1.2 Paper 1: German and Italian expansion, 1933–1940

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS appeasement • Anschluss • rearmament • propaganda

Objective

Build the Paper 1 skills on the second case study, **German and Italian expansion, 1933–1940**: the breaking of the Treaty of Versailles, the Abyssinian crisis, **appeasement** and the Munich Agreement, the Nazi–Soviet Pact and the outbreak of war.

You must be able to:

- explain the key steps of German and Italian expansion with dates
- explain why the League failed in Abyssinia
- explain the reasons for appeasement and judge the policy
- analyse a speech for value and limitation
- compare two sources and write a Question 4 essay with own knowledge

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1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Key events

date	event
Oct 1933	Germany leaves the League and the Disarmament Conference
Mar 1935	Hitler announces conscription and an air force, breaking the Treaty of Versailles
Oct 1935	Italy invades Abyssinia (Ethiopia); League sanctions do not include oil
Dec 1935	the Hoare–Laval Plan to give Italy much of Abyssinia is leaked and dropped
Mar 1936	German troops enter the demilitarized Rhineland
Mar 1938	the **Anschluss** : Germany takes over Austria
Sep 1938	the Munich Agreement gives the Sudetenland to Germany
Mar 1939	Germany occupies the rest of Czechoslovakia; in April Italy invades Albania
23 Aug 1939	the Nazi–Soviet Pact
1 Sep 1939	Germany invades Poland; Britain and France declare war on 3 September
Jun 1940	Italy enters the war; France surrenders

Appeasement

Britain and France followed **appeasement**: giving in to some demands to avoid war. Reasons: the memory of the First World War; economic weakness in the Depression; the belief that Versailles had been too harsh; public opinion and the Dominions against war; