



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL BANGALORE - EAST

SOCIAL SCIENCE (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

NAZISM AND THE RISE OF HITLER(NOTES)

NAME: _____ CLASS:IX SEC: _____ DATE: _____

I. Terms/dates to remember:

1. Genocidal:

Ans- Killing on large scale leading to destruction of large sections of people

2. Wall Street Exchange:

Ans- The name of the world's biggest stock exchange located in USA.

3.Propaganda:

Ans-Specific type of message directly aimed at influencing the opinion of people (through the use of posters, films, speeches, etc.)

4.Gestapo:

Ans-Name of the secret police service during Nazi rule.

5.Concentration camp:

Ans-A camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law. Typically, it was surrounded by electrified barbed wire fences.

6.Ghettoisation:

Ans-Area occupied by segregated group.

7.Jungvolk:

Ans-Nazi youth groups for children below 14 years of age.

8. Holocaust-

Ans-Nazi killing operation.

II. Very short answers:

9. What is the German Parliament known as?

Ans-The German Parliament is known as the Reichstag.

10. What was Article 48 in the Weimar Constitution?

Ans- Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.

11. Who offered the chancellorship to Hitler on 30th January 1933?

Ans- President Hindenburg.

12. What was Auschwitz?

Ans-. Auschwitz was the centre for mass killing during Nazi rule.

13. What was the original name of Nazi party?

Ans- The original name of Nazi party was The National Socialist German Workers' Party.

14. How did Hitler view war?

Ans- Hitler viewed war as the way out of the approaching economic crisis.

15. Name the Allied Powers in World War II?

Ans- England, France, Russia and USA were the Allied Powers.

16. What was the significance of the Enabling Act?

Ans-The Enabling Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree.

17. What does the term 'Lebensraum' mean?

Ans- 'Lebensraum' or living space. Hitler believed that new territories had to be acquired for settlement.

18. What was the work entrusted to the International War Tribunal set up in Nuremberg after the war?

Ans- It was set up to prosecute the Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

19. Which incident persuaded USA to join the war?

Ans- Japan's unprovoked attack on US base at Pearl Harbour in December 1941 persuaded the USA to join the war.

20. Name the Axis Powers in World War II?

Ans-Germany, Italy and Japan were the Axis Powers.

21. When was the Youth League of the Nazis formed?

Ans-The Youth League of the Nazis was formed in 1922.

22. Who were known as the ‘November criminals’?

Ans-The group of people, who mainly supported the Weimar Republic of Germany were known as November criminals. Most of them were Socialists, Catholics and Democrats.

23. What was Dawes Plan?

Ans-It was a Plan introduced by America to bail Germany out of the financial crisis which it suffered after the First World War.

III. Answer in brief:(60-80 words)

26.Trace the events that led to the birth of the Weimar Republic.

Ans- In the 20th century Germany was a powerful Empire.

- During the First World War Germany took up the cause of Austria against the Allies. Many countries joined the war hoping to gain something, without realizing the fact that the war would prolong and drain Europe of its resources. Though Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium, the Allies became stronger when the US joined them in 1917 and defeated Germany and the Central Powers.
- The defeat of Germany resulted in the abdication of the German Emperor. This gave an opportunity for the parliamentary parties to bring in a change, in German politics.
- A democratic constitution with a federal structure was formed by the National Assembly, which met at Weimar and the Weimar Republic came into existence.

27. State any three major effects of the First World War on Germany.

Ans-Three major effects of the First World War are:

- World War I ended with the Allies defeating Germany and the Central Powers in November 1918. The Peace Treaty at Versailles with the Allies was a harsh and humiliating Treaty. Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population., 13 percent of its territories, 75 per cent of its iron and 26 per cent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.
- The Allied Powers demilitarized Germany to weaken its power Germany was forced to pay compensation amounting to £ 6 billion.

- The Allied armies also occupied the resource-rich Rhineland for much of the 1920s.

28.What is hyperinflation? What were the factors that led to hyperinflation in Germany ?

Ans-Hyperinflation is a situation when prices rise phenomenally high. This situation occurred in Germany in 1932 due to following reasons:

- Germany had fought the war largely on loans and had to pay war reparations in gold. This depleted gold reserves at a time resources were scarce.
- In 1923 Germany refused to pay, and the French occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr, to claim their coal. Germany retaliated with passive resistance and printed paper currency recklessly. With too much printed money in circulation, the value of the German mark fell.

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

Ans-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 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.

30. Trace any three main features of the foreign policy of Hitler.

Ans-In foreign policy also Hitler acquired quick successes.

- Right from the beginning, he followed a policy of aggression and war towards other countries.
- He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied Rhineland in 1936 and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan 'One people, One empire, 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.

31. What are the steps taken to established dictatorship in Germany?

Ans- Having acquired power, Hitler set out to dismantle 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.
- 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.
- 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).

32.What were the main features of Hitler’s geopolitical concept of ‘Lebensraum’?

Ans-Lebensraum meaning ‘living space’ was an expansionist policies of Nazi Germany.

- Nazis 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.
- Hitler intended to extend German boundaries by moving eastwards, to concentrate all Germans geographically in one place.
- Poland became the laboratory for this experimentation.

35. What was the reaction of the common people to Nazism?

Ans- They saw the world through Nazi eyes and spoke their mind in the Nazi language.

- The common man felt anger and hatred when he saw the Jews. They marked the houses of the Jews and reported about suspicious neighbours.
- They believed that Nazism would bring prosperity and general well-being.
- A large majority of Germans were passive onlookers and were scared to differ or protest.
- Pastor Niemoeller , a resistance fighter, observed an absence of protest, an uncanny silence, amongst ordinary Germans in the face of brutal and organised crimes committed against people in the Nazi empire.

IV. Answer in details:(100-120 words)**37.State the features of political radicalism in Germany.**

Ans-Features of political radicalism in Germany were :

- The political situation that came into view after the rise of Weimar Republic is termed as political radicalism.
- The demand and the uprising for Soviet style governance were suppressed by the Weimar republic and this enraged them to form the communist party.
- Both Communists and Socialists wanted political radicalism against Hitler’s Rule.
- This situation aggravated with economic crisis in 1923. Germany paid war reparation in Gold and so the Gold Reserves of Germany became scarce.
- Due to this, Germany refused to pay the war reparation. As a result, French occupied Ruhr, which was the leading industrial area of Germany.
- Germany printed paper currency in excess which further led to worsening of the situation and hyperinflation.

38.What steps were taken by Adolf Hitler for the destruction of democracy?

Ans-The following steps were taken by Hitler for the destruction of democracy:

- A mysterious fire that broke out in the German Parliament building in February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights. It is said that the fire was broken out by Hitler’s supporters, while Hitler

blamed his political enemies for it. The Fire Decree of 28 February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights such as freedom of expression, speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution.

- After that Adolf Hitler turned on his enemy, i.e., the Communists of Germany, most of the communists were quickly packed off to the newly established concentration camps.
- The repression of the Communists was severe. Their membership was in thousands. They were, however, only one among the 52 types of victims persecuted by the Nazis across the country.
- On 3rd March, 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Adolf Hitler all political and administrative powers to side line German Parliament and rule by decree.

39.How did the Great Economic Depression of 1929 affect the life of the people of Germany? Explain.

Ans- The German economy was the worst hit by the economic crisis

- By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40%.
- Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages. The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million. As jobs disappeared, the youth took to criminal activities and total despair became commonplace. The economic crisis created deep anxieties and fears 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. 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.

40.Explain Hitler's Art of propaganda.

Ans- The Nazi regime used language and media with care, and often to great effect. The terms they coined to describe their various practices are not only deceptive but were chilling as well.

- To eliminate 'inferior races' they always used code language.
- Nazis never used the words, 'kill' or 'murder' in their official communications. Mass killings were termed as special treatment, final solution (for the Jews), euthanasia (for the disabled), selection and disinfections. 'Evacuation' meant deporting people to gas chambers.
- The gas chambers were labelled 'disinfection-areas', and looked like bathrooms equipped with fake showerheads.
- Media was carefully used to win support for the regime, and to popularise its worldviews.
- The Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets.
- In posters, groups identified as the 'enemies' of Germans were stereotyped, mocked, abused and described as evil. Socialists and liberals were represented as weak and degenerate.
- Propaganda films were made to create hatred for Jews. The most infamous film was 'The Eternal Jew'.
- Orthodox Jews were stereotyped and were shown with flowing beards wearing kaftans, whereas in reality they were not different from Germans.
- They were referred to as vermin, rats, pests and their movements were compared to those of rodents.

41.Hitler felt that a strong Nazi society could be established only by teaching children Nazi Ideology- Explain with examples.

Ans- Hitler was fanatically interested in the youth of the country. He felt that a strong Nazi society could be established only by teaching children the Nazi ideology. This required a control over the child both inside and outside the school.

- All schools were cleansed and purified. This meant that teachers who were Jews or seen as 'politically unreliable' were dismissed.
- 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.
- School textbooks were rewritten.
- Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race. Stereotypes about Jews were popularised even through maths classes.
- Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews, and worship Hitler.
- Life of the youth was divided into different stages. At each stage he had to pass through various training and teaching programmes.
- Ten year -olds had to enter Jungvolk.
- At fourteen ,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 and ideological 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 organization.
- The Youth League of the Nazis was founded in 1922. Four years later, it was renamed the 'Hitler Youth'.
- To unify the youth movement under Nazi control, all other youth organisations were systematically dissolved and finally banned.

41. Highlight Nazi cult of motherhood.

Ans- Many social programs were implemented by Hitler to encourage the growth of a strong German Nazi Volk. One such programme was to advocate the virtues of motherhood. This programme included the following features:

- Girls were told that they had to become good mothers, distance themselves from the Jews and look after their homes. They should teach their children Nazi values and rear pure blooded Aryan children.
- Women who bore undesirable children were punished .But women who bore racially desirable children were awarded with concessions in shops, theatre and railway tickets. They were also given favoured treatment in hospitals.
- To encourage women to produce many children Honour Crosses were awarded.
- All Aryan women who deviated from the prescribed code of conduct were publicly condemned and severely punished.
