

**The answer to the essay question is to be written in the separate essay booklet.**

**In developing your answer to Part III, be sure to keep this general definition in mind:**

**discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”**

### **Part III**

#### **DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION**

**This question is based on the accompanying documents. It is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.**

#### **Historical Context:**

The years after World War I were tumultuous years. Countries around the world struggled economically, socially and politically. Within Germany, various factors combined to lead to the rise of a ruthless dictator.

#### **Task:**

Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

- Discuss three reasons Adolf Hitler gained power in Germany.



## Document 2

### German Inflation Chart: 1919-1923

Description: In the period following the end of World War I, Germany experienced a disastrous period of inflation. The German government method of financing the war by borrowing heavily and printing large quantities of unbacked currency began the inflationary spiral. It was compounded by the loss of resources and reparations, which resulted from the Treaty of Versailles. And these difficulties were in turn compounded by political violence. The unwillingness of industrialists and labor leaders to put aside their narrow interests and work for the common good was yet another factor which aggravated the situation. Many Germans, particularly those on fixed incomes and pensions, endured great hardships and lived in sharply reduced circumstances. By November of 1923, hyperinflation paralyzed Germany and only foreign loans and the issuing of a entirely new currency restored confidence and ended the crisis.

Date	Marks	U.S. Dollars
1919	4.2	1
1921	75	1
1922	400	1
Jan. 1923	7,000	1
Jul. 1923	160,000	1
Aug. 1923	1,000,000	1
Nov. 1, 1923	1,300,000,000	1
Nov. 15, 1923	1,300,000,000,000	1
Nov. 16, 1923	4,200,000,000,000	1

1. At its height, how many German Marks did it take to buy a dollar?
2. How might this inflation impact the way the German people viewed their government (the Weimar Republic)?
3. How was this inflation stopped and how might that impact the way the German people viewed their government?

### Document 3

#### Treaty of Versailles -- Text of Article 231, the "War Guilt Clause"

Description: Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles, known as the War Guilt Clause, was a statement that Germany was responsible for beginning World War I. It reads as follows:

**"The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies."**

The War Guilt Clause was added in order to get the French and Belgians to agree to reduce the sum of money that Germany would have to pay to compensate for war damage. The article was seen as a concession to the Germans by the negotiators. It was bitterly resented, however, by virtually all Germans who did not believe they were responsible for the outbreak of the war. This article was a constant thorn in the side of the Weimar leaders who tried to meet the terms of the agreement while trying to have these terms modified.

1. Do you think the German people should have been blamed for World War I?
2. How might German resentment be used to help a leader rise to power?

### Document 4

Description: The figures below are those of annual average unemployment, except for 1932, where some precise end-of-the-month figures are available, and the two dates that coincide with the Reichstag elections are given.

1924	1928	1930	31-Jul-32	31-Oct-32
978,000	1,368,000	3,076,000	5,392,000	5,109,000

1. How did unemployment change between 1924 and 1932?

## Document 5

### Nazi Party Platform

Description: In February 1920, the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis) came up with a 25-point program. Included in the party's new program were the following points:

1. **A union of all Germans to form a great Germany on the basis of the right to self-determination of peoples.**
2. **Abolition of the Treaty of Versailles.**
3. **Land and territory (colonies) for our surplus population.**
4. **German blood as a requirement for German citizenship. No Jew can be a member of the nation.**
5. **Non-citizens can live in Germany only as foreigners, subject to the law of aliens.**
6. **Only citizen can vote or hold public office.**
7. **The state insures that every citizen live decently and earn his livelihood. If it is impossible to provide food for the whole population, then aliens must be expelled.**
8. **No further immigration of non-Germans. Any non-German who entered Germany after August 2, 1914, shall leave immediately.**
9. **A thorough reconstruction of our national system of education. The science of citizenship shall be taught from the beginning.**
10. **All newspapers must be published in the German language by German citizens and owners.**

1. What points in this platform were designed to appeal to German nationalism?
2. What points in this platform were designed to exclude groups of people?
3. Which points in this platform were designed to take advantage of German resentment over the Treaty of Versailles?

## Document 6

### Hitler's Final Speech at His Trial for Treason, March 27, 1924

Description: After the Beer Hall Putsch, Hitler's trial for treason began before a special court in Munich on February 26, 1924. Lasting for twenty-four days, the trial was reported on the front pages of every German newspaper. For the first time Hitler had an audience outside of Bavaria. He succeeded in turning the proceedings into a triumph. He recovered political initiative by the simple device of assuming full responsibility for the attempt to overthrow the Republic. With these final words he built up the failure of the putsch into one of the great propaganda legends of the movement.

