

Paper 3, Section A: Question 2

Explain why unemployment fell in Germany between 1933 and 1939. (12 marks)

Strong answer

Unemployment fell in Germany from five million in 1933 to half a million in 1939. There were several factors explaining why unemployment fell.

One reason unemployment fell was the National Labour Service (RAD). The RAD paid unemployed people to do public works, like planting trees and draining marshes. At first people volunteered for the RAD. However, from 1935 it was compulsory for all young men to work for six months in the RAD. This meant that none of the people in the RAD counted as unemployed. Numbers in the RAD grew to 422,000, so this cut unemployment by almost half a million. This makes it an important reason why unemployment fell.

[Paragraph on autobahns, explaining how many people worked on the autobahns and how this gave work to the unemployed.]

Hitler introduced conscription in Germany in 1935. By 1939, there were 1,360,000 people in the armed forces. These all needed armaments, vehicles and uniforms, so this was a boost to Germany's industries, like the arms industry, coal, iron, steel, and textiles. Employment in the aircraft industry alone grew from 4,000 to over 70,000.

One further reason why official unemployment figures fell 1933–1939 was 'invisible unemployment'. From 1933, women were banned from professional jobs as teachers, doctors and civil servants. By 1934, 350,000 women had given up work. These women were not counted as unemployed. From April 1933, Jews were banned from government jobs and many Jewish civil servants and teachers were sacked, too. These people were not included in the unemployment figures either. So, removing people from jobs and then not counting them as unemployed was another reason why unemployment figures in Germany fell 1933–1939.

Overall, several factors explain why unemployment actually fell in Germany. The RAD and autobahns helped. Conscription boosted other industries and it kept over a million people off unemployment figures. Additionally, invisible unemployment reduced the numbers officially unemployed.

Introduction shows good knowledge of the period and uses the words in the question to start the answer.

The answer relates one stimulus factor (the RAD) to the question. It also consistently keeps up the argument, always saying throughout the paragraph how the RAD reduced unemployment. The choice of information is accurate and relevant to the question.

Introduces own factor (conscription). Consistently answers the question, giving accurate and relevant detail to support their argument.

The conclusion rounds off a good structure for the answer.

Verdict

This is a strong answer because:

- it gives an analysis of the factors which caused unemployment to fall
- it includes the stimulus and factors from own knowledge
- it consistently sustains an argument throughout the answer
- it uses detailed, accurate and relevant information to support the argument.

