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# 2

91233



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## Level 2 History 2020

### 91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 25 November 2020  
Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Examine, in depth, causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**You should write ONE essay in this booklet.**

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

**Low Merit**

**TOTAL**

**05**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event, using the essay question below.

Your essay must include an introduction and a conclusion, and use detailed supporting evidence.

You should provide context for your discussion by adding a concise paragraph describing the historical event.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

**ESSAY QUESTION**

Examine the causes of a significant historical event and two of its important impacts.

**Historical event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANNING**

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 4–5 pages. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

Begin your essay here:

The 1933 appointing of Adolf Hitler to chancellor was a significant historical event, resulting in severe ~~global~~ <sup>national</sup> impacts. ~~nationwide~~ The government's signing of the Treaty of Versailles and the instability of the Weimar Republic were two causes to his subsequent appointment. The consequences of his rule could be shown through <sup>his</sup> the expansion of political power, and the persecution of Jews, both ~~exposing~~ <sup>creating</sup> significant and important impacts ~~on Germany~~ upon the lives of millions world wide.

After the first World War, the Big Three [United Kingdom, United States, France] combined to establish the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, a cause to Hitler's appointment to Chancellor. The hope was to achieve peace worldwide through the weakening of Germany's power, and limit their abilities to attack again. With no negotiations permitted from Germany, the forced dictat greatly diminished their world status; contents of restrictions of 100,000 soldiers, 15,000 sailors, the loss of 13% of their land including its 6 million citizens, the repayment of the 6.6 billion pounds in war reparations, and the acceptance of blame in the war's starting created great anger within the German public. It was perceived as accepting humiliation and weakness, leaving Germany defenceless and caused vast hatred aimed at the government. Hitler too followed these views, yet as the new propaganda leader of the Nazi Party in 1920, ~~these~~ <sup>chose</sup> to use the failing

signing to advantage. He publicly criticised the government through visual and oral propaganda, despising their decision, but also took the opportunity to promote the party's new policies (the T.O.V's reversal, and German unity), captivating audiences by success. The changes he proposed offered the public a party to turn to and support, as ~~there~~ they showed sign of power. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles was a cause in Hitler becoming chancellor, as it placed him in the public eye and promoted who the Nazi Party were and what they stood for, achieving support and ~~publicity~~ recognition in its publicity, and allowed him to increase in ~~political~~ public recognition during political events.

The instability of the Weimar Republic is a second cause in Hitler becoming Germany's chancellor, as it reflected ~~his~~ the ~~at~~ government's struggles and Hitler's ability to benefit from them. After the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany's political and economic status continued to cripple, and reflected the struggling Weimar Republic behind it. Events such as the occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation, both in 1923, mirrored the struggles at hand with the lack of a single party in power and failing co-~~alitions~~ causing few laws to be passed. Germany's economic crisis met a turning point when Gustav Stresemann became foreign minister in 1923. He developed the Dawes Plan, in which the US offered loans to Germany to pay the reparations, however just as it was restored and began to prosper, it declined once more. Stresemann's passing on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1929 was followed by the Wall Street crash on October 29<sup>th</sup> 1929, causing the US to call back all

loans, including Germany's. The instability of the Weimar Republic was recognised as no subsequent decisions were successfully implemented to reduce its nationwide effect.

Germany, again, declined into the Great Depression, and resulted in the loss of millions of jobs. The lack of successful chancellors assisted the government's declining, ~~as~~ with 4 appointed and failing miserably between 1928 and 1932.

Hitler had become Nazi Party leader in 1922, and exploited the governmental crisis nationwide, exposing its weak power and rigid nature, however, again, proposed the Nazi Party's as a strong force and one that implements change. His promises like 'jobs bread and freedom', and contents within the party's policies gained greater public appeal, as they sought a strong government during a time of need. Hitler and the Nazi Party's support grew as the public support increased, and was reflected in the Reichstag seats - 12 in 1928, 107 in 1930 and 230 in July 1932. The instability of the Weimar Republic was a cause in Hitler becoming Chancellor as it reflected his widespread public influence, gaining him greater influence in the Reichstag and positioned him as the power German people wanted to reside under, pressuring Hindenburg's decision.

✗ The causes of the T.O.V and the instability of the Weimar Republic were significant influences on Hindenburg's decision to appoint Hitler to Chancellor due to the public support and recognition he received. Despite being the biggest party with 230 seats, Hitler's power declined after the November elections to 196 seats. His loss of power only influenced his greater desire for more, and ~~in~~ impacted Hindenburg's decision. Being power

hungry, Hitler could be easily manipulated by Hindenburg as president, but also part chancellor, Franz von Papen as his vice. The failing decline of the government left Hindenburg with few possibilities for chancellor, and combined with Hitler's political standing, public influence and underlying control from himself and von Papen, Hindenburg appointed Hitler chancellor on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1933. This event had great important impact on the future of Germany, as Hitler infiltrated his limited power and authority as chancellor ~~upon the wider~~ towards the two important consequences of his expansion of political power and the persecution of Jews.

Hitler's expansion of political power was one important impact upon him becoming chancellor. The limited power he held had him desiring more, in which he achieved. On February 27<sup>th</sup> 1933, Hitler was notified of a fire in the Reichstag. Its starting was found to have communist links, and suspected to be the result of a second uprising, <sup>and government takeover</sup> such as the one committed in 1918 by the Spartacists. Hitler used this as a way to persuade Hindenburg to use Article 48 and establish an emergency decree. The next day, the Emergency Decree was erected and banned all communists from the Reichstag and any propaganda, as well as suspended all rights in the constitution. The Emergency decree benefitted Hitler in the subsequent March 5<sup>th</sup> elections, gaining him 280 seats, however less than the required 50% to hold all power. His power hungry ego pushed Hindenburg to pass the Enabling Act, in which would grant Hitler all power as chancellor and the ability to pass laws efficiently on his own. Hitler aimed to achieve this



through the dismissal of communists, leaving 2000 seats empty, and the prior deal made with von Papen in which the Catholic Party would support him. On March 23rd, the Enabling Act was passed <sup>with 441 votes to 94 against</sup> and granted Hitler the ability to pass any laws he saw fit, for the next four years (1933 to 1937). The impact of Hitler becoming chancellor was reflected in his legal rise to greater power; the impact of his powerful persuasion important in this act. The Enabling Act additionally allowed him to combine the roles of chancellor and president into Führer upon Hindenburg's death on August 2nd 1934, legally granting him the power to enforce a dictatorship. <sup>important</sup> The impact of Hitler's political power could be reflected through his ultimate control over Germany, and control over all German lives, for his following 12 years in power. Germans struggled to breathe under his watch, their every move watched through implementations like Gleichschaltung, and caused the importance of their lives to revolve around his ideologies, values and beliefs.

The impact of Hitler's becoming chancellor is additionally important as it resulted in the persecution of Jews and caused terminal damage to their culture and religion. After WWI, Hitler blamed Jews for Germany's loss in the war, despite many holding citizenship and fighting for their homeland of Germany. By 1933, only 500,000 Jews resided in Germany, accounting for 1% of the population, due to the significant impact Hitler had already had on their societal position through anti-Semitism. Despite this, Hitler continued to discriminate against Jews upon his



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becoming chancellor. April 1<sup>st</sup> 1933 marked the first discriminative act singularly against Jews; the boycott of Jewish shops and businesses evident through the Hitler's SA members marking outside. As Hitler became Führer, all Jews were marked by the Star of David, and on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1935, all remaining Jews were stripped of their citizenship. On the November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 1938, Kristallnacht broke out, damaging 8000<sup>Jewish</sup> businesses and homes and placed 20,000 Jews in concentration camps. Kristallnacht caused nationwide controversy, but also marked the last publicly discriminative act, all subsequent kept private. By the breaking out of WWII, all Jews were now back under Hitler's control as he invaded and took over Europe, However this did not stop his goal. Einsatzgruppen (death squads) traipzed Europe on foot and rounded up all remaining communists and Jews in vision for mass killings. 500,000 Jews ~~died by this~~ were recorded dead by December 1941 due to this. The slow process of Einsatzgruppen did not satisfy Hitler, calling for the Final Solution in 1942. It provided efficiency in time and cost; its proposed plan to transform 6 concentration camps into death camps. 'Showers' were built as gas chambers, holding a capacity of 2000 for the mass to be killed in minutes. 6 million Jews died during the Holocaust, reflecting the severe but important impact of Hitler's power <sup>becoming</sup> as chancellor on an entire culture. Today, Jewish are still marginalised by Hitler's actions,

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millions being displaced on termination of the war, fearful to go back to Germany. Many were smuggled into Palestine, however to this day are struggling against similar discrimination in their new homeland.

Hitler's becoming chancellor on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1933 had important impacts on the world we live in today; a result of the causes of the Treaty of Versailles and the instability of the Weimar Republic, and impacts through his expansion of political power and persecution of Jews.

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## Merit Exemplar 2020

Subject	L2 History		Standard	91233	Total score	05
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
1	M5	<p><b>Hitler becoming Chancellor (1933)</b></p> <p>The candidate demonstrates examination of a significant historical event in depth by using sufficiently accurate and valid detailed supporting evidence to present two causes and two important impacts.</p> <p>On pages 4 and 5, the first cause covering the Treaty of Versailles provides a chronological sequence of dates; figures including restrictions on German armed forces, loss of land and German citizens, and reparations. It also includes proper names throughout such as The Big Three, Hitler, Chancellor, Nazi Party; and subject / context specific language such as appointment, diktat, perspective, propaganda, policy, and public eye.</p> <p>Also on pages 4 and 5, the candidate presents evidence in a causal sequence, beginning with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, followed by Hitler's political response. Throughout this sequence, the candidate takes care to establish causal links such as the restriction of armed forces and war guilt leading to German humiliation and weakness, to which Hitler's use of the terms as propaganda for an alternative government are linked. However, the explanation might have shown more perceptive depth by positioning the German government that accepted the diktat as democratic, against which stood Hitler with his anti-democratic Führerprinzip and absolute rejection of the treaty.</p>				