



the Law for the Protection of People and State. The fire also helped Hitler pass the Enabling Act. Everything that Hitler was able to do in the next few months was because of these two events.

**Comment.** This kind of question is testing factual knowledge of how an issue or event is significant. Susan produced a very good response which would reach level 3. She begins paragraph 1 with a brief outline of the issue; not the fire itself, but the debate about how it consolidated Hitler's power.

At the start of the next paragraph, Susan puts her answer in clear context by pointing out the limits on Hitler's power before the end of February 1933. In the third paragraph, she has picked up on the obvious link between the fire and the next day's happenings. She explains the fear of communism within the German establishment and German middle classes. True, she does not expand on *why* they were so frightened of communism, but remember that there are constraints of time and that this is also from an AS candidate; Susan's final level for this response will not be affected. What is clear is that Susan has a firm grasp of the short-term results of the Reichstag Fire, how the Decree for the Protection of People and State *precisely* benefited Hitler in the elections of early March. This is something that sets this response apart from the normal level 2.

In paragraph 4, Susan looks farther ahead (though keeping within the specification constraints: she does not go beyond the Enabling Act) at how Hitler used the KPD (and SPD, though this is not mentioned) free Reichstag to pass his Enabling Act and she finishes with a precise summing up.

She has been exact in many ways, for example, the link between the fire and Hindenburg's article 48, and the effects of these emergency decrees on the elections ('some [communists] were elected) and electioneering ('because KPD members had been arrested ... they could not fight the elections very well'). Susan is also accurate throughout, for example, in her handling of the Decree for Protection of People and State, she knows that the concentration camps were newly established (Dachau), that Germans lost their basic human rights, and that it was the foundation stone of the Nazi dictatorship. Therefore, Susan has convincingly explained the importance of the Reichstag Fire and the emergency decrees in the consolidation of Hitler's power; the quality of communication is not the most mature, but the quality of the historical thought was marked as level 3, 10/10.

**Question 3.** How far do the two sources provided agree about the significance of this Nazi magazine? (10 marks)

(Note, the source is not included here. In these two sources, two men of similar background but different ages, describe how they joined the NSDAP during the depression. They had been reading Nazi publications since the late 1920s.)

**Susan wrote:**

From my own knowledge, this magazine was one of many radical or extreme right-wing magazines in Germany at this time which gave out Nazi propaganda.

The two sources agree that the magazine had some impact on them. The first one says that the 'name of the magazine attracted me' and 'I could not wait to see the next and I eagerly read the attacks on the Republican regime'. The second one says that 'there was something about the contents which attracted me'.

The first man became a regular reader. 'From then on,

I became a regular reader of the magazine' and he joined the party as a result. It 'brought me into close contact with the party fighting for a new Germany'.

The second man also joined the party, 'the recollections of a young professional middle-class man who joined the party in 1929', but it was due to external reasons, and not entirely due to the magazine. Although he was attracted to the contents of the magazine, he was put off by its crude language. Only when he met a colleague who he admired, and who was already a member of the Nazi party, did he join. Only then did he find them 'good comrades and honest sincere fellows'.

The two sources are from different types of people as well. The first is a civil servant and so is lower in class than the second who is a professional. The first is older than the second as well.

Therefore, there is a certain amount of consensus between the two sources about the value of this Nazi magazine in getting people to join the party, but not total agreement.

**Comment.** This kind of question is designed to test whether a candidate can compare and contrast two sources. To achieve the best marks, a candidate has also to assess the extent of consensus between the two. How does Susan do?

Although the opening paragraph shows some detail, own knowledge is not required here, unless put in context to show a comparison.

Susan goes on to make two valid and contrasting points in the next three paragraphs. She is aware that both men were in some way attracted to the magazine, but the circumstances of joining the party differed; one man became a Nazi because of the magazine itself but the other was influenced by an acquaintance, who was socially above the riffraff and rebel-rousing of many Nazis. Finally, a contrast (which is inaccurate) is made about the social origin of the two men.

This response therefore is, clearly, a developed statement. A detailed and supported comparison has been successfully established and a judgement reached.

However, a closer look at the supporting detail shows weaknesses. There is a lot of direct lifting from the sources. Susan has also made a mistake over the civil servant: she thinks that a civil servant is a servant, rather than someone with education who is an administrator within the State. As a result, this is low level 2, 6/10 marks.

What could have been done to achieve a better mark? Susan could have made more comparisons, that the background of the two was similar (they were both middle-class professionals,) though their ages were different (the first experienced the war, the second was a product of the post-war world); both became exposed to the magazine from 1927 onwards, though it was another two to three years before they actually joined the Nazis. Where own knowledge could have been used to good effect would be to suggest that the catalyst for joining could have been the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and subsequent depression, as there was a surge in Nazi membership from 1930, as reflected in their 107 Reichstag seats in the elections of 1930.

As for a conclusion, Susan could have picked up the concept that the magazine had an importance for both men, but had less impact on the younger in explaining his reasons for joining the Nazis.

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