4.3 Cultural changes

Some of the most exciting art and culture in Europe emerged during this period.

Art

Neue Sachlichkeit (new objectivity) was a new approach to art which portrayed society in an objective way. It was associated with painters such as George Grosz and Otto Dix.

Cinema

This was a golden age for the German cinema. Fritz Lang was its best known director. He produced *Metropolis* (1927), the most technically advanced films of the decade. German actress Marlene Dietrich became one of the most popular films stars in the world, often playing strong and glamorous women.

Inference

Below are an exam-style question and part of an answer.

Give two things you can infer from Source A about women in Weimar Germany.

Women had greater freedom socially. The details from the source which support this are the women who are shown in a bar drinking alcohol with men.

Now make a second inference and use details from the source to support it.

Utility

Use the questions and statements in the white boxes around the photo to make notes in answer to the following question:

How useful is Source A for an enquiry into the position of women in the Weimar Republic in the 1920s? Explain your answer, using Source A and your knowledge of the historical context.

SOURCE A

A photograph showing women in a famous Berlin bar in the 1920s.

What is useful about the contents of the source?

What is useful about the nature, origins or purpose of the source?

Contextual knowledge to support your answer

Key topic 2 Hitler's rise to power, 1919–33

In 1919–20, the **Nazi Party** was set up and, in the Munich Putsch of 1923, Hitler unsuccessfully tried to seize power by force. There was limited backing for the Nazis during 1924–28 but the Depression in 1929 brought increased support. Political developments in 1932 led to Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933.

1 Early development of the Nazi Party, 1920–22

REVISED

The Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler, emerged in the early 1920s and was able to take advantage of the problems experienced by the Weimar Republic.

1.1 Hitler's early career

Hitler was born in Austria in 1889. When he was sixteen, he went to Vienna to become an artist. This did not work out. From 1908 to 1913 he was virtually a 'down-and-out' on the streets of Vienna. It was during these years that Hitler developed his hatred of Jews:

- **Anti-Semitism** was widespread in Vienna.
- He was envious of the wealthy Jews and blamed them for his own problems.

In 1914, Hitler joined the German army and served with distinction, winning the Iron Cross. He found it hard to accept the armistice, believing that Germany was on the verge of winning the war when it was betrayed by the politicians.

Hitler stayed in the army after the war, working for the intelligence services. He came across the **German Workers' Party (DAP)**, led by Anton Drexler, and joined it in 1919.

In 1920, the party was renamed the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP or Nazi Party).

1.2 The early growth and features of the Nazi Party

Hitler was good at public speaking and in February 1920 he was put in charge of recruitment and propaganda, attracting new members to the party. By 1921, he was strong enough to challenge Drexler and take over the leadership of the party himself.

- The political meetings generated much violence. In order to protect Nazi speakers, protection squads were used. These developed into the *Sturmabteilung* (**SA**) in 1921. It attracted many ex-soldiers, especially from the *Freikorps*. The SA would disrupt the meetings of Hitler's opponents, especially the Communists, and often beat up opposition supporters.
- By 1922, the Nazi Party had 6000 members, rising to 50,000 two years later.
- The Nazi Party drew up a **Twenty-Five Point Programme** (see box below). This was their political manifesto. It was vague and deliberately designed to appeal to as many groups as possible.

Key terms

Anti-Semitism Hatred of Jews

German Workers' Party (DAP) An anti-Weimar government party set up by Anton Drexler

Nationalise To change from private ownership to state ownership

Nazi Party The National Socialist German Workers' Party set up by Hitler in 1920

SA Hitler's private army set up to protect Nazi meetings and disrupt those of his opponents

Twenty-Five Point Programme The main aims and principles of the Nazi Party

Exam tip

You need to be aware of the impact of the DAP and the early Nazi Party on Hitler's career, including the Twenty-Five Point Programme and the setting up of the SA.

Key features of the Twenty-Five Point Programme

- The union of all Germans to form a Greater Germany.
- Getting rid of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Citizenship of the state to be granted only to people of German blood. Therefore no Jew was to be a citizen of the nation.
- The government to **nationalise** all businesses that had been formed into corporations.
- All newspaper editors and contributors to be German, and non-German papers to appear only with the permission of the government.

Inference

An inference is a message that you can get from a source by reading between the lines. Below are an exam-style inference question and a series of statements. Decide which of the statements:

- make(s) inferences from the source (I)
- paraphrase(s) the source (P)
- summarise(s) the source (S)
- cannot be justified from the source (X).

