

Chapter-3

Nazism and Rise of Hitler

1 marks Questions

1. Name the most oppressed race in Germany.

Ans. Jews.

2. Name the party founded by Hitler.

Ans. Nazi Party.

3. Which was the purist race according to Hitler?

Ans. Aryan Race.

4. Name the first German Republic.

Ans. Weimer Republic.

5. Name the secret police of German.

Ans. Gestapo.

6. Name the Nazi youth group for children below 14 years of age.

Ans. Jungvolk.

7. What is the name for German Parliament?

Ans. Reichstag.



8. What was the name of treaty signed between Allies and Weimar Republic?

Ans. Versailles Treaty.

9. Where was an International Tribunal set up to try the war criminals?

Ans. Nuremberg.

10. Name the people's car produced in Germany.

Ans. Volkswagen.

11. Name the place where people were isolated and detained without due process of law.

Ans. Concentration Camps

12. Which was the highest post in the cabinet of Ministers in Germany?

Ans. Chancellor.

13. Name the scientist who discovered the theory of natural selection and evolution.

Ans. Charles Darwin.

14. Which Nazi youth organization consisted of all German of 14 to 18 years of age?

Ans. Hitler Youth.

15. What was Article 48 of Weimar Republic?

Ans. It gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspended civil rights and rule by decree.

16. Who wrote the book 'Third Reich of Dreams'?



Ans. Charlotte Beradt.

17. Which was the most famous film in which orthodox Jews were stereotyped and marked?

Ans. The Eternal Jews.

18. What was the immediate cause of world War II?

Ans. Germany invaded Poland in September 1940 was the immediate cause of World War II.

19. Who was Hitler's propaganda Minister?

Ans. Goebbels.

20. What was Genocide war?

Ans. It was war which resulted in the mass murder of selected groups of innocent civilians of Europe.



3 marks Questions

1. State the verdict of Nuremberg Tribunal. Why did the Allies avoid harsh punishments of Germany?

Ans. Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced only eleven leading Nazis to death.

Many others were imprisoned for life.

The Allies were not in favour of harsh punishment to Nazis as they felt that the rise of Nazi Germany could be partly traced back to the German experience at the end of the First World War.

2. Describe the events that happened in 1945, when Germany surrendered to Allies.

Ans. In May 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allies.

Anticipating, Hitler his propaganda minister Goebbels and his entire family committed suicide collectively in his Berlin bunker in April.

At the end of the war, an international Military tribunal at Nuremberg was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for war crimes and crimes against Humanity.

3. State the features of the Spartacist League.

Ans. The birth of Weimer Republic coincided with the revolutionary uprising of the Spartacist League on the pattern of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia.

Soviets of workers and sailors were established in many cities. The political atmosphere in Berlin was charged with demands of Soviet style of governance.

The anguished Spartacists later founded the Communist Party of Germany.

4. Explain any three reasons why the Weimer republic was not received well by the



people of Germany.

Ans. Many Germans held the new Weimer Republic responsible for defeat in the war and disgrace at Versailles.

The peace of treaty was harsh and humiliating for the Germans.

The allied powers demilitarized Germany to weaken its power.

5. Highlight three main features of the political system setup after the defeat of Imperial Germany in the First World War.

Ans. The defeat of Imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor gave an opportunity to parliamentary parties to recast Germany polity.

A National Assembly met at Weimer and established a democratic constitution with a federal structure.

Deputies were now elected to the German Parliament or Reichstag, on the basis of equal and universal votes cast by all adults including women.

6. Why did Germany suffer from hyper- inflation in 1923?

Ans. Germany fought the war largely on loans and had to pay war reparations in gold. This heightened the economic crises of 1923.

The economic crises of 1923 created a situation when the prices of goods and services were very high.

Germany retaliated with passive resistance and printed paper currency recklessly. With too much printed money in circulation the value of the German Mark fell.

This crisis came to known as hyperinflation, a situation when prices rise phenomenally high.

7. Who bailed Germany out from the situation of ‘hyper- inflation’ and how?

Ans. The Americans intervened and bailed Germany out of the crises.

America introduced the Dawes plan.

This plan reworked the terms of reparation to ease the financial burden on Germans.

8. First World War left deep imprint on European society and polity. Support the



statement with three examples.

Ans. Soldiers came to be placed above civilians.

Politicians and publicists laid great stress on the need for men to be aggressive, strong and masculine.

Media glorified trench life.

Democracy was young idea which could not survive the instabilities of inter war Europe.

9. Explain any three reasons that led to the German invasion of Soviet Union.

Ans. Hitler wanted to achieve his long term aim of conquering Eastern Europe.

