Life in Nazi Germany
Revision Guide

Key Topics
1. Nazi control of Germany
2. Nazi social policies
3. Nazi persecution of minorities
The Nazi Police State

The Nazis used a number of ways to control the German population, one of these was the Police State. This meant the Nazis used the police (secret and regular) to control what the people did and said, it was control using fear and terror. The Nazis use of threat, fear and intimidation was their most powerful tool to control the German people.

Hitler was the head of the Third Reich and the country was set up to follow his will, from the leaders to the 32 regional Gauleiter.

As head of the government, Hitler had complete control over Germany from politics, to the legal system and police.

All this meant there was very little opposition to Nazi rule between 1933-39.

The Gestapo

The Gestapo, set up in 1933 were the Nazi secret police, they were the most feared Nazi organization. They looked for enemies of the Nazi Regime and would use any methods necessary; torture, phone tapping, informers, searching mail and raids on houses. They were no uniforms, meaning anyone could be a member of the Gestapo. They could imprison you without trial, over 160,000 were arrested for ‘political crimes’ and thousands died in custody.

The SS

The SS were personal bodyguards of Adolf Hitler but became an intelligence, security and police force of 240,000 Ayrans under Himmler. They were nicknamed the ‘Blackshirts’ after their uniform

They had unlimited power to do what they want to rid of threats to Germany,

The SS were put in charge of all the police and security forces in Germany, they also ran the concentration camps in Germany.

Concentration Camps

The first camp set up at Dachau in 1933 and run by the SS. By 1939 there were over 150,000 Germans in these concentration camps.

At first camps were used for political enemies and opponents but they eventually became execution camps for Undesirables like homosexuals and Jews.

Beatings and murder were common place in the Nazi efforts to ‘re-educate’ the inmates.

The Legal System

The Nazis also controlled the legal system – the Enabling Act meant that the Nazis could pass any law they wanted without any opposition.

The ‘People’s Court’ used Nazi judges who swore on oath of loyalty to Hitler. There were no juries, judges decided the fate of the accused often in secret trials. Over 44 crimes became punishable by death and between 1933-39, 534 were executed.

The SD

The SD (Security Force) was a force under Reinhard Heydrich to monitor Nazi opponents.

They kept files on everyone suspected of opposing the Nazi party or Hitler.

Local Control

The Nazis used Block Wardens in towns who were the eyes and ears of the party. The Gestapo also used informers who would report anyone who told anti-Hitler jokes or attended illegal meetings.

Exam Question

Explain why the Nazis police state was successful between 1933-39

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Gestapo
- Concentration camps

You must also use information of your own (12 Marks)
In Nazi Germany, the Nazi party wanted to control the attitudes and ideas of the German people, it did this three ways; propaganda, censorship, the Fuhrer cult.

It was the job of Josef Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda to use these methods to indoctrinate (brainwash) the Germans using these methods.

**Propaganda focused a variety of Nazi ideology;**

- The greatness of Germany
- The Fuhrer cult
- The Aryan Race
- Attacking Germany’s enemy's (Communists and Jews)
- Increasing Nazi support

**Rallies/Speeches**
The yearly Nuremberg rallies were huge spectacles to show Nazi power and national unity
At the 1934 rally, 200,000 attended to see thousands of banners, 20,000 Nazi flags, a 100 foot Nazi gold eagle and to hear Hitler’s speech

**Film**
With audiences of over 250 million in 1933, film was a key propaganda tool. All films included a 45 minute newsreel of Nazi ‘news’ whilst Goebbels oversaw every film produced, 1300 films in total.

The Eternal Jew and Triumph of the Will were two Nazi ‘masterpieces’. They showed German triumphs, attacked Jews and enemies like communists.

**Newspapers**
The Nazis controlled all newspapers, journalists were told what to write and the government gave out the information to include in the papers.

Anti-Nazi papers were shutdown (1600 in 1935) negative news was censored. There was no free press, every newspaper was a Nazi one.

