence does not prove that Source F is wrong.	5-6m

e)	Study all the sources. "German women benefited from Nazi rule." How far do the sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer.	8m
L1	Inference unsupported or misreading of source	1m
L2	Yes or No, supported by valid source use. Students must explain the evidence provided from each source. Merely quoting evidence will result in the lowest mark in the band.	2-4m
L3	Yes and No, supported by valid source use. Award 5m for 1 yes and no and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source up to a maximum of 7m. Students must explain the evidence provided from each source. Merely quoting evidence will result in the lowest mark in the band. Sources A, C and F: Benefitted from Nazi rule Source A supports the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it shows that Nazi policies prepared women for successful family life. Gertrud Draber explains that she “wanted to be a perfect housewife” and that the bridal school taught “everything that was necessary to be a woman; house-keeping, being a mother, and being a good wife.” This suggests that the Nazi regime provided women with practical domestic skills and training to fulfil their roles as wives and mothers. As Draber willingly attended the school and desired this lifestyle, she viewed these opportunities positively. Therefore, Source A supports the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule by equipping some women with the knowledge and skills needed for marriage and family life. Source C could support the assertion if viewed from the perspective of women who accepted Nazi ideals of separate gender roles. It supports the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it suggests that women were given a clear and valued role within society. Goebbels states that women have the task of “being beautiful and bringing children into the world,” while men “take care of gathering the food and stand guard and ward off the enemy.” This implies that Nazi ideology created separate but complementary roles for men and women, with women being recognised as the foundation of the family. By relieving women of the responsibility of being the main breadwinner and emphasising motherhood as an honoured duty, some women may have felt secure and valued within the family. Therefore, Source C supports the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it portrays their domestic role as important and respected. Source F supports the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it shows that mothers with large families received generous financial assistance from the Nazi government. The woman explains that because she had four children, she received “30 marks per child from the Hitler government and 20 marks per child from the city,” adding that “That was a lot of money. I sometimes got more ‘child money’ than my husband earned.” This suggests that Nazi policies significantly improved the financial situation of large families by rewarding motherhood with substantial welfare payments. Such incentives reduced the economic burden of raising children.	5-7m

Sources B, C, D and E: Did not benefit from Nazi rule

Source B does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it mocks the Nazi policy of rewarding women mainly for having large families. The cartoon introduces "Frau Mueller, who up to now has brought 12 children into the world," while showing her appearing exhausted and worn out as she is presented before a cheering Nazi audience. This suggests that the regime valued women primarily for producing children rather than for their own wellbeing or opportunities. Instead of portraying motherhood as rewarding, the cartoon implies that Nazi policies placed heavy physical and emotional burdens on women by encouraging them to have many children. Therefore, Source B does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it portrays women as being reduced to their reproductive role rather than enjoying genuine improvements in their lives.

Source C does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it shows that the Nazis expected women to fulfil only traditional domestic roles. Goebbels states that women have the task of "being beautiful and bringing children into the world" and compares them to "the female bird" whose role is to hatch eggs while the male provides and protects. This suggests that women were valued mainly as wives and mothers rather than as individuals with equal opportunities in education, employment or politics. By limiting women to the home and reinforcing male dominance, the speech implies that Nazi policies restricted women's freedom and ambitions instead of expanding them. Therefore, Source C does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it portrays women as having a narrow and subordinate role in society.

Source D does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it portrays Nazi policies as reducing women to a subordinate role. The poster warns "Women, this is what it will be like in the Third Reich!" and depicts a woman kneeling to polish the boots of a Nazi soldier, symbolising her obedience and lack of independence. It also states that "The woman must again become a maid and servant", suggesting that women would lose their equality and be confined to serving men. This implies that Nazi rule would strip women of their rights and opportunities rather than improve their lives. Therefore, Source D does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it presents women as being oppressed and treated as inferior under Nazi ideology.

Source E does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule because it argues that Nazi employment policies made women's working lives worse rather than better. Although the number of employed women increased, the journalist states that women were "squeezed... out of better paid positions into sweated trades" with "miserable wages and long hours." This suggests that Nazi policies did not improve women's economic security but instead forced many into lower-paid, more demanding jobs that harmed their wellbeing and family life, exploiting their labour. Therefore, Source E does not support the view that German women benefited from Nazi rule.

	For L2 and L3 award a bonus of 1m for <u>use of contextual knowledge</u> to question a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency, etc. Source C is unreliable: Goebbels claims that women should focus on “bringing children into the world” while men “gather the food and stand guard,” implying that women could remain at home as wives and mothers. However, contextual knowledge shows that this ideal was not consistently followed. As Germany prepared for war and faced labour shortages, increasing numbers of women were encouraged to work, particularly in factories, agriculture and clerical jobs. Therefore, the source presents Nazi ideology rather than the actual experiences of many German women, making it less reliable. OR Source C is unreliable because its purpose was to persuade German women to accept Nazi ideals rather than provide an objective account of their lives. As Nazi Minister for Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels delivered this speech to German women in 1934, when the regime was promoting its policy of Kinder, Küche, Kirche (Children, Kitchen, Church) to encourage women to marry and have more children. He portrays women's role positively by claiming that “bringing children into the world” is “by no means as harsh and old-fashioned as one might think,” using the analogy of a female bird to justify separate gender roles. The intended impact was to convince women that their domestic role was natural and honourable, with the ulterior motive of increasing the Aryan population and securing support for Nazi racial and population policies. Therefore, the source is less reliable because it was intended to promote Nazi ideology rather than present a balanced view of women's experiences. Source D is unreliable: Source D is unreliable because its content exaggerates the impact of Nazi policies by portraying women as nothing more than servants to men. The poster depicts a woman kneeling to polish a Nazi soldier's boots and states that “The woman must again become a maid and servant,” suggesting that women would lose all independence under Nazi rule. However, contextual knowledge shows that while Nazi ideology emphasised women's domestic role, many women still received benefits such as marriage loans, child allowances, Mother's Cross awards, and later returned to the workforce as labour shortages increased. Therefore, the source presents a one-sided portrayal that overlooks these aspects, making it less reliable. Source D is lacking in sufficiency: Source D is lacking in sufficiency because it focuses only on the negative effects of Nazi policies on women and does not present the full picture. The poster claims that “The woman must again become a maid and servant” and depicts a woman submissively polishing a Nazi soldier's boots, suggesting that women would only be oppressed under Nazi rule. However, contextual knowledge shows that some women did benefit from Nazi policies, particularly mothers who received marriage loans, child allowances and Mother's Cross awards. While the source highlights the restrictions placed on women, it omits these benefits and therefore does not provide sufficient evidence to fully assess whether German women benefited from Nazi rule. Accept other valid answers. Only Sources C and D can be used here.	+1
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Essay LORMS (Levels of Response Marking Scheme)

Levels	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/Describes given or other reasons (Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.)	1 – 3 marks
L2	Explains given reason OR other reasons (Award 4 marks for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons/ supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.)	4 – 5 marks
L3	Explains given reason AND other reasons (Award 6 marks for an explanation of given AND other reason, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks (which include given reason).	6 - 8 marks
	Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of <u>the relative importance of different reasons</u>. 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).	
	i.e. for L3 Explains given reason AND other reasons Response can get up to 8 marks through two routes. (a) 2 explained reasons that are well-developed with depth of treatment OR (b) 3 explained reasons - with breadth of coverage but less depth of treatment Valid Evaluation •Award additional 2 marks •Total marks to be awarded: Marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks	

2) 'The Nazi-Soviet Pact was the most important reason why war broke out in Europe in 1939.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

I **partly agree** that the Nazi-Soviet Pact was the most important reason why war broke out in Europe in 1939. Although it gave Hitler the confidence to invade Poland without fearing Soviet intervention, the outbreak of war was also caused by Hitler's aggressive expansionism, the failure of appeasement, and the weakness of the League of Nations. (Intro not necessary)

Factor 1: The Nazi-Soviet Pact (Given Factor) – Agree

The Nazi-Soviet Pact, signed in August 1939, was a major reason why war broke out because it removed Hitler's greatest strategic concern—a war on two fronts. Germany and the Soviet Union agreed not to attack each other for ten years, while a secret protocol divided Poland and Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence. Confident that the USSR would remain neutral, Hitler invaded Poland on 1 September 1939.

*The Pact acted as an immediate trigger: Britain and France had guaranteed Poland's independence, so Germany's invasion led them to declare war on Germany on **3 September 1939**.*

The Pact created the favourable conditions that made Hitler confident enough to invade Poland, which then triggered the British and French declarations of war.

Factor 2: Hitler's aggressive foreign policy – Disagree

However, the most important reason for war was Hitler's aggressive foreign policy and determination to overturn the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler aimed to unite all German-speaking people, acquire Lebensraum (living space) in Eastern Europe, and establish German dominance. Before 1939, he had already remilitarised the Rhineland (1936), annexed Austria (Anschluss, 1938), and seized the Sudetenland before occupying the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939.

Made conflict increasingly likely: Hitler was unwilling to accept the post-war settlement and repeatedly used threats and military force to change Europe in Germany's favour. This meant that peaceful compromise could only work temporarily.

Occupation of Czechoslovakia was a turning point: By taking territory that was not mainly German-speaking, Hitler showed that his ambitions went beyond simply uniting Germans. Britain and France increasingly saw him as seeking German domination of Europe. Hitler's continued expansion convinced them that further concessions would only encourage more aggression. Britain therefore guaranteed Poland's independence.

Factor 3: The policy of appeasement – Disagree

Another important reason was the failure of **appeasement**. Britain and France repeatedly gave in to Hitler's demands in the hope of avoiding another devastating war. They accepted the remilitarisation of the Rhineland, allowed the Anschluss with Austria, and signed the **Munich Agreement (1938)**, permitting Germany to annex the Sudetenland without consulting Czechoslovakia.

These concessions convinced Hitler that Britain and France lacked the willingness to oppose him militarily. As a result, he became increasingly confident that further aggression would also go unchallenged, encouraging him to invade Poland in 1939 which triggered the declaration of war by Britain and France,

Factor 4: The weakness of the League of Nations – Disagree

The weakness of the **League of Nations** also contributed to the outbreak of war by failing to stop aggression during the 1930s. The League failed to prevent **Japan's invasion of Manchuria (1931)** and **Italy's invasion of Abyssinia (1935)**, showing that collective security was ineffective. These failures undermined international confidence in the League and demonstrated that aggressive states could expand without facing serious consequences.

Hitler drew important lessons from these events, believing that international organisations and democratic

powers lacked the resolve to stop aggression. This encouraged his increasingly bold actions, which eventually led to war.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I **partly agree** that the **Nazi-Soviet Pact** was an important immediate cause of war because it removed the threat of Soviet opposition and gave Hitler the confidence to invade Poland, directly triggering Britain and France's declaration of war. However, **Hitler's aggressive foreign policy was ultimately the most important reason**, as his long-term ambition to expand German territory and overturn the Treaty of Versailles drove every major act of aggression throughout the 1930s. The failures of appeasement and the League of Nations also created the conditions that allowed Hitler's ambitions to succeed. Therefore, while the Nazi-Soviet Pact made war possible in 1939, Hitler's expansionist ideology and aggressive actions were the fundamental cause of the outbreak of war in Europe.

3. 'The D-Day landings in 1944 were the main reason for the Allied victory in Europe during World War II.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

I **partly agree** that the D-Day landings were the main reason for the Allied victory in Europe. Although they opened a crucial Western Front that accelerated Germany's defeat, other factors such as the Soviet Union's victories on the Eastern Front, Allied strategic bombing, and Hitler's own military mistakes were equally, if not more, important.

Factor 1: D-Day landings (Given Factor) – Agree

The D-Day landings on 6 June 1944 (Operation Overlord) played a major role in defeating Germany *because they allowed the Western Allies to establish a permanent foothold in Nazi-occupied France. Over 156,000 British, American and Canadian troops landed on the beaches of Normandy despite strong German resistance.* Once the beachheads were secured, the Allies rapidly advanced across France, leading to the liberation of Paris in August 1944. *Germany was now forced to fight a full-scale war on two major fronts, stretching its manpower and resources beyond recovery.* This significantly hastened Germany's collapse and brought Allied forces closer to Berlin from the west.

Factor 2: Soviet victories on the Eastern Front – Disagree

However, the most important reason for Germany's defeat was the Soviet Union's success on the Eastern Front. Germany suffered its heaviest losses fighting the Red Army. The defeats at the Battle of Stalingrad (1942–43) and the Battle of Kursk (1943) destroyed Germany's offensive capability and forced Hitler permanently onto the defensive. By 1944, the Soviet Operation Bagration annihilated Germany's Army Group Centre, destroying around 28 German divisions and driving German forces rapidly westward. *By the time of D-Day, the Soviet Union had already inflicted the majority of German military casualties and was advancing steadily towards Berlin. Therefore, the Eastern Front weakened Germany long before the Western Allies invaded France.*

Factor 3: Allied strategic bombing campaign – Disagree

Another important factor was the Allied strategic bombing campaign against Germany. The British Royal Air Force bombed German cities at night, while the United States Army Air Forces conducted precision bombing during the day. *These sustained bombing raids destroyed factories, railways, oil refineries and transport networks, severely reducing Germany's ability to produce weapons and fuel its military. Bombing also disrupted communications and forced Germany to divert thousands of anti-aircraft guns, fighter aircraft and soldiers away from the front lines to defend its cities.* By 1944, Germany's industrial production and logistics had been seriously weakened, making it much harder to resist both the Soviet advance in the east and the Allied invasion in the west.

Factor 4: Hitler's military mistakes – Disagree

Hitler's poor military decisions also contributed significantly to Germany's defeat. He repeatedly interfered with his generals' decisions and refused tactical withdrawals, resulting in the unnecessary destruction of entire armies. His decision to invade the Soviet Union in **Operation Barbarossa (1941)** opened a

massive second front that Germany lacked the resources to sustain. Later, Hitler underestimated the D-Day invasion, believing that the main Allied attack would occur at Pas-de-Calais. As a result, German reinforcements were delayed, allowing the Allies to establish themselves in Normandy. Hitler's rigid leadership and strategic miscalculations weakened Germany throughout the war and made eventual defeat increasingly inevitable.

Accept other possible factors eg: USA's role

USA's role – Arsenal of Democracy and Battle of the Atlantic

- **Kept Britain and the USSR fighting:** As the “Arsenal of Democracy”, the USA supplied the Allies with huge quantities of weapons, aircraft, vehicles, food and other essential resources through programmes such as Lend-Lease. This prevented Britain and the USSR from being weakened by shortages and allowed them to continue fighting Germany.
- **Gave the Allies greater industrial strength:** American factories could produce military equipment on a scale Germany struggled to match. This meant that Allied losses in weapons, aircraft and ships could be replaced more easily, while Germany increasingly lacked the resources to replace its own losses.
- **Helped win the Battle of the Atlantic:** American warships, aircraft and shipbuilding helped protect vital supply routes across the Atlantic. The Allies were increasingly able to destroy German U-boats and replace merchant ships faster than Germany could sink them.
- **Allowed troops and supplies to reach Europe:** Allied control of the Atlantic ensured that millions of American troops and enormous quantities of equipment could be transported safely to Britain. Britain could therefore become the main base for the Allied invasion of Western Europe.
- **Made D-Day and the liberation of Western Europe possible:** Without secure Atlantic supply routes and American resources, it would have been much harder to build up the forces required for D-Day in June 1944 and the subsequent advance into Germany.

Analytical link: The USA played a major role in Allied victory because its **enormous economic and industrial power gave the Allies the resources to sustain a long war, while victory in the Atlantic ensured those resources and troops could reach Europe**. This allowed the Allies to fight Germany on multiple fronts until Germany could no longer replace its losses or resist the Allied advance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I **partly agree** that the D-Day landings were a major reason for Allied victory because they successfully opened the Western Front, liberated France and forced Germany to fight a two-front war that accelerated its defeat. However, the **Soviet victories on the Eastern Front were ultimately more important**, as they inflicted the greatest military losses on Germany, destroyed much of its fighting strength and pushed German forces back towards Berlin even before D-Day. Allied strategic bombing and Hitler's own military mistakes further weakened Germany by reducing its industrial capacity and worsening its strategic position. Therefore, while D-Day was a decisive turning point, it was the Soviet Union's relentless advance, supported by Allied bombing and German strategic failures, that was the most significant reason for the Allied victory in Europe.

4. 'North Korea's confidence that it could successfully take over South Korea was the main reason for the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

I agree with this statement to some extent. North Korea's confidence that it could quickly defeat South Korea was an important reason for the outbreak of the Korean War. However, Soviet support, Chinese support, Cold War tensions, and the division of Korea were also significant causes. Of these, Soviet support was the most important because it gave North Korea the means and confidence to launch the invasion.

First, North Korea's confidence of victory contributed to the outbreak of the war. By 1950, Kim Il Sung believed that South Korea was politically weak and militarily vulnerable. South Korea's army was smaller, less well-equipped, and lacked tanks and heavy artillery. Kim also believed that many South Koreans would support a communist takeover. Furthermore, the United States appeared unwilling to defend South Korea after Secretary of State Dean Acheson excluded Korea from America's "defensive perimeter" in Asia in January 1950. As a result, Kim expected a rapid victory and launched the invasion on 25 June 1950.

Second, Soviet support was a crucial reason for the outbreak of the war. Although Stalin had previously rejected Kim's requests to invade, he changed his mind in 1950. The Soviet Union supplied North Korea with tanks, aircraft, artillery, military advisers, and training. North Korea's army was therefore far stronger than South Korea's at the start of the war. More importantly, Stalin's approval gave Kim the confidence to proceed with the invasion. Without Soviet military aid and support, North Korea would have found it difficult to launch such a large-scale attack. Therefore, Soviet support was arguably the most important cause of the war.

Third, Chinese support also encouraged North Korea. In 1949, the Chinese Communists under Mao Zedong won the Chinese Civil War and established the People's Republic of China. This strengthened the communist position in Asia and gave Kim confidence that he had a powerful ally nearby. Stalin was also more willing to support the invasion because he believed China could assist North Korea if necessary. Although China did not directly participate at the start of the war, its existence as a communist ally encouraged North Korea's aggressive actions.

Fourth, Cold War tensions contributed to the outbreak of the Korean War. After World War II, relations between the United States and the Soviet Union deteriorated as both superpowers sought to expand their influence. Korea became a battleground for this ideological struggle between communism and capitalism. The Soviet Union supported the communist government in the North, while the United States supported the anti-communist government in the South. This rivalry increased tensions and made conflict more likely.

Finally, the division of Korea after World War II created the conditions for war. In 1945, Korea was divided at the 38th parallel into a Soviet-controlled North and an American-controlled South. Two rival governments emerged: Kim Il Sung's communist regime in the North and Syngman Rhee's anti-communist regime in the South. Both leaders claimed to be the legitimate ruler of all Korea and wanted reunification under their own system. The division therefore created a long-term source of tension that eventually led to armed conflict.

In conclusion, North Korea's confidence that it could successfully conquer South Korea was an important cause of the Korean War because it encouraged Kim Il Sung to launch the invasion. However, this confidence largely stemmed from Soviet military and political support. While Chinese support, Cold War tensions, and the division of Korea all contributed to the outbreak of war, Soviet support was the most significant factor because it provided North Korea with both the capability and confidence to invade South Korea in 1950.