He wanted to ensure food supplies and living space for German.

So he attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941.

10. State the reasons responsible for USA to join the Second World War.

Ans. Japan was expanding its power in the east.

It had occupied French Indo-China was planning attacks on US naval bases in the Pacific.

When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US base at Pearl harbour, the US entered the Second World War.

11. Highlight any three important circumstances under which Hitler came to power.

Ans. The unjust peace treaty of Versailles with the Allied powers.

The peace treaty was very harsh and humiliating for the Germans.

German lost its all overseas colonies, a tenth of its population and 13% of its territories in Europe.

It also lost a larger part of resources like iron ore and coal.

12. Describe the Battle of Stalingrad in Second World War?

Ans. Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941.

In His historic blunder Hitler exposed the German westerns front to British aerial bombing and the eastern front the powerful soviet armies.

The Soviet red army inflicted a crushing and humiliating defeat on Germany at Stalingrad.

After this the Soviet Red army hounded out the retreating German Soldiers until they reached the heart of Berlin, establishing soviet hegemony over the entire eastern Europe for half a century thereafter.

13. Highlight any three features of the new style of politics devised by Hitler.

Ans. Hitler devised a new style of politics. He understood the significance of rituals and spectacles in mass mobilization.

Nazis held massive rallies and public meetings to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instill a sense of unity among the people.

The red banners with the 'Swastika', the Nazi Salute, and the ritualized rounds of applause after the speeches were all part of this spectacle of power.

14. Mention any two methods adopted for extermination of Jews.

Ans. Jews were killed in gas chambers.

Jews were made to live in ghettos where they were often prosecuted through periodic organized violence.

Forced selling and confiscation of their properties.

15. Explain the idea of survival of Herbert.

Ans. Herbert's idea of survival of the fittest formed the basis of Hitler's idea of survival of the best race.

According to Herbert's idea only those species survived on the earth that could adapt themselves to changing climatic conditions.

His ideas were used by Hitler to imperial rule over conquered people.

16. Describe the condition of Polish people under Nazism.

Ans. Occupied Poland was divided up. Much of North western Poland was annexed to Germany.

Poles were forced to leave their homes and properties behind to be occupied by ethnic Germans brought in from occupied Europe.



Poles were then herded like cattle in the other part called the General Government, the destination of all 'undesirables' of the empire.

17. Evaluate the role of women in the Nazi Society.

Ans. In the Nazi Germany, young people and children were told women were radically different from men.

Girls were told to prove good mothers and bring up pure blooded Aryans, look after the home and teach their children the Nazi values.

Those mothers who produced racially desirable children were awarded given favoured treatment in hospitals, concessions in shops, theatres and even in railways.

18. What do you understand by the Second Front in the Second World War?

Ans. In 1942, in Europe, a battle had been fought between Germany and Russia on the Eastern Front.

In 1944, British and American troops landed on the coast of Normandy in France and opened another Front against Germany.

This front is known as the Second Front. Now Germany has to fight on the many Fronts.

19. Write a short note on Tripartite Pact.

Ans. In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan, strengthening Hitler's claim to international power.

Puppet regimes, supportive of Nazi Germany were installed in a large part of Europe.

By the end of 1940, Hitler was at the pinnacle of his power.

20. Highlight the issue on which differences was raised between Hitler and Schacht.

Ans. Schacht had advised Hitler against investing hugely in rearmament as the state still ran on deficit financing.

Cautious people however had no place in Nazi Germany.

Schacht had to leave. Hitler chose war as the way out of the approaching economic crises.



21. How was the Art of Propaganda used by Nazis to justify their acts?

Ans. Nazis used language and media were effectively.

They used special words for mass killings-Special treatment, final solution, Jew euthanasia, selection and disinfection.

Media was used to win support for the regime and popularize its word view.

Propaganda films were made to defame the Jews, who were stereotyped and referred to as vermin, rats and pests.

22. What were the ideas of Hitler on racial state?

Ans. He believed that there was no equality among people-on racial hierarchy.

The blond haired, blue eyed Aryan race was the most superior and the most inferior were the Jews.

Hitler believed in lebensraum or living space.

23. What were the steps taken by Hitler to strengthen the Nazi youth and children?

Ans. Hitler believed that a strong Nazi society could be established only by teaching children Nazi Ideology.

Children were controlled both inside and outside schools which were cleansed and German children were segregated from Jews, gypsies and other children.

Good German children were brainwashed about Nazi ideas of race and ideology of aggression and violence.