Give two things you can infer from Source A about Hitler's speeches.

SOURCE A

A member of the Nazi Party describing one of Hitler's speeches in 1922.

My critical faculty was swept away. Leaning forward as if he were trying to force his inner self into the consciousness of all these thousands, he was holding the masses, and me with them, under a hypnotic spell by the sheer force of his belief ... I forgot everything but the man; then glancing around, I saw that his magnetism was holding these thousands as one.

Statements	I	P	S	X
Hitler was holding the masses under a hypnotic spell				
Hitler attacked the Jews and the Weimar Republic in his speeches				
Hitler was a very effective speaker				
Hitler's speeches attracted many supporters to the Nazi Party				
Hitler's critical faculty was swept away and there were thousands of supporters				
Hitler made promises in his speeches				
He forgot everything but Hitler				
Hitler was able to impress people with the sheer force of his belief				

Identifying causation

Below is a list of statements about the early years of the Nazi Party. Identify with a tick which are statements of causation about the growth of the Nazi Party.

Hitler's qualities as a speaker brought increased membership of the Nazi Party	
The Twenty-Five Point Programme included destroying the Treaty of Versailles	
The establishment of the SA attracted more members to the Nazi Party	
The Twenty-Five Point Programme increased the appeal of the Nazi Party	
The DAP was renamed the Nazi Party	
The SA was used to protect Nazi meetings and attack the meetings of rival parties	

2 The Munich Putsch and the lean years, 1923–29

REVISED

2.1 The Munich Putsch, 1923

In 1923, Hitler, supported by **General Ludendorff**, made his first attempt to seize power.

Background to the Putsch

- The Weimar Republic was more unpopular than ever due to the effects of hyperinflation.
- Hitler wanted to overthrow the Republic by organising a putsch in Bavaria and then march on Berlin.
- In 1922, the Italian leader, Mussolini, had successfully marched on Rome and taken over the Italian government with the support of the regular army. Hitler knew that he would have to win over the German army to be successful.
- Hitler thought the Bavarian leaders would support him, including Gustav von Kahr, Otto von Lossow and Hans Seisser.

Events of the Putsch

- On 8 November 1923, Hitler and the SA burst into a beer hall, disrupting a political meeting attended by Kahr, Seisser and Lossow.
- The three leaders were held at gunpoint until they offered their support for the Putsch. They were then released.
- The following day, Hitler and Ludendorff, with about 3000 supporters, including members of the SA, marched through Munich hoping to win mass public support. Seisser and Lossow had changed their minds and organised troops and police to resist them. Sixteen marchers were killed. Hitler fled.
- On 11 November, Hitler was arrested and the Nazi Party was banned.

Consequences of the Putsch

- In February 1924, Hitler was put on trial. The charge was high treason.
- Hitler turned his trial into a propaganda success, using it to attack the Weimar Republic. It provided him with nationwide publicity.
- The court was sympathetic to Hitler and gave him the minimum sentence for the offence – five years.
- Hitler was imprisoned in Landsberg Prison for only nine months. He wrote *Mein Kampf*, which contained his political views.
- Hitler realised that he needed complete control over the party and that in future he would try to gain power by legal methods – winning elections.

2.2 The lean years, 1924–29

The Nazi Party survived in secret until the ban was lifted in 1924. The period 1924–29 was a time of mixed fortunes for the Nazi Party.

Key individual

General Ludendorff
One of the German army leaders during the First World War. After the war, he criticised the new republic and accused it of having 'stabbed the army in the back'

Revision task

List the main changes to the Nazi Party in the years 1920–29. Put an arrow beside each to indicate whether it meant the party's fortunes were up, down or not altered by the change.

Exam tip

Remember to give a balanced evaluation of the Munich Putsch. Although it failed and Hitler was imprisoned, it did bring some benefits to Hitler and the Nazi Party.

The party did not do well	The party made progress
• There were quarrels and disagreements during Hitler's period in prison • Economic recovery meant there was little support for extremist parties • It only won twelve seats in the 1928 election	• It won 32 seats in the 1924 elections • *Mein Kampf* provided key ideas for the development of the Nazi Party with its focus on the importance of propaganda and anti-Semitism • Hitler reorganised the party to make it more efficient, with party branches run by *Gauleiters* • At the 1926 Bamberg party conference, Hitler continued to strengthen his position. Possible rivals to Hitler's leadership were won over or removed • Membership increased to 100,000 members by 1928

You're the examiner

Below is an exam-style question.