**I aimed from the first at something a thousand times higher than being a minister. I wanted to become the destroyer of Marxism. I am going to achieve this task and, if I do, the title of minister will be an absurdity as far as I am concerned. . . .**

**At one time I believed that perhaps this battle against Marxism could be carried on with the help of the government. In January 1923, I learned that that was just not possible. The hypothesis for the victory of Marxism is not that Germany must be free, but rather Germany will only be free when Marxism is broken. At that time I did not dream that our movement would become great and cover Germany like a flood.**

**The army that we are building grows from day to day, from hour to hour. Right at this moment I have the proud hope that once the hour strikes these wild troops will merge into battalions, battalions into regiments, regiments into divisions. I have hopes that the old cockade will be lifted from the dirt, that the old colors will be unfurled to flutter again...**

**Then, gentlemen, not you will be the ones to deliver the verdict over us, but that verdict will be given by the eternal judgment of history, which will speak out against the accusation that has been made against us. . . . You might just as well find us guilty a thousand times, but the goddess of the eternal court of history will smile and tear up the motions of the state's attorney and the judgment of this court: for she finds us not guilty.**

1. Who is Hitler proposing is the enemy of the German state?
2. How does Hitler use nationalism to build support for his movement?

## Document 7

### National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP-Nazi)



Description: The Nazi poster on the left reads: "Workers: The Brain and the Fist! Vote for the frontsoldier Hitler!" The 1932 poster on the right reads: "Fight hunger and despair! Vote for Hitler!"

1. How did the National Socialist German Workers Party make Hitler appealing?
2. According to the second poster, what conditions existed in Germany that would make people vote for Hitler?



## Document 8

### Nazi Election Flyer, 1932

65- 7/16/16

# Kommunisten!

Wir haben Hunger und gehen Betteln, wir haben kein Brot und keine Arbeit. In Hause eine verzagte Frau und Kinder, denen wir jeden Wunsch verlangen müssen, oder mühselige Eltern und Geschwister.

So geht es schon Monate, Jahre; wie lange soll es so weitergehen! Eine Woche verzagt nach der anderen. Es bleibt kein allen, es wird immer schlechter, nie wird es besser.

**Uns geht es auch so wie Euch.**

Der Nazi hat die gleichen Sorgen und Nöte wie Ihr. Er geht auch auf der Sonnen-Wiese, besetzt Weinberge, zur Stempelkiste. Seine Kraft ist ebenso abgenutzt wie die Eure.

**Muß es so bleiben? Nein!**

Es ist wünschenswert nicht notwendig. Wenn Menschen diese Zustände gesehen haben, können auch Menschen sie wieder ändern.

Ihr vertraut auf Ruhland. Seit Jahren kämpft Ihr für eure Idee. Wo blieb der Erfolg? Jetzt hatlet Ihr dreieriertel Millionen Stimmen weniger als im September 1930. Trotz der Not, trotz des Elends! Glaubt Ihr, daß euer Kampf uns aus diesen Zeiten herausführt, daß eure schwankende, heilsame Führung, die sich so oft irrte, den Kampf gewinnt? Glaubt Ihr, daß Ruhland helfen wird?

Es ist nicht richtiger, wenn wir uns selbst helfen? Wenn der deutsche Prolet sich selber hilft?

**Wir Nazis helfen uns gegenseitig.**

Wer etwas zu essen hat, teilt es mit dem, der nichts hat. Wer ein Bett übrig hat, gibt es dem, der kein hat. Seht Ihr, deshalb sind wir so stark geworden. Jetzt bei der Wahl zeigen wir, was wir können. Jeder hilft mit dabei! Wir opfern! Arbeitlose gehen ihre Trübsal, Jeder spendet, und wenn es nur Groschen sind. Aus dem wenig wird ein viel. Aus zehn Millionen 10 Pfennig-Stücken wird eine Million Mark. Da brauchen wir keine Kapitalisten, wie Euch immer wieder vorgetragen wird. Wir schaffen es selbst, und wir sind stolz darauf.

**Wir helfen alle mit und opfern, weil wir an unsere Idee und unsern Führer glauben.**

Ohne Programm wären wir nicht so groß und stark geworden. Wir glauben an das Programm glauben, weil darin steht, daß die Führer sich verpflichtet haben, nötigenfalls unter Einsatz des Lebens für die Durchführung des Programms einzustehen.

**Hitler schrieb das Programm, und wir wissen, daß er es halten wird.**

Helft den Volksgenossen mit aufbauen! Es kommt nicht darauf an, woher Ihr kommt, es kommt einzig und allein auf eure Leistung und euren Charakter an.