**Radio**
The Reich Radio company to controlled all stations and cheap Nazi radios were made so that over 70% of homes had one. Foreign radio was also banned

Hitler’s speeches and history were common radio shows. Loudspeakers were put up in streets so all could listen

**Censorship**
The Nazis censored everything – all anti-Nazi ideas were banned.

Writers, film makers and artists could only produce pro Nazi arts

Jazz music was banned as it came from black culture, so it was inferior.

Telling an Anti-Nazi joke was a crime, leading to a fine or imprisonment.

**Events**
The 1936 Olympics were used to showcase Aryan superiority (33 gold medals) and power with the stadium being the largest in the world.

**Culture**
The Nazis opposed the culture popular in the Weimar Republic and wanted to change it.

The Reich Chamber of Culture (under Goebbels) controlled Art, Theatre, Music, Architecture and Literature. It all had to follow the Nazi message.

All artists had to be members of the Chamber of Visual Arts, 42,000 joined as it was the only way to get your work produced. All art had to fit Nazi beliefs, even Picasso was banned.

Music had to emphases German culture, like Wagner, Beethoven and Bach. Literature focussed on German history and cluture.

Architecture had to emphasise Nazi power, so buildings were huge, copying Roman styles. Giant flags and statues of Hitler were erected.

**The Fuhrer Cult**
The Nazis developed he ‘Fuhrer cult’, which showed Hitler as both superman and man of the people.

Hitler was presented as a brave WW1 veteran, a generous worker and fond of children.

**‘One people, one Reich, one Fuhrer’**
The aim was for Germans to idolise and follow their leader – like a god.

Pictures of Hitler were everywhere - ‘Heil Hitler’ even became the national greeting

Total and utter obedience to Hitler was essential to Nazi rule.
The Nazis and the Church

Hitler believed that religion was a threat to the Nazis’ control over people’s minds as they would worship god over him but he knew that attacking the Church could cause serious opposition from a very religious German people who were 2/3 Protestant and 1/3 Catholic.

Nazi views were essentially opposite to those of Christianity

It is clear why Hitler would see the church as a threat to his power.

Despite these differences, at first Hitler attempted to work with the Catholic and Protestant Church but this eventually changed to the Nazis using their fear and terror methods to take control.

The Roman Catholic Church

**The Concordat, July 1933**

Hitler and the Pope sign an agreement to not interfere in each others business.

This was a Nazi attempt to keep the 33 million German Catholics on side

**Hitler breaks the Concordat**

Despite his promises, Hitler did persecute Catholics:

- Many catholic priests were sent to concentration camps
- Catholic schools were brought under Nazi control
- Groups like the Catholic Youth League were banned

**Further persecution**

In 1937, the Pope openly criticises the Nazi regime and as a result 400 priests are sent to the concentration camps.

All catholic schools were shut down in 1939, monasteries were closed and RE is banned in schools in 1938.

Did the Nazis succeed in controlling the Church?

The Nazis did not manage to fully control the Church despite their efforts, the majority of Germans chose to keep quiet and still practiced their religion.

Hitler did manage to weaken the churches resistance to his policies and Protestant churches did become ‘Nazified’

However, there was still open opposition by Protestants like Martin Niemoller who set up the PEL (Protestant Emergency League) to campaign against the Nazis. The PEL was banned and Niemoller sent to a concentration camp until 1945.

The Protestant Church

**German Faith Movement, 1934**

In 1934 the Nazis set up their own religion, the German Faith Movement. It replaced Christian teachings with pagan ones.

**The Reich Church, 1936**

The Nazis set up the Reich Church, bringing all protestant churches under Nazi control.

Ludwig Muller is made the Reich Bishop.

The bible is replaced by Mein Kampf, the Swastika replaced the cross and all Jewish teachings from the Old Testament were removed

**Exam Question**

Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam question

Remember to use the ‘how to’ guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

**Explain why the Nazis tried to control the Church in Germany**

You may use the following in your answer:

- Roman Catholic Church
- German Faith Movement

You must also use information of your own (12 Marks)
Opposition to the Nazis

Living under fear/terror and propaganda/censorship effectively ended open opposition to Hitler and the Nazis, but between 1933-39 1.3 million Germans were sent to camps and opposition did exist from some groups; the young, churches, the army and secret political opposition.