Youth organizations like Jungvolk and Hitler Youth were created to worship war, glorify aggression and violence, and hate democracy and undesirable elements.

24. Highlight the Nazi cult of Motherland.

Ans. Women had to be good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryans.

Women who bore racially desirable children were awarded and those who did not were punished.

Women had to follow the Aryan code of Conduct.

25. Write a short note on the foreign policy of Hitler.

Ans. Hitler pulled out of the League of Nations and reoccupied the Rhineland. He integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan one people one leader. He occupied Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia. In 1940 a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan, strengthening Hitler's claim to international power.

26. Write a short note on the economic policy of Hitler.

Ans. Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to the economist Hjalmar Schacht. A program of state funded economic reconstruction was launched aiming at full production and full employment. This project produced the famous German superhighways and the people's car, the Volkswagen. Hitler wanted to spend hugely in rearmaments.

27. What were the suggestions given by Gandhiji to Hitler?

Ans. Gandhiji wrote him that you are the person who can prevent a war which may reduce humanity to the savage state. Non violence is against the humanity. Gandhi appealed him to stop the war.

28. What were the promises made by Hitler to the people of Germany?

Ans. He promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people. He promised employment for those looking for work, and a secure future for the youth. He promised to weed out all foreign influences and resist all foreign conspiracies against Germany.

29. Explain the Nazi education policy.



Ans. Schools and education institutions were also used to spread the Nazi Ideology.
School textbooks were rewritten.

Racial science was introduced to justify the Nazi ideas of race.

Hitler believed that boxing could make children iron hearted, strong and masculine.

30. Explain any three reasons that led to the German invasion of Soviet Union.

Ans. Hitler wanted to achieve his long term aim of conquering Eastern Europe.

He wanted to ensure food supplies and living space for German.

So he attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941.



5 marks Questions

1. Highlight the effects of the recession of 1930 on the US economy.

Ans. Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929.

Fearing in a fall in prices, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares.

On single day, 24 October, 13 million shares were sold. This was the start of the great depression.

Over the next three years, between 1929 and 1932, the national income of the USA fell by half.

Factories shut down, exports fell, farmers were badly hit and speculators withdraw their money from the market.

The effects of this recession in the US economy were felt worldwide.

2. Highlight the effects of the recession of 1930 on the German economy.

Ans. The German economy was the worst hit by the economic crises. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40% of the 1929 level.

Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages.

The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million.

On the streets of Germany we could see men with placards around their necks saying, 'willing to do any work'.

The economic crises created deep anxieties and fear in People. The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value.

Small businessmen, the self employed and retailers suffered as their businesses got ruined.

3. Highlight the important features of the education imparted in Nazi Schools.



Ans. Good German children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling, a prolonged period of ideological training.

School textbooks were rewritten. Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race. Stereotypes about Jews were popularized even through mathematics classes. Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews and worship Hitler.

Even the function of sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children.

Hitler believed that boxing could make children iron hearted strong and masculine.

4. Highlight the different provisions which were made by Nazis for German Youth to enter the Nazi organizations.

Ans. Youth organizations were made responsible for educating German youth in the spirit of National Socialism.

Ten year olds had to enter Jungvolk. At 14 all boys had to join the Nazi youth organization- Hitler Youth-where they learnt to worship war, glorify aggression and violence, condemn democracy, and hate Jews, communists, Gypsies and all those categorized as undesirable. After a period of rigorous ideology and physical training they joined the labour Service, usually at the age of 18.

Then they had to serve in the armed forces and enter one of the Nazi organizations.

5. Briefly describe the role of the International Military Tribunal set up after the Second World War?

Ans. In May 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allies.

Anticipating what was coming, Hitler, his propaganda minister Goebbels and his entire family committed suicide collectively in his Berlin bunker in April.

At the end of the war, an International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.

Germany's conduct during the war, especially those actions which came to called Crimes against Humanity, raised serious moral and ethical questions and invited Worldwide Condemnation.

The Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced only eleven leading Nazis to death. Many imprisoned for



life.

6. Explain any five features of Hitler's foreign policy.

Ans. In foreign policy also Hitler acquired quick success.

He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936, and integrates Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan, one people, one empire, and one leader.

He then went on to wrest German-speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, and gobbled up the entire country.

In all of this he had the unspoken support of England, which had considered the Versailles verdict too harsh.

These quick successes at home and abroad seemed to reverse the destiny of the country.

7. Explain the contribution of Schacht in economic recovery of Germany.

Ans. Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to the economist Hjalmar Schacht.

He aimed at full production and full employment through a state funded work-creation program.

This project produced the famous German superhighways and the people's car, the Volkswagen.