Explain why the Nazi Party lost support in the years 1923–29.

You may use the following in your answer:

- **The Munich Putsch**
- **Stresemann**

You must also use information of your own.

1 Opposite is a mark scheme and below is a paragraph which is part of an answer to the question. Read the paragraph and the mark scheme. Decide which level you would award the paragraph. Write the level below, along with a justification for your choice.

Remember that for the higher levels, students must:

- explain at least three reasons
- focus explicitly on the question
- support their reasons with precise details.

Mark scheme

Level	Mark	
1	1–3	A simple or generalised answer is given, lacking development and organisation
2	4–6	An explanation is given, showing limited analysis and with implicit links to the question
3	7–9	An explanation is given, showing some analysis, which is mainly directed at the focus of the question
4	10–12	An analytical explanation is given which is directed consistently at the focus of the question

STUDENT ANSWER

On the second day of the Munich Putsch, Hitler and Ludendorff, with about 3000 supporters, some of whom were members of the SA, decided to march through Munich hoping to win mass public support. Armed police blocked their way and sixteen of the marchers were killed when the police opened fire. Hitler stayed in the background and then fled the battle. On 11 November Hitler was arrested for his part in the uprising.

Hitler was in prison for nine months.

Level ☐ Reason _____

_____

2 Now suggest what the student has to do to achieve a higher level.

_____

_____

_____

3 Try and rewrite this paragraph at a higher level.

4 Now try and write the rest of the answer to the question.

The Munich Putsch: Interpretation questions

REVISED

Look at Sources A and B and Interpretations 1 and 2 below and then carry out the activities on page 17.

SOURCE A

A painting of the Munich Putsch of 1923 made later by one of its participants, showing the police opening fire on the Nazis. Hitler is standing with his arm raised and Erich von Ludendorff is on his right.

SOURCE B

From Hitler's recollections of the Munich Putsch, given in 1933.

It was the greatest good fortune for us Nazis that the Putsch collapsed because:

1 Co-operation with General Ludendorff would have been absolutely impossible.

2 The sudden takeover of power in the whole of Germany would have led to the greatest difficulties in 1923 because the essential preparations had not been made by the National Socialist Party.

3 The events of 9 November 1923, with their bloody sacrifice, have proven the most effective propaganda for National Socialism.

INTERPRETATION 1

From Germany 1858–1990: Hope, Terror and Revival *by A. Kitson, published in 2001.*

Kahr was forced to promise Hitler his support, but this support was short-lived. The next day it became clear to Hitler that neither Kahr nor the army were going to support his march. The Bavarian police were sent to stop the few thousand supporters that had gathered and opened fire, killing 16 Nazis. Hitler was driven away. Two days later he and other Nazi leaders were arrested and accused of high treason. The Nazi Party was banned and Hitler was Hitler was given the minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment.

INTERPRETATION 2

From Encyclopedia of the Third Reich *by Louis L. Snyder, published in 1998.*

On the surface the Beer-Hall Putsch seemed to be a failure, but actually it was a brilliant achievement for a political nobody. In a few hours Hitler catapulted his scarcely known, unimportant movement into headlines throughout Germany and the world. Moreover, he learned an important lesson: direct action was not the way to political power. It was necessary that he seek political victory by winning the masses to his side and also by attracting the support of wealthy industrialists. Then he could ease his way to political supremacy by legal means.

Develop the detail

Below are an exam-style question and a paragraph which is part of an answer to the question. The paragraph contains a limited amount of detail. Annotate the paragraph to add additional detail to the answer.

Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views on the consequences of the Munich Putsch of 1923. What is the main difference between the views? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations.

A main difference is that Interpretation 1 emphasises failures of the Munich Putsch. Interpretation 2 does not.

Complete the paragraph

Below are an exam-style question and a paragraph which is part of an answer to this question. The paragraph gives a reason why the interpretations differ but does not give details from one of the sources to support this difference. Complete the paragraph adding the support from Sources A and B.

Suggest one reason Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the consequences of the Munich Putsch of 1923. You may use Sources A and B to help explain your answer.

The interpretations may differ because they give different weight to different sources. For example, Source A provides some support for Interpretation 1, which stresses the defeat of Hitler's attempt to seize power and the failure of the Munich Putsch.

Support or challenge?