Despite Nazi youth groups being compulsory, resistance amongst the youth centered on Nazi control and the lack of freedom. As a result, small anti Nazi groups grew.

The Edelweiss Pirates
The Edelweiss Pirates were working class youths who used the symbol of the edelweiss flower for resistance. They resented the military style Hitler Youth and the lack of freedom for young people. They often grew their hair long and wore American style clothing and makeup. They went on hikes and camping to avoid Nazi restrictions and would often taunt or attack Hitler Youth members.

The Swing Youth
The swing youth were mainly teenagers from wealthy families who admired American culture over Nazi culture. They listened to jazz and swing records illegally, danced the jitterbug, smoked and drunk alcohol in groups and parties of up to 6,000. Himmler hated the Swing Youth.

By 1939, opposition from these groups was limited. They did little to oppose the Nazis despite some anti-Nazi graffiti and telling anti-Nazi jokes and there were too few of them, around 2,000 Edelweiss Pirates compared to 8 million Hitler Youth.

The fact there were youth groups shows there was some small opposition, but it was mainly cultural.

Church Opposition

In 1934, the Confessors Church set up, it was a protestant church opposed to the Reich Church. About 6,000 pastors joined in opposition to the Nazis, however over 800 were sent to the camps. Some Catholics spoke out against Nazi ideas but 400 Catholics were arrested and were imprisoned in the Priests Block in Dachau.

Whilst many Germans still continued to go church and some leaders voiced their opposition, most Germans were not foolish enough to openly challenge the Nazis.

The church focused on opposing interference on their traditions, rather than Nazi rule.

Nazi Control Exam Questions

Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam question
Remember to use the ‘how to’ guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

1. Explain why there was so little resistance and opposition to Hitler and the Nazis in Germany in the years 1933-39
You may use the following in your answer:
   - Nazi Propaganda
   - The Gestapo
You must also use information of your own (12 Marks)

2. Give two things you can infer from Source A about the Catholic Church in Nazi Germany (12 Marks)

Source A: From police reports in Bavaria in 1937 and 1938.

The influence of the Catholic Church on the population is so strong that the Nazi spirit cannot penetrate. The local population is ever under the strong influence of the priests. These people prefer to believe what the priests say from the pulpit than the words of the best Nazi speakers.
**Nazi Youth**

Hitler saw the youth of Germany as the future of the German Third Reich, they had to become indoctrinated (brainwashed) in Nazi ideals to become loyal followers of Hitler. Education and Youth Groups was central to this.

In 1933, Bernhard Rust became the head of Nazi Education and National Culture

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### Nazi Education

The school system became the main tool to indoctrinate German children where they had to go to school until they were 14. There were separate schools for girls and boys:

- **Military skills for boys**
- **Domestic skills (housework) for girls.**

The number of PE lessons doubled, RE was stopped. Race and Nazi beliefs were introduced.

All textbooks were rewritten to fit the Nazi view of history and Mein Kampf became a core textbook. Every lesson also began with a ‘Heil Hitler’ salute

Nazi ideology was included in all lessons for example:

- History books emphasized Germany's military success and blamed Jews for the the loss of WW1.
- Math's taught military tactics or how to solve the economic cost of the disabled in Germany
- Race studies were introduced to push Nazi racial policies on Aryans

Girls were taught about motherhood, genetics and how to be an ideal Nazi housewife.

All teachers had to join The Nazi Teachers' Alliance (97% joined) and had to teach the Nazi curriculum or risk being fired. Students were encouraged to inform on their teachers if they were not pro Nazi.

The Nazis also set up specialist ‘Leadership Schools’, such as Adolf Hitler Schools to train future Nazi leaders and Napalos for political leaders and SS officers.

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### Nazi Youth Groups

The Nazis saw the youth as the future of Germany and they wanted to control all of their free time.