Schacht had advised Hitler against investing hugely in rearmament as the state still ran on deficit financing.

Cautious people however had no place in Nazi Germany. Schacht had to leave.

8. How was the Great Economic Depression of 1929-1932 destroyed German economy?

Ans. The German economy was the worst hit by the economic crises. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40 percent of the 1929 level.

Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages.

The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million.

On the streets of Germany you could see men with placards around their neck saying, "willing to work". Unemployment youths play cards and simply sat at street corners, or



destroyed queued up at the local employment exchange.

The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value.

9. What were the main problems faced by Weimer Republic in Germany?

Ans. Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population, 13 percent of its colonies, 75 percent of its iron and 26 percent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.

Weimer Republic was being made to pay for the sins of the old empire.

The republic carried the burden of war guilt and national humiliation and was financially crippled by being forced to pay compensations.

Those who supported the Weimer Republic, mainly Socialists, Catholics and Democrats, became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles.

The birth of Weimer Republic coincided with the revolutionary uprising of Spartacist League on the pattern of the Bolsheviks.

10. “Politically, the Weimer Republic was fragile”. Explain.

Ans. Politically, too the Weimer republic was Fragile. The Weimer Constitution had some inherent defects, which made it unstable and vulnerable to dictatorship.

One was proportional representation. This made achieving a majority by any one party a near impossible task, leading to a rule by coalition.

Another defect was Article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.

Within its short life the Weimar Republic saw twenty different cabinets lasting on an average 239 days, and a liberal use Article 48.

Yet the crises could not manage. People lost confidence in the democratic parliamentary system, which seemed to offer no solutions.



Mix Question

1. Explain the term Nazism.

Nazism is the German version of fascism. It was a system, a structure of ideas about the world and politics. It was the name given to a number of political movements in Europe after the First World War. It was devised by Hitler in Germany.

2. Why was the Nuremberg tribunal set up?

An International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. All the Nazi criminals except those who committed suicide were punished.

3. Write a short note on the genocidal war waged by Germany.

- i. Under the shadow of the Second World War, Germany had waged a genocidal war, which resulted in the mass murder of selected groups of innocent civilians of Europe. The number of people killed included 6 million Jews, 200,000 Gypsies, 1 million Polish civilians and 70,000 Germans who were considered mentally and physically disabled, besides innumerable political opponents.
- ii. Nazis devised an unprecedented means of killing people, that is, by gassing them in various killing centers like Auschwitz.

4. Write a short note on the Nuremberg trial. (OR) Why were the Nazis punished in the Nuremberg trial?

- i. An International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- ii. Under the shadow of the Second World War, Germany had waged a genocidal war, which resulted in the mass murder of selected groups of innocent civilians of Europe.
- iii. Nazis devised an unprecedented means of killing people, that is, by gassing them in various killing centers like Auschwitz.
- iv. The Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced only eleven leading Nazis to death. Many others were imprisoned for life. The retribution did come, yet the punishment of the Nazis was far short of the brutality and extent of their crimes.



5. What was the Weimar Republic? How was it formed?

The defeat of Imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor gave an opportunity to parliamentary parties to recast German polity. A national Assembly met at Weimar and established a democratic constitution with a federal structure. Deputies were now elected to the German Parliament or Reichstag, on the basis of equal and universal votes cast by all adults including women.

6. What were the problems faced by the Weimar republic?

- i. The Weimar republic was not received well by its own people largely because of the terms it was forced to accept after Germany's defeat at the end of First World War. Germans held the new Weimar Republic responsible for not only the defeat in the war but the disgrace at Versailles.
- ii. Unfortunately, the infant Weimar Republic was being made to pay for the sins of the old empire. The republic carried the burden of war guilt and national humiliation and was financially crippled by being forced to pay compensation.
- iii. The birth of Weimar republic coincided with the revolutionary uprising of the Spartacist League on the pattern of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. The Weimar republic crushed the uprising with the help of a war veterans organization called Free Corps.
- iv. The Weimar constitution had some inherent defects, which made it unstable and vulnerable to dictatorship. One was proportional representation. This made achieving a majority by any one party a near impossible task, leading to a rule by coalitions.
- v. Another defect was article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree. What were the inherent defects of Weimar Republic? (Ans: Points iii and iv)

7. Write any 4 provisions of the Treaty of Versailles. Or What was the experience of Germany at the end of First World War?

- i. Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population, 13% of its territories, 75% of its iron and 26% of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark, and Lithuania.
- ii. The allied powers demilitarized Germany to weaken its power. Its army strength was reduced and should not produce any war weapons.
- iii. The War Guilt Clause held Germany responsible for the war and damages the Allied countries suffered. Germany was forced to pay compensation amounting to 6 billion pounds.



iv. The Allied armies also occupied the resource-rich Rhineland for many years.