Below is an exam-style question and below that are a series of general statements which are relevant to the question. Using your own knowledge and the information on page 42, write a C next to the statements that challenge the view given in Interpretation 2 about the Munich Putsch and write an S next to the statements that support the view in the interpretation.

How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the consequences of the 1923 Munich Putsch? Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

Statement
Interpretation 2 suggests that the Munich Putsch was a brilliant success for Hitler
Hitler was a laughing stock because he had fled the gunfight in the street
Interpretation 1 stresses the failures of the Munich Putsch, especially when the Nazis were stopped by the Bavarian police
Hitler turned his trial into a propaganda success, using it to attack the Weimar Republic whom he accused of treason because of the armistice and signing the Treaty of Versailles
Interpretation 2 suggests that the Munich Putsch encouraged Hitler to change his tactics for achieving power

Statement
The Nazi Party was weak after the Putsch because Hitler was in prison and there were arguments and differences between the leading members
Interpretation 1 suggests that the aftermath of the Putsch was a failure, with the Nazi Party banned and Hitler arrested
The court was sympathetic to Hitler. Instead of sentencing him to death as it might have done, it gave him the minimum sentence for the offence – five years
Hitler and the Nazis had failed to get the support of the leaders of Bavaria
Hitler spent most of his time in prison writing *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*)

3 The growth in support for the Nazis, 1929–32

REVISED

3.1 The growth of unemployment – causes and impact

In October 1929, the **Wall Street Crash** led to US loans being recalled and, as a result, many German businesses sacked workers and were forced to close. German farmers also suffered as prices fell further. By 1932, over 6 million people were unemployed. The Weimar Republic failed to deal with unemployment and lost support. There was a growth in support for right- and left-wing parties, such as the Nazi Party and Communist Party.

- The Weimar Republic was blamed for allowing the economy to become too dependent on US loans.
- There was disagreement in government about the level of unemployment contributions. Chancellor Müller resigned in March 1930.
- Brüning became Chancellor after Müller. Brüning's reduction of government spending, pay cuts, cuts to unemployment benefit and increase in taxes lost him support. In May 1932, he resigned.
- Elections were called in July and November 1932. The Communist Party gained 100 seats (16.9%) in the November 1932 elections.

Key term

Wall Street Crash Collapse of the US stock market on 29 October 1929 leading to the Depression and world economic crisis

3.2 Reasons for growth in support for the Nazi Party

In the September 1930 elections, the Nazi Party won 107 seats and, by July 1932, it was the largest party, with 230 seats. This increased support was due to several reasons. Three of the main ones are outlined below.

Hitler

- Posters and rallies built Hitler up as a superman. The campaigns focused around his personality and his skills, especially as a speaker.
- Unemployment had hit everyone; thus Hitler tried to appeal to all sections of society. The Nazi message was that the Weimar Republic had caused the economic crisis and that weak coalition governments had no real solutions to offer. The Nazis alone could unite Germany in a time of economic crisis.
- Hitler provided the German people with a scapegoat – blaming the Jews for Germany's problems.
- Hitler won support from business and industrialists who donated funds to the Nazi Party. They were especially concerned at increased support for the Communist Party.

The SA

- By 1932, the SA numbered 600,000. It organised parades through towns and cities, impressing many Germans who saw order and discipline in a time of chaos.
- It was used to intimidate any opposition, especially the Communists.

Goebbels

Josef Goebbels was a master of propaganda and used every possible method to get across the Nazi message:

- Posters targeted different audiences and were timed to have maximum impact. Their message was generally simple but clear.
- He chartered planes to fly Hitler all over Germany to speak at four or five rallies per day.

Key individual

Josef Goebbels Joined the Nazi Party in 1922 and, in 1928, was elected to the Reichstag. Appointed head of propaganda of the Nazi Party in 1929. In 1933 he was appointed Minister of Public Propaganda and Enlightenment

Revision task

Using pages 12–18, produce a list of factors that changed the fortunes of the Nazis between the beginning of the 1920s and the early 1930s.

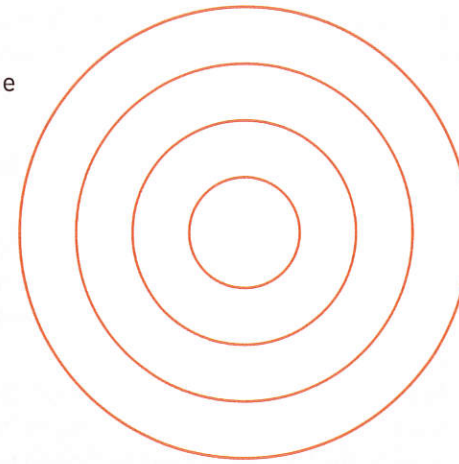
Exam tip

Remember that Germany was affected by hyperinflation in 1923, not during the Depression of 1929–32.

Concentric circles

In the concentric circles, rank order the following reasons for increased support for the Nazis in the years 1929–32, beginning with the most important in the middle to the least important on the outside. Explain your decisions.

- the Depression
- Hitler's appeal
- Nazi propaganda
- the SA.



Focusing on the question

Below is an exam-style question.

Explain why there was increased support for the Nazis in the years 1929–32.

You may use the following in your answer:
- **The Depression**
- **Hitler**

You must also use information of your own.

It is important that you make it clear in your answer that you are focusing on the question. Look at the paragraph below, which is part of an answer to the question.

The wording of the question is used.

One important reason for increased Nazi support in the years 1929–32 was the Depression. This was because the Depression brought about great hardship for many German people and increased the level of unemployment to over 6 million by 1932. The Nazi Party was able to appeal to a significant number of these unemployed people.

The information about the Depression focuses on increased support for the Nazis.

Now write another paragraph in answer to the question.

4 How Hitler became Chancellor, 1932–33

REVISED

Political instability and the eventual, reluctant, support of President **Hindenburg** brought Hitler to power as Chancellor in January 1933.

4.1 Political developments in 1932

A series of changes of government in 1932 further weakened the Weimar Republic:

- After Brüning stepped down in May 1932, **Franz von Papen**, a friend of President Hindenburg, was appointed Chancellor. He was leader of the Centre Party but only had 68 supporters in the Reichstag and was dependent on government by decree.
- In July 1932, von Papen held elections, hoping to gain more support. The elections, however, were a great success for the Nazis, who won 230 seats and became the largest party in the Reichstag. Hitler demanded the post of Chancellor. Hindenburg, who disliked Hitler, refused to appoint him.
- In November, von Papen arranged another election for the Reichstag, hoping to win more support. This time he won even fewer seats. The Nazi Party's seats fell to 196.
- Von Papen suggested abolishing the Weimar constitution. Von Schleicher, an army leader, persuaded Hindenburg that this would result in civil war. Hindenburg lost confidence in von Papen, who resigned.
- In the following month, Hindenburg appointed von Schleicher as Chancellor, who lasted less than two months.

4.2 The part played by Hindenburg and von Papen

- Von Papen was determined to regain power. To this end he met Hitler in early January 1933 when they agreed that Hitler should lead a government with von Papen as the Vice-Chancellor.
- They had the support of the army, major landowners and leaders of industry who disliked von Schleicher's plans to bring together different strands from the left and right parties and were worried about a Communist takeover.
- Von Papen convinced President Hindenburg that a coalition government with Hitler as Chancellor would save Germany and bring stability. Von Papen said that he would be able to control Hitler – he would 'make Hitler squeak'.
- On 31 January 1933, Hindenburg invited Hitler to become Chancellor.

Key individuals

Paul von Hindenburg A leading general in the First World War, becoming chief of the general staff in 1916. He retired from the army in 1918 and supported the 'stab in the back' theory. President of Germany 1925–34

Franz von Papen Entered politics in 1918 as a member of the Catholic Centre Party and four years later was elected to the Reichstag. He eventually became a favourite of Hindenburg. When Hitler became Chancellor, in January 1933, von Papen was his Vice-Chancellor

Revision task

Summarise the part played by the following in Hitler's rise to power:

- Hindenburg
- von Schleicher
- von Papen.

Exam tip

The events of 1932 are very complex. However, you will need a thorough knowledge of what took place, especially the role of Hindenburg and von Papen.

Understand the chronology

Place the events between March 1932 and January 1933 listed below in the correct chronological sequence in the timeline.

Date	Event
March 1932	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
January 1933	

EVENTS

A Hitler demanded the post of Chancellor. Hindenburg refused to appoint him

B Von Papen arranged for another election for the Reichstag, hoping to win more support

C Hindenburg appointed von Schleicher, an army leader, as Chancellor

D Von Papen became Chancellor

E The Nazis' seats fell to 196

F The Nazis won 230 seats, becoming the largest party in the Reichstag

G Hitler became Chancellor of Germany

H Chancellor Brüning was forced to resign

I Hindenburg invited Hitler to become Chancellor

J Von Papen and Hitler agreed that Hitler should become Chancellor and von Papen Vice-Chancellor

Utility

Below are a utility question and an answer focusing on the utility of the contents of the source. On a separate piece of paper complete the answer by explaining the utility of the nature, origins and purpose of the source. You could look at page 42 for guidance on how to answer the utility question to help you.

How useful is Source A for an enquiry into the political developments in Germany, 1932–33, which led to Hitler being appointed Chancellor? Explain your answer, using Source A and your knowledge of the historical context.

SOURCE A

A cartoon from the British magazine Punch, *January 1933.*

'The Temporary Triangle. Von Hindenburg and Von Papen (together): "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow, For He's a Jolly Good Fellow, For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," (aside: "Confound him!") "And So Say Both of Us".'

Source A is useful because it suggests that Hitler became Chancellor because of the actions of Hindenburg and von Papen. This is shown in the cartoon with Hitler being carried by the two men who are singing 'for he's a jolly good fellow'. This is supported by my knowledge of the events which brought Hitler to power. Von Papen and Hindenburg did work together to make Hitler Chancellor. Von Papen met Hitler in early January 1933 where they agreed that Hitler should lead a government with von Papen as the Vice-Chancellor. Von Papen then convinced President Hindenburg that a coalition government with Hitler as Chancellor would save Germany and bring stability. Von Papen said that he would be able to control Hitler – he would 'make Hitler squeak'.

Key topic 3 Nazi control and dictatorship, 1933–39

From January 1933 to August 1934, the Nazis secured control of all aspects of the German state. Hitler then consolidated his dictatorship through setting up a police state and using propaganda and censorship.

1 The creation of a dictatorship, 1933–34

REVISED

1.1 Setting up the dictatorship

From January 1933 to August 1934, Hitler secured control of the German state, removing all opposition.

The Reichstag Fire, February 1933

- On 27 February 1933, the **Reichstag** building was burned down. A Dutch Communist, Marius van der Lubbe, was put on trial and found guilty of starting the fire. Hitler blamed the Communist Party for the fire.
- Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to pass an emergency decree – the 'Decree for the Protection of the People and the State' – giving the police powers to detain people without trial.

The Enabling Act, March 1933

The 'Enabling Act' gave Hitler the power to make laws without the Reichstag's consent. Using these powers, Hitler:

- Removed further opposition to the Nazi government, including banning all **trade unions**. The unions were merged into a 'German Labour Front'.
- Banned all other political parties. By July 1933, Germany was a one-party state.

1.2 The Night of the Long Knives, 30 June 1934

The SA (see page 18) led by Röhm was a threat to Hitler's power. He removed this threat by purging the SA in the **Night of the Long Knives**.

Reasons for the purge

- The SA were increasingly out of control at a time when Hitler was trying to establish a dictatorship through legal methods.
- Röhm wanted a social revolution: to bring about greater equality in society.
- Leading Nazis such as Himmler were concerned about Röhm's growing influence. Himmler wanted to replace the SA with his own **SS**.

Events of the Night of the Long Knives

- Hitler arranged a meeting with Röhm and 100 other SA leaders. They were arrested by the SS, taken to Munich and shot.
- About 400 people were murdered in the purge.

Results

- Hitler got rid of would-be opponents.
- The SA now had a minor role.
- After Hindenburg died in August 1934, the army leaders swore an **oath of allegiance** to Hitler, giving him unconditional obedience.

1.3 Hitler becomes Führer

After Hindenburg's death, Hitler declared himself '**Führer**', combining the post of Chancellor and President. He called a referendum and more than 90 per cent of the voters (38 million) agreed with his action.

Key terms

Führer German title meaning leader

Night of the Long Knives 30 June 1934, when Hitler purged Röhm and the SA

Oath of allegiance A promise made by the German armed forces to be loyal to Hitler

Reichstag German state parliament

SS *Schultzstaffel* or 'protection squad'. Originally Hitler's bodyguards, they became the most powerful troops in the Third Reich, and wore distinctive black uniforms

Trade unions Organisations set up to protect and improve the rights of workers

Revision task

Draw a timeline for the creation of a dictatorship from January 1933 to August 1934. On the timeline include the key events which helped Hitler to create a Nazi dictatorship.

Exam tip

Ensure you thoroughly revise the sequence of events in 1933, beginning with when Hitler became Chancellor until the death of Hindenburg.