Baldur Von Shirach became leader of the Nazi youth organisations, one of the first things he did was ban other youth organisations (e.g. scouts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-10 – Pimpfe</td>
<td>10-14 – Young Girls League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–14 - German Young People (Cubs)</td>
<td>14-18 – League of German Girls (BDM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18 – The Hitler Youth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Aims:**

- Physical training for the military
- Brainwashing in Nazi ideology

**Activities:**

Military style training; marching, camping, hiking, map reading and rifle shooting. They had uniforms and ranks like the army

All members had to swear an oath of loyalty and they also learnt Nazi ideology and race theory with lessons called ‘German Heroes’ and ‘The evil of the Jews’

1932 – Membership: 108,000

1936 – Hitler Youth Act passed, membership was compulsory

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aims:</td>
<td>Preparing lives as wives and mothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities:</td>
<td>Sports were intended to enhance fitness, strength and beauty. Girls had to be able to run 60 metres in 14 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Girls were trained to cook, iron, sew and prepare for life as a housewife. They were also taught the importance of ‘racial hygiene’, the need to only marry a pure Aryan man.

There was significant emphasis on the importance of German mothers – to create and nurture Aryan children

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### Were the Youth Groups successful?

**Yes**

Millions joined the Nazi Youth Groups and many went on to join the army and have Aryan children - it was popular and many of the young became fanatical Nazis

Many young enjoyed the comradeship of the Hitler Youth and feeling of importance to Germany's future

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**No**

Secret youth groups like the Edelweiss Pirates and White Rose Movement which were anti-Nazi began to start

Despite high membership, thousands avoided attending meetings and felt it was too much like military life.
Women in Nazi Germany

Life before the Nazis
• The Weimar Republic had a very **progressive** attitude towards women’s rights. Women could vote from 20, they could attend university and many had professional careers like teachers, doctors, lawyers, judges.

Aims of the Nazis towards Women
1. They would not work but stay at home and look after the family
2. They were to breed more pure Aryan children
The life of women should revolve around the 3 K’s – **kinder küche kirche**  
(Children, Church, Cooking)

Changes to Women: Work
Women were bribed by ‘marriage credits’ and child bonuses to not work
1933 – Women were banned from professional posts, e.g doctors, solicitors, civil servants and overall 15% of women were sacked such as 4000 teachers.
Girls were discouraged from going to university
However, from 1937 there was a shortage of workers so they introduced a compulsory ‘duty year’ where women had to work on farms or in homes. As a result women working increased to 14 million in 1939

Changes to Women: Life
• Organisations such the Women’s Front and Reich Mothers Service were set up to brainwash women
• Women were supposed to wear traditional women’s fashion like farmers
• They should not smoke and they should focus on keeping fit.
• The German Women’s Enterprise organised classes and radio talks trained women on housework and bringing up children

Increasing birth

Hitler wanted more babies to expand the Aryan **Master Race** and create more loyal Nazis

Married couples were given a ‘Marriage loan’ of 1,000 marks. They could keep 250 marks for each child they had, so if they had 4 children they would pay nothing back.

The **Mothers Cross** was given out to reward women who had more children, it was given out on Hitler’s mothers birthday
◦ 4 children = a bronze medal.
◦ 6 children = a silver medal.
◦ 8 or more children = gold medal.

The ‘**Lebensborn**’ programme was introduced
Aryan women were encouraged ‘donate’ a child to the Fuhrer by getting pregnant with Aryan SS soldiers at special centres.

Abortion and contraception was banned.
The Sterilisation Law of 1933, sterilised non-Aryan women so they could not have children.
Men and women who could not have children were allowed to get divorced.

Results of Nazi policies towards women

In 1936 there were over 30% more births than there had been in 1933.

Marriages increased 21% between 1933-39

Women liked being important in Germany, support for the Nazis was high.
Nazis Women and Youth Exam Questions

Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions. Remember to use the ‘how to’ guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

1. Explain why there were changes in the lives of young people of Germany in the years 1933-39
   • Nazi Ideals
   • Education
   You must also use your own information (12 Marks)

2. Explain why there were changes in the lives of women in Germany in the years 1933-39
   • Work
   • Birth policies
   You must also use your own information (12 Marks)

Using these two boxes to micro-plan your answer to the above questions
You only need to plan out your 3-4 paragraphs, and key words/terms you would include in each

P1. 