8. What were the effect of World War I on Europe?

- i. The war had a devastating impact on the entire continent both psychologically and financially. From a continent of creditors, Europe turned into one of the debtors.
- ii. The infant Weimar Republic in Germany was being made to pay for the sins of the old empire. The republic carried the burden of war guilt and national humiliation and was financially crippled by being forced to pay compensation.
- iii. The First World War left a deep imprint on European society and polity. Soldiers came to be placed above civilians.
- iv. Politicians and publicists laid great stress on the need for men to be aggressive, strong, and masculine. The media glorified trench life.

9. Who were the November criminals?

The people who supported the Weimar Republic, mainly Socialists, Catholics and Democrats, became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles. They were mockingly called the 'November criminals'.

10. What was the truth behind the trench life which was glorified by media?

The truth behind the trench life was that soldiers lived miserable lives in these trenches, trapped with rats feeding on corpses. They faced poisonous gas and enemy shelling, and witnessed their ranks reduce rapidly.

11. How did the Communist and the Socialist become irreconcilable enemies?

- i. The Socialists, Democrats and Catholics formed democratic republic at Weimar in Germany. The birth of the Weimar Republic coincided with the revolutionary uprising of the Spartacist League on the pattern of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
- ii. The Weimar Republic crushed the uprising with the help of a war veterans organization called Free Corps.
- iii. The anguished Spartacists later founded the Communist Party of Germany. Communists and Socialists hence forth became irreconcilable enemies and could not make common cause against Hitler.

12. What were the factors that led to hyper-inflation in Germany?

- i. In 1923 Germany refused to pay the war compensation, and the French occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr to claim their coal.
- ii. Germany retaliated with passive resistance and printed paper currency recklessly. With too much printed money in circulation, the value of the German mark fell. In



April the US dollar was equal to 24,000 marks and by December, the figure had run into trillions.

- iii. As the value of the mark collapsed, prices of goods increased. The image of Germans carrying cartloads of currency notes to buy a loaf of bread was widely publicized evoking worldwide sympathy. The crisis came to be known as hyperinflation, a situation when prices rise phenomenally high.

13. How did the Great Depression originate in USA?

- i. Great Depression originated in USA as a result of over production in the factories. It led to closing of a few factories.
- ii. The Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929. Fearing a fall in prices, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares. On one single day, 24 October, 13 million shares were sold. All the American banks were closed. This was the Great Economic Depression.
- iii. Over the next three years, between 1929 and 1932, the national income of the USA fell by half. Factories shut down, exports fell, farmers were badly hit and speculators withdrew their money from the market.

14. What was the impact of the Economic Crisis in Germany?

- i. The German economy was worst hit by the economic crisis. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40% of the 1929 level. Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages.
- ii. As jobs disappeared, the youth took to criminal activities and total despair became commonplace. The economic crisis created deep anxieties and fears in people.
- iii. The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value. Small businessmen, the self-employed and retailers suffered as their businesses got ruined. These sections of society were filled with the fear of proletarianisation.
- iv. Unemployment weakened their bargaining power. Big business was in crisis. The large mass of peasantry was affected by a sharp fall in agricultural prices and women, unable to fill their children's stomachs, were filled with a sense of deep despair.

15. What is meant by Proletarianisation?

Proletarianisation was the anxiety of German people during the Great Depression, being reduced to the status of working class.

16. How did Hitler come to power in Germany? Or Examine the circumstances that led



to the rise of Hitler in Germany.

- i. Born in 1889 in Austria, Hitler spent his youth in poverty. When the First World War broke out, he enrolled for the army, acted as a messenger in the front, became a corporal and earned medals for bravery.
- ii. The German defeat horrified him and the Versailles Treaty made him furious. In 1919, he joined a small group called the German Worker's Party. He subsequently took over the organization and renamed it the National Socialist German Worker's Party. This party came to be known as the Nazi party.
- iii. In 1923, Hitler planned to seize control of Bavaria, march to Berlin and capture power. He failed, was arrested, tried for treason, and later released.
- iv. It was during the Great depression that Nazism became a mass movement. During the Great Depression, banks collapsed and businesses shut down, workers lost their jobs and the middle classes were threatened with poverty. In such a situation Nazi propaganda gave hopes for a better future.
- v. Hitler was a powerful speaker. His passion and his words moved people. He promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people. He promised employment for the youth. He promised to weed out all foreign influences and resist all foreign 'conspiracies' against Germany.
- vi. Hitler devised a new style of politics. He understood the significance of rituals and spectacle in mass mobilization. Nazis held massive rallies and public meetings to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instill a sense of unity among the people. The Red banners with the Swastika, the Nazi salute and the ritualized rounds of applause after the speeches were all part of this spectacle power.
- vii. Nazi propaganda skillfully projected Hitler as a messiah, a savior, as someone who had to deliver people from their distress. Even though he lost in the election conducted he was invited to join the government by the President Hindenburg on 30 January 1933 and offered the Chancellorship of Germany, the highest position in the cabinet of ministers.