Wir wollen kämpfen, wir wollen diese Zeiten nicht!  
Wir wollen raus aus diesem Elend!  
Deshalb stehen wir im Kampf gegen das System von heute!  
Deshalb wollen wir Preußen!

**Helft uns mit dabei! Wir schaffen es!**

**MachtSchluß jetzt! Es muß anders werden!**

# W ä h l t

# Nationalsozialisten

(Hitlerbewegung)

# Liste 8!

Das Bildchen, Seite 121 ff., Sachverständigenrat, Berlin, 1932.

#### Translation, Side 1:

**Communists!** [a call to communists to pay attention]

We are hungry and on the dole [government payments for the poor], we lack food and jobs. We have bitter wives at home, and children whose every wish we must deny, or discontented parents, brothers and sisters.

It has been this way for months, years; how long can it go on this way! One week follows another. Everything stays the same, conditions get worse, never better. Things are the same for us as they are for you.

Does it have to stay that way? No!

It really is not necessary. A condition that people have caused can be changed by them too.

You trust Russia. You have been fighting for your idea {communism} for years. What has happened? You have 3/4 of a million fewer votes than in September 1930. Despite the need, despite the misery! Do you really believe that your cause can lead us to better times, that your wavering, aimless leadership that has been wrong so often in the past can actually win? Do you believe that Russia will help?

Would it not be better to help ourselves!? For the German proletariat {working class} to help itself?

We Nazis help each other.



He who has something to eat shares it with him who has nothing. He who has a spare bed gives it to him who has none. That is why we have become so strong. The election shows what we can do. Everyone helps! Everyone sacrifices! The unemployed give up their wedding rings. Everyone gives, even if it is but a penny. Many small gifts become a large one. Ten million 10 pfennig coins are a million Marks. We don't need any capitalists, the lie that you are always told. We do it ourselves, and are proud of it.

We all help and sacrifice, because we believe in our idea and our Führer.

Without our party program, we would not have become so large and strong. We believe in our program because it says that our leaders have pledged to carry it out, even if it requires the sacrifice of their own lives.

Translation, side 2:

Adolf Hitler wrote the program, and we know that he will hold to it.

Help build the people's state! It doesn't matter where you came from, we are interested only in what you can do, and in your character.

We want to fight. We oppose current conditions! We want to escape this misery! That is why we fight today's system! That is why we want to rule Prussia! Help us! We can do it! Enough! Things have to change!

**Vote National Socialist (The Hitler Movement) List 8!**

1. What does this flyer say about the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis) that would make voters elect the Nazis?

2. What do the Nazis promise that sounds attractive to the voter?

## Document 9

### Text of Speech Made by Hitler the Day After His Appointment to Chancellor

Description: While the National Socialists won less than fifty percent of the vote in the Reichstag, President Paul von Hindenburg and his political allies believed that they would be able to control Hitler once he was in power. Hitler appealed to the military due to his promises to destroy the Treaty of Versailles, to the industrialists with his promises of curbing the communists, and to the center with his talk of lebensraum and the fatherland.

**[The] new national government will consider it its first and supreme duty to restore our nation's unity of will and spirit. It will safeguard and defend the foundations on which the strength of our nation rests. It will firmly protect Christianity, the basis of our entire morality; it will safeguard the family, the nucleus of our body politic and our state. It will, beyond estates and classes, make our people aware again of its national and political unity, and the duties that evolve therefrom. It wants to base the education of Germany's youth on a reverence for our great past, on pride in our old traditions. It will thus declare war on spiritual, political, and cultural nihilism. Germany must not and will not become prey to anarchic Communism.**

**In place of turbulent instincts, the government will once again make national discipline our guide. In so doing, it will consider with great care all institutions which are the true guarantors of the strength and power of our nation.**

1. According to the text, which will be of more importance in Hitler's Germany, the individual or the group?
2. What ideas and ideals will be valued in Hitler's Germany?

The following credits were omitted:

- Unemployment statistics: Saitzow, *Die Arbeitslosigkeit*, pp. 148-149, and *Statisches Jahrbuch*, 1933, p. 19.
- Propaganda posters: *The Rise of the Dictators: 1919-1939* by Peter Banyard. Gallery Books, New York City. 1986, p. 18. and "An Exhibition of German Posters," May 8 through June 15, 1963, New School for Social Research, New York City.)
- Hitler's Trial Speech: Louis L. Snyder, *The Weimar Republic: A History of Germany from Ebert to Hitler* (D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey), pp. 164-5.