P2. 

P3. 

P4. 

Source G The memories of a Hitler Youth leader
What I liked about the Hitler Youth was the comradeship. I was full of enthusiasm when joined the Young People at the age of ten. I can still remember how deeply moved I was when I heard the club mottoes: “Young People are hard. They can keep a secret. They are loyal. They are comrades.” And then there were the trips! Is anything nicer than enjoying the splendours of the homeland in the company of one's comrades?

Source H From a British magazine, 1938
There seems little enthusiasm for the Hitler Youth, with membership falling. Many no longer want to be commanded, but wish to do as they like. Usually only a third of a group appears for roll call. At evening meetings it is a great event if 20 turn up out of 80, but usually there are only about 10 or 12.

3. How useful are Sources G and H for an enquiry into the Hitler Youth?
Explain your answer using Sources G and H and your knowledge of the historical context (8 marks)

Source I Hitler Youth member, private letter, 1936
How did we live in Camp S which is supposed to be an example to all the camps? We practically didn't have a minute of the day to ourselves. This isn't camp life, no sir! It's military barrack life! Drill starts right after a meagre breakfast. We would like to have athletics but there isn't any. Instead we have military exercises, down in the mud, till the tongue hangs out of your mouth. And we have only one wish: sleep, sleep....

3. What can you infer from Source I about the Hitler Youth in Germany? (4 Marks)
Economic conditions in 1933
There were two major economic problems facing Germany
1. Mass unemployment, about 25% of works which was 6 million in 1932.
2. The economic depression had ruined trade, business and production.

The New Plan
In 1933 Hjalmar Schacht introduced his ‘New Plan’ to solve unemployment.
The Nazis began to use a variety of methods to ‘solve unemployment.’

National Labour Service
All young men between 18-25 years had to join the RAD for six months, it was paid work to help Germany.
They were given jobs in public works such as building schools, hospitals, planting trees and repairing roads.
Conditions were not great for works, they had to wear uniforms, live in camps and had to parade.
Many complained of low pay and poor food.

Conscription and Rearmament
The Nazis began rearmament and conscription (Breaking the Treaty of Versailles).
In 1935 conscription was introduced for 18-25 year olds. The army grew from to 1.4 million by 1939.
Spending on arms and equipment rose from 3.5 billion to 26 billion marks, this caused a big need for workers.
By 1935, over 72,000 workers were involved in aircraft construction.

Invisible Unemployment
The Nazis also cheated unemployment statistics to show that unemployment had dropped, they made it ‘invisible’
Women and Jews were forced out of their jobs and these were given to men.
They were also not included in unemployment figures
Those in prisons and concentration camps were taken off unemployment statistics
Part time workers were also classed as full time workers, whilst soldiers were also ‘workers’ even in peace time

Public Works
The ‘autobahn’ (motorway) project was a key method to reduce unemployment.
The Nazis planned to build 7000 miles of motorways to improve transports By 1935, 125,000 men were building new autobahns.
The Nazis spent over 38 billion marks a year by 1938 on public works, like schools, hospitals and bridges to benefit Germany.
These would create jobs which would help the German economy and in turn create more jobs in trade or agriculture.

Results
The Nazis claimed they had solved unemployment and proudly announced unemployment had dropped from 4.8million to 300,000 by 1939. The Nazis had succeeded in their promise of bringing ‘work’ to the German people.
However, historians have argued that the Nazis manipulated the system by sacking workers, lying about statistics and using forced labour to rearm Germany.

Hitler had two main aims:
1. Solve unemployment (unhappy unemployed workers would reduce Nazi support and Germany needed workers)
2. Begin to prepare Germany for war
Workers in Nazi Germany

Hitler knew that he had to keep German workers happy as they were the base of his support, therefore he set up three organisations to ‘improve’ the lives of workers.