(What was the new style of politics devised by Hitler? Ans. Point No. vi above)

17. Describe the reign of terror let loose by Hitler soon after coming to power. Or (Highlight the steps taken by Hitler to destroy democracy in Germany.)

- i. Having acquired power, Hitler set out to destroy the structures of democratic rule. A



mysterious fire that broke out in the German Parliament building in February facilitated his move. The fire decree of 28 February 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar constitution

- ii. Then he turned on his arch-enemies, the Communists and democrats most of whom were hurriedly packed off to the newly established concentration camps.
- iii. On 3 March 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree. All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates.
- iv. The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.

18. Why did Hitler pass the Enabling Act? What were its features?

On 3 March 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree. All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates.

19. Write a short note on the Security Force of Hitler.

- i. Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted. Apart from the already existing regular police in green uniform and the SA (Sturm Abteilung) or the Storm Troopers, these included the Gestapo (secret state police), the SS (Schutz Staffel) (the protection squads), criminal police and the Security Service (SD).(Sicherheits Dienst)
- ii. People could now be detained in Gestapo torture chambers, rounded up and sent to concentration camps, deported at will or arrested without any legal procedures. The police forces acquired powers to rule with impunity.

20. How did Hitler violate the Treaty of Versailles? Or Examine the foreign policy of Hitler soon after coming to power.

- i. Hitler pulled Germany out of the League of Nations in 1933, re-occupied the Rhineland in 1936, and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan, 'One people, One empire and One Leader'.
- ii. He then went on to wrest German-speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and gobbled up the entire country. Germany increased the army against the treaty.
- iii. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England. In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and



Japan, strengthening Hitler's claim to international powers.

21. Why did Hitler attack Soviet Union? Why was it a historical blunder?

- i. Hitler wanted to ensure food supplies and living space for Germans. He attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. In this historic blunder Hitler exposed the German western front to the British aerial bombing and the eastern front to the powerful Soviet armies.
- ii. The Soviet Red Army inflicted a crushing and humiliating defeat on Germany at Stalingrad. After this the Soviet Red Army hounded out the retreating German soldiers until they reached the heart of Berlin, establishing Soviet hegemony over the entire eastern Europe for half a century thereafter.

22. Why did USA enter the Second World War?

Japan was expanding its power in the east during the Second World War. It had occupied French Indo-China, Philippines under the US and the Dutch East Indies. When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US naval bases at Pearl Harbor in the Pacific, the US entered the Second World War. The war ended with Hitler's defeat and the US dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima in Japan

23. What are the peculiar features of Nazi thinking?

- i. According to Nazism there was no equality between people, but only a racial hierarchy existed. In this view, blond, blue-eyed, Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while Jews were located at the lowest rung. They came to be regarded as an anti-race, the arch-enemies of the Aryans.
- ii. Hitler's racism borrowed from thinkers like Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer. According to this idea, only those species survived on the earth that could adapt themselves to changing climatic conditions. However, his ideas were used by racist thinkers and politicians to justify imperial rule over conquered people.
- iii. The Nazi argument was simple: the strongest race would survive and the weak ones would perish. The Aryan race was the finest. It had to retain its purity, become stronger and dominate the world.
- iv. He believed that new territories had to be acquired for settlement and believed in establishment of a racial state.
- v. At 14, all boys had to join the Nazi youth organisation– Hitler Youth – where they learnt to worship war, glorify aggression and violence, condemn democracy, and hate Jews, communists, Gypsies and all those categorized as 'undesirable'.



