

Question 3(d)

How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the attitudes of young people towards the Hitler Youth movement? Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

Interpretation 2 gives the view that attitudes towards the Hitler Youth movement became more negative and the movement's unpopularity increased from the late 1930s onwards. I would agree with this interpretation as although many young people would have had a positive attitude towards the Hitler Youth, there were others that did not want to join as well as some that deliberately showed outright opposition.

I agree with Interpretation 2 that the Hitler Youth movement became 'less popular' towards the late 1930s and that attitudes were more positive in the earlier years of Hitler's Germany. Interpretation 1 gives examples of a wide range of activities which attracted young people and gave positive attitudes with for example 'many outdoor events', cultural activities' and 'great comradeship.' This is supported with Interpretation 2 which implies the movement was popular before the late 1930s. The membership numbers, diaries and photographs from this time often show enthusiastic Hitler Youth numbers. The popular and enthusiastic attitudes were clear with the role its members were given during the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. But there were some young people who had negative attitudes towards the Hitler Youth and some even joined rebel groups such as the 'Edelweiss Pirates.' The Nazi government was aware of this opposition and this was one reason why other youth groups were banned. There is also a lot of evidence that many parents and teachers resented the movement and their son's involvement with the organisation.

However, as shown in Interpretation 2, attitudes were not so positive from 'the late 1930s' and there was resentment about the discipline, the leaders and the movement's restrictions. Attitudes were much more negative as the movement was 'increasingly focused on preparations for ' and the boys being trained for their future military roles. This would have been similar for the League of German Maidens which also focused on preparing girls for their future roles. By the late 1930s It was now clear what the movement was soon going to be used for in contrast to the 'exciting and interesting activities' of its earlier years - so what had been enjoyed by some did clearly become 'less popular' from the late 1930s when it became compulsory to join.

Overall, as Interpretation 1 suggests the Hitler Youth provided a wide variety of exciting activities for young Germans and appealed to boys in many different ways. However, Interpretation 2 is more convincing in claiming that by the late 1930s the activities had become less appealing to some German youth as the organisation became more involved in preparing Germany for war. In 1939 the majority of German boys belonged to the Hitler Youth but as Interpretation 2 says some 'began to kick against the restrictions'.

Examiner's commentary

The response is an explained evaluation that reviews both interpretations and uses contextual knowledge to come to a substantiated judgement. The interpretations are analysed with precise details and contextual knowledge is used to support the evaluation. The overall judgement is justified and is supported with a coherent and valid line of reasoning which is logically structured.

SPAG – The response meets the criteria for high performance.

High Level 4

4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answer provides an explained evaluation reviewing the alternative views in coming to a substantiated judgement. Precise analysis of the interpretations is shown, indicating how the differences of view are conveyed and deploying this material to support the evaluation. Relevant contextual knowledge is precisely selected to support the evaluation. An overall judgment is justified and the line of reasoning is coherent, sustained and logically structured.
High	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learners spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy.• Learners use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.• Learners use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.