The German Labour Front (DAF)

When Hitler took power, he banned all trade unions on 2nd May 1933 as he felt they were a threat, he then replaced it with the German Labour Front (DAF) to protect workers right. All workers had to join or they could not work.

Changes introduced by the DAF

- Strikes were made illegal, offenders would be sent the concentration camps
- Workers could not leave a job without permission
- Working hours were increased, 60+ hours a week

Workers couldn’t ask for higher wages

The DAF effectively took away the freedom of workers and their rights, it was a method of control.

Strength Through Joy (KdF)

Strength through Joy (KdF) was set up by the Nazis to provide leisure activities for workers that everyone could afford. It aimed to keep workers happy so they did not complain.

Workers could go on luxury holidays for cheap. The KdF even own their own cruise ship. A ski trip cost one weeks wages

Over 7 million people took part in KdF sports events

Whilst over 10 million went on holidays in 1938, the most loyal workers got to go on the best holidays.

Free evening classes were offered in cookery.

Cultural nights like plays, the theatre films were popular.

A savings scheme (5 marks a week) to help workers buy a Volkswagen (Peoples Car)

However, no cars were ever made as the factories focussed on rearmament.

Beauty of Labour

Beauty of Labour campaigned to improve better facilities for workers, for example; better toilets, changing rooms, showers and canteens

Beauty of Labour gave companies financial help to improve their buildings and safety for example; Reducing noise levels and improving lighting in factories

Did German workers benefit under the Nazis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• There were more people working which meant people had more money to spend, which would increase the standard of living</td>
<td>• Despite higher wages, the price of goods like food rose by 20% between 1933-39 so the increase wages were cancelled out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Between 1936-39, wages increased by 20% which meant workers, like those in armaments factories had more to spend</td>
<td>• Lower earners, like those in the RAD struggled to buy goods with the increased priced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The KDF offered workers opportunities for holiday and leisure that they could never afford, whilst Beauty of Labour improved working conditions for workers</td>
<td>• Working hours increase on average, from 43 hours per week to 49 hours in 1939.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The German workers got their ‘bread and work’ as promised by Hitler before he was elected</td>
<td>• The DAF completely took away German workers rights (to strike, for higher pay and to leave jobs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Women and Jews were sacked from their jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Workers were forced to work in poor jobs in the RAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nazi Persecution of Minorities

Once in power, the Nazis began to slowly but increasingly persecute and discriminate against the minorities of Germany – Jews, the disabled, gypsies, homosexuals and social outcasts.

**Nazi racial beliefs**

Central to Nazi ideology was racial purity, the idea that the German race was the ‘Master Race’ and all others like Jews were ‘subhumans’.

The Nazis believed Germans were a pure race of Aryans (blond hair, blue eyes, athletic)

Hitler believed that Germany's future was dependent on the creation of a pure Aryan state. This would be achieved in two ways:

- Breeding more Aryans
- Destroying Jews and other subhumans

**Nazi views towards minorities**

Ideal Germans were ‘socially useful’ to Nazi Germany, those that did not work or were racially impure were seen as worthless and a cost to Germany, they were not part of the Volksgemeinschaft (peoples community)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>How were they persecuted?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The disabled</td>
<td>In 1933, the Nazis passed a ‘Sterilisation Law’ which forcibly sterilised the mentally ill, alcoholic, deaf or blind. 400,000 people were sterilised by 1939. In 1939, the Nazis started the T4 programme (Euthanasia) where young people with mental/physical disabilities were killed by lethal injection. Over 5000 children are killed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homosexuals</td>
<td>The Nazis believed homosexuals were immoral and lowered racial purity. In 1935 the Nazis passed laws against Homosexuality, 4000 were arrested in 1936. Over 5000 homosexuals were sent to concentration camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gypsies</td>
<td>They were non-Aryan and a threat to racial purity that needed to be cleansed. They were also seen as ‘work shy’ and did not fit ideal Nazi life. From 1935, Germans and Gypsies could not marry and between 1936-39 Germany's 35,000 gypsies were rounded up and put into camps to be eventually deported.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nazi Persecution of Jews**