24. How did Hitler establish a racist state?

- i. Once in power, the Nazis quickly began to implement their dream of creating an exclusive racial community of pure Germans by physically eliminating all those who were seen as 'undesirable' in the extended empire.
- ii. Nazis wanted only a society of 'pure and healthy Nordic Aryans'. They were alone considered 'desirable'. Only they were seen as worthy of prospering and multiplying against all others who were classed as 'undesirable'.
- iii. This meant that even those Germans who were seen as impure or abnormal had no right to exist. Under the Euthanasia Programme, Nazi officials had condemned to death many Germans who were considered mentally or physically unfit.
- iv. Jews were not the only community classified as 'undesirable'. There were others. Many Gypsies and blacks living in Nazi Germany were considered as racial 'inferiors' who threatened the biological purity of the 'superior Aryan' race. They were widely persecuted.
- v. Even Russians and Poles were considered subhuman, and hence undeserving of any humanity. When Germany occupied Poland and parts of Russia, captured civilians were forced to work as slave labour. Many of them died simply through hard work and starvation.
- vi. Jews remained the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany. They had been stereotyped as killers of Christ and usurers. They were often persecuted through periodic organized violence, and expulsions from the land.

25. Why did Hitler develop hatred towards Jews?

- i. Jews remained the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany. Nazi hatred of Jews had a precursor in the traditional Christian hostility towards Jews. They had been stereotyped as killers of Christ and usurers.
- ii. Until the medieval times Jews were barred from owning land. They survived mainly through trade and money lending. They lived in separately marked areas called Ghettos.
- iii. They were often persecuted through periodic organized violence, and expulsion from the land. However, Hitler's hatred of Jews was based on pseudoscientific theories of race, which held that conversion was no solution to 'the Jewish problem'. It could be solved only through their total elimination.

26. How was Nazi schooling different from other schools?



- i. All schools were cleansed and purified. This meant that teachers who were Jews or seen as politically unreliable' were dismissed.
- ii. Children were first segregated: Germans and Jews could not sit together or play together. Subsequently, 'undesirable children' – Jews, the physically handicapped, Gypsies – were thrown out of schools. And finally in the 1940s, they were taken to the gas chambers.
- iii. 'Good German' children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling, a prolonged period of ideological training. School textbooks were rewritten. Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race; stereotypes about Jews were popularized even through maths classes.
- iv. Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews, and worship Hitler. Even the function of sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children.
- v. Hitler believed that boxing could make children iron-hearted, strong and masculine.

27. What were the Nazi ideas of motherhood?

- i. Children in Nazi Germany were repeatedly told that women were radically different from men. The fight for equal rights for men and women that had become part of democratic struggles everywhere was wrong and it would destroy society.
- ii. While boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steel hearted, girls were told that they had to become good mothers and rear pure blooded Aryan children.
- iii. Girls had to maintain the purity of the race, distance themselves from Jews, look after the home, and teach their children Nazi values. They had to be the bearers of the Aryan culture and race.
- iv. In Nazi Germany all mothers were not treated equally .Women who bore racially undesirable children were awarded. They were given favoured treatment in hospitals and were also entitled to concessions in shops and on theatre tickets and railway fares.
- v. To encourage women to produce many children, honour crosses were awarded. A bronze cross was given for four children, silver for six and gold for eight and more.
- vi. All 'Aryan' women who deviated from the prescribed code of conduct were publicly condemned, and severely punished.

28. What were the various terms used by the Nazis to kill people?

- i. Nazis never used the words 'kill' or 'murder' in their official communications.



- ii. Mass killings were special treatment, final solutions for the Jews, euthanasia for the disabled, selections and disinfections.
 - iii. Gas chambers were labelled `disinfections-areas, and looked liked bathrooms equipped with fake showerheads.
29. **Explain why Nazi propaganda was effective in creating a hatred for Jews?**
- i. Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets. In posters, groups identify as the `enemies' of Germans were stereotyped, mocked, abused and described as evil.
 - ii. Socialists and liberals were represented as weak and degenerate. They were attacked as malicious foreign agents.
 - iii. Propaganda films were made to create hatred for Jews. The most in famous film was The Eternal Jew.
 - iv. Orthodox Jews were stereotyped and marked. They were shown with flowing beards wearing kaftans, whereas in reality it was difficult to distinguish German Jews by their outward appearance. They were referred as vermin, rats and pests. Their movements were compared to those of rodents.
 - v. Nazism worked on the minds of the people, tapped their emotions and turned their hatred and anger at those marked as 'undesirable'.
30. **How did the common people react to Nazism?**
- i. Many saw the world through Nazi eyes, and spoke their mind in Nazi language. They felt hatred and anger surge inside them when they saw someone who looked like a Jew. They marked the houses of Jews and reported suspicious neighbors. They genuinely believed Nazism would bring prosperity and improve general well-being.
 - ii. But not every German was a Nazi. Many organized active resistance to Nazism, braving police repression and death. The large majority of Germans, however, were passive on lookers and apathetic witnesses. They were too scared to act, to differ. They preferred to look away.
 - iii. Pastor Niemoeller, a resistance fighter, observed an absence of protest, an uncanny silence, amongst ordinary Germans in the face of brutal and organized crimes committed against people.
31. **Who was Pastor Niemoeller?**
- Pastor Niemoeller was a resistance fighter in Germany, who protested Nazism.
32. **How did we know about the Nazi Cruelties and holocaust?**



- i. It was only after the Second World War When Germany was Defeated that the world came to realize the horrors of what had happened.
- ii. The indomitable spirit to bear witness and to preserve the documents can be seen in many ghetto and camp inhabitants who wrote diaries, kept notebooks and created archives.
- iii. The memory of the holocaust live on memoirs, fiction, documentaries, poetry, memorials and museums in many parts of the word today. These are a tribute to those who resisted it, an embarrassing reminder to those who collaborated and a warning to those who watched in silence.

33. Describe the racial utopia of the Nazis.

- i. Under the shadow of war, the Nazis proceeded to realize their murderous, racial ideal. Genocide and war became two sides of the same coin.
- ii. Occupied Poland was divided up. Much of north-western Poland was annexed to Germany. Poles were forced to leave their homes and properties behind to be occupied by ethnic Germans brought in from occupied Europe.
- iii. Poles were then herded like cattle in the other part called the General Government, the destination of all 'undesirables' of the empire. Members of the Polish intelligentsia were murdered in large numbers in order to keep the entire people intellectually and spiritually servile.
- iv. Polish children who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched from their mothers
- v. and examined by 'race experts'. If they passed the race tests they were raised in German families and if not, they were deposited in orphanages where most perished. With some of the largest ghettos and gas chambers, the General Government also served as the killing fields for the Jews.

34. What was the Dawes Plan? Or How did Germany come out of the Hyper-inflation?

The Americans intervened in the situation of Hyper-inflation and bailed Germany out of the crisis by introducing the Dawes Plan, which reworked the terms of reparation to ease the financial burden on Germans. It was a plan by Charles G Dawes an American Banker who put forward a plan to help Germany by taking loan from USA.

35. In What ways did the Nazi state seek to establish total control over its people?

- i. The Fire Decree of 28 February 1933 which was passed immediately after burring of parliament building, indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar constitution.



- ii. Then he turned on his archenemies, the Communists, most of whom were hurriedly packed off to the newly established concentration camps. The repression of the Communists was severe. They were about 52 types of victims persecuted by the Nazis across the country.
 - iii. On 3 March 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree. All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates. The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.
 - iv. Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted. Apart from the already existing regular police in green uniform and the SA or the Storm Troopers, these included the Gestapo (secret state police), the SS (the protection squads), criminal police and the Security Service (SD).
 - v. Good German' children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling, a prolonged period of ideological training. School textbooks were rewritten. Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race.
 - vi. Youth organisations were made responsible for educating German youth in the 'the spirit of National Socialism'. Ten-year-olds had to enter Jungvolk. At 14, all boys had to join the Nazi youth organization – Hitler Youth – where they learnt to worship war, glorify aggression and violence, condemn democracy, and hate Jews, communists, Gypsies and all those categorized as 'undesirable'.
36. **Why was the invasion of Soviet Union considered a historic blunder on the part of Germany?**
- i. Germany was successful in its conquest till it attacked Soviet Union. Hitler exposed the German western front to British aerial bombing and eastern front to the powerful Soviet army.
 - ii. The Soviet Red Army inflicted a crushing and humiliating defeat on Germany at Stalingrad. After this the Soviet Red Army hounded out the retreating German soldiers until they reached the heart of Berlin, establishing Soviet hegemony over the entire Eastern Europe for half a century thereafter.
37. **What was Herbert Spenser's idea of 'survival of the fittest'?**
- According to this idea, only those species survived on earth that could adapt themselves to changing climatic conditions. We should bear in mind that Darwin never advocated



human intervention in what he thought was a purely natural process of selection. However, his ideas were used by racist thinkers and politicians to justify imperial rule over conquered peoples.

38. What is meant by 'Lebensraum'?

Hitler's ideology related to the geopolitical concept of Lebensraum means living space. He believed that new territories had to be acquired for settlement. This would enhance the area of the mother country, while enabling the settlers on new lands to retain an intimate link with the place of their origin. It would also enhance the material resources and power of the German nation.

39. What was the Euthanasia Programme of Hitler?

Nazi officials had condemned to death many Germans who were considered mentally or physically unfit. They were categorized as undesirables and killed brutally calling it mercy killing.

