History Scholarship Paper 2013

45 minutes

This question is about Nazi Germany, 1933-39.

Read the 'Useful definitions' before reading the sources.

Answer Questions 1 and 2.

1. **Study Source A.**

   What can you learn from Source A about Nazi attempts to reduce unemployment in Germany?

   5 marks

2. **Study ALL the sources (A-F).**

   'Conditions for German workers improved during the years 1933 to 1939.'

   Using all of the sources, explain whether you agree with this view.

   20 marks

TOTAL: 25 marks

Useful definitions:

Wall Street Crash:	The Wall Street Crash of 1929, also known as Black Tuesday and the Stock Market Crash of 1929, began in late October 1929 and was the most devastating stock market crash in the history of the United States. The crash signaled the beginning of the 10-year Great Depression that affected all Western industrialized countries, including Germany.
The dole	Unemployment benefit. Paid by the government to those who are without work.
Deutschmark (or 'Mark')	German currency in use in the 1930s.
Pfennig	German currency.

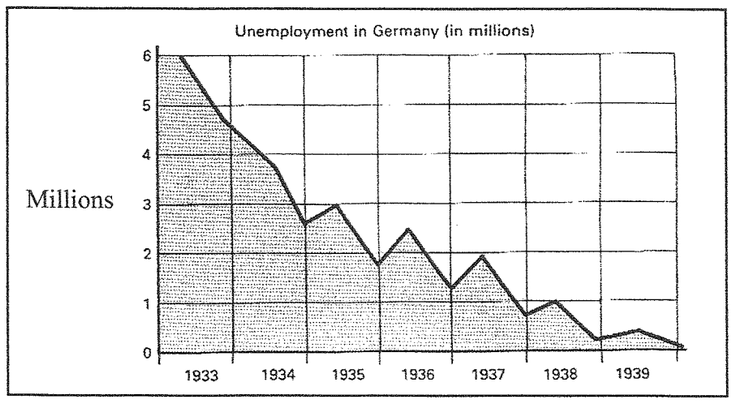
Nazi Germany, c.1930-39

Sources A to F

Source A: From *Labour under the Nazis* by Norman Thomas, a US writer, published in 1936.

Under the Nazis there has been what is called 'invisible unemployment'. The number of unemployed Jews is great and is increasing, but these are not counted as unemployed. Another source of this 'invisible unemployment' has been the sacking of huge numbers of women and of unmarried men under the age of 25. These people are not included at all among the unemployed in the official statistics. Part-time workers are counted as fully employed.

Source B: Official Nazi figures showing unemployment in Germany, 1933-39.



Source C: From *Germany Today*, a magazine published in Britain in 1938.

According to official statistics there are in Germany about one million unemployed as compared with two million at the end of 1928. No other big industrial country can boast today of the fact that its number of unemployed is lower than before the crisis caused by the Wall Street Crash. How has Hitler performed this miracle? Quite simply. Instead of paying the unemployed a dole he has put them into the army, labour or land service. The army today is larger than before by about 750,000.

Source D: A poster of 1938 published by the 'Strength through Joy' organisation promoting the Volkswagen (or people's car). It encourages people to save five marks every week to buy their own car.



Source E: From *In Hitler's Germany, Everyday Life in the Third Reich,* by Bernt Englemann, published in 1988. Here Englemann is recalling a conversation he heard on a train in Germany in 1936.

First worker
We work outdoors in all kinds of weather, shovelling dirt for as little as 51 Pfennigs an hour. Then there are deductions that are taken automatically by the state such as 35 Pfennigs for what they ladle out of a large pan and call dinner – more like slop.

Second worker
I'm trained as a printer. In the summer of 1933 I lost my job. I collected the dole until the spring of 1934 – and that was a lot better than what I am doing now. At least I was at home with my family. Now I'm in compulsory labour service with ten days' holiday a year.

Source F: From a school textbook about Germany between the wars, published in 1997.

The Nazis set up two movements to care directly for the workers' interests; the 'Beauty of Labour' movement to improve conditions at work and the 'Strength through Joy' movement to provide leisure time activities. Nevertheless workers' money wages were controlled by the state and they had no trade unions to bargain for better conditions or higher pay. The average industrial worker's pay stayed the same from 1929 to 1938 but the price of all basic groceries, with the exception of fish, increased.