Key events 1933-39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1933 1st April</th>
<th>Boycott of Jewish businesses. For one day, the SA stood outside Jewish businesses to prevent customers from entering. ‘Jude’ and Star of David’s’ are painted on windows.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1935, September</td>
<td>The Nuremberg Laws: The Reich Law of Citizenship stated that Jews were no longer German citizens, this meant they could not vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938, March</td>
<td>Jews had to register all their possessions, making it easier for Nazis to confiscate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th and 10th November, 1938</td>
<td>Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass): After the murder of a Nazi diplomat in Paris by a young Jew, Goebbels uses it as an opportunity for most violent anti-Jewish action to date. Nazis destroy 7,500 businesses, burn 400 synagogues and sent 20,000 Jews to concentration camps. 100 Jews are killed too. Jews are forced to pay £1 billion for the damage. Turning point in persecution of Jews.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1933 there were 437,000 Jews living in Germany, less than 1% of the population. But Hitler had made it clear actions against the Jews was a priority, from then on anti-Semitic actions developed.

The Nazis began to use a variety of methods to discriminate against Jews; through work, education, propaganda and the arts.

By 1939, the Nazi plan was to deport all Jews from Germany.

In total over 250,000 Jews left Germany between 1933-39 to flee persecution.

Central to Nazi ideology was racial purity, the idea that the German race was the ‘Master Race’ and all others like Jews were ‘subhumans’.

The Nazis believed Germans were a pure race of Aryans (blond hair, blue eyes, athletic)

Hitler believed that Germany’s future was dependent on the creation of a pure Aryan state. This would be achieved in two ways:

- Breeding more Aryans
- Destroying Jews and other subhumans

Ideal Germans were ‘socially useful’ to Nazi Germany, those that did not work or were racially impure were seen as worthless and a cost to Germany, they were not part of the Volksgemeinschaft (peoples community)
Nazis Workers and Persecution

Using your revision guide, the sources and A4 paper, practice the below exam questions.
Remember to use the ‘how to’ guides in the front of this book to help your in your answers.

1. Explain how the Nazis were able to solve the problems of unemployment between 1933-39
   - The RAD
   - Rearmament
   You must also use your own information (12 Marks)

   Using these this box to micro-plan your answer in 3-4 paragraphs using key words/terms for each.

   P1.

   P2.

   P3.

   P4.

2. Study interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the standard of living of German workers in Nazi Germany. What is the main difference between these views? Explain your answer using details from both interpretations.

3. Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the standard of living of German workers in Nazi Germany

4. How far do you agree with interpretation 2 about the standard of living of German workers in Nazi Germany. Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context. (16 Marks)

Interpretation 1 From Life in Germany, by Steve Waugh published in 2009

From 1936 to 1939 wages increased, but this was due to a longer working day rather than an increase in hourly wage rates. In addition, the cost of living rose in the 1930s, which meant that real wages (how much workers could buy) actually fell. There were also food shortages because the government reduced agricultural production to keep up prices to help farmers.

Interpretation 2 From Nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in 20th Century Europe by Hall. Shutter Brown and Williams published in 2015

For Germans who conformed to Nazi expectations living standards went up. Unemployment dropped. Nazi statistics show that real wages rose... though only if a worker worked overtime. The 'Strength Through Joy' programme provided many extras. Some (benefits) such as loans and medical care were real enough. 

Interpretation 1 From The Third Reich in Power, by Richard Ewans published in 2006.

The violence (during Kristallnacht was familiar from the behaviour of the brownshirts in 1933. But this time it went much further. It was clearly more widespread and more destructive. It demonstrated the hatred of the Jews now gripped not only the stormtroopers and Nazi party activists but was spreading to other parts of the population above all to the young, upon whom five years of Nazism in schools and the Hitler Youth had clearly had an effect.


This led to Kristallnacht, so called because of the thousands of Jewish shop windows which were smashed... Many Germans watched the events with alarm and concern. However, the Nazi controlled press presented it as a reaction of ordinary Germans against Jews. Most Germans did not believe this, but hardly anyone protested for fear of arrest and death.