

AQA

GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/B: **Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship**

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations A and B for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03



2 5 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 1 A / B

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Interpretation A Adapted from an interview with Otto Kumm in 1987.

Otto Kumm was a factory worker who joined the Nazi Party in 1930. He won many medals as a senior officer in the SS where he commanded an elite frontline fighting unit. After the War he set up an SS Veterans' Association.

Germans supported the Nazi Party because there was no real alternative. When the Depression struck in the 1930s it was a miserable time with hungry people standing on the streets. I listened to both Communist and Nazi speakers but, like millions of other Germans, I decided that only the Nazis offered real hope. We did not want the Communists and their Russian connections. The Nazis appealed to people because they were a workers' party. We wanted to help Germany make a new start.

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Interpretation B Adapted from an interview with Jutta Rüdiger in 2000.

Jutta Rüdiger came from a wealthy background. She was a psychology student at University when she joined the Nazi party in 1931. From 1937 until 1945 she was the leader of the League of German Maidens (BDM). After the War she wrote books about the achievements of the Nazi Youth movements.

Germans supported the Nazi Party because of Germany's defeat in the First World War. The Versailles Treaty made huge and unfair demands on us. How we were treated was humiliating. I lived in the Ruhr during the French occupation and it made me angry. I was inspired by hearing Hitler speak. He said we could only overcome the pain of Versailles if we all stood together. Hitler led a party which united different classes.

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