

Paper 3, Section B: Questions 3b-c

Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about how Hitler came to power.

What is the main difference between these views?

Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations. (4 marks)

Strong answer

A main difference is that Interpretation 1 emphasises the view that the social and political chaos in Germany was the reason Hitler came to power. It says that businesses collapsed and unemployment went up and that democracy was replaced by dictatorship and that, as a result, more people showed an interest in Hitler.

On the other hand, Interpretation 2 says that von Papen and Hindenburg were the reason. It says 'von Papen convinced President Hindenburg that a coalition with Hitler would save Germany'.

Details from both Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2 explain the main difference between the two views.

Verdict

This is a strong answer because it identifies a valid difference with support from both interpretations.



Suggest **one** reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about Hitler's rise to power. You may use Sources C and D on pages 69–70 to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

Strong answer

The interpretations may differ because the historians have given weight to different sources. For example, Source C describes the political weakness of Brüning and the social unrest in Germany and says that was why Hitler became more popular. That supports Interpretation 1, which emphasises the political weakness of Brüning and the Reichstag in explaining why the Nazis became the biggest party.

On the other hand, Source D, which suggests that it was plotting by people like von Papen and Hindenburg that 'lifted' Hitler to power on their shoulders, provides support for the emphasis on their roles in Interpretation 2.

Details from Source C are used to show support for Interpretation 1 AND details from Source D are used to support Interpretation 2.

Verdict

This is a strong answer because it gives a valid reason for the different views and supports it using both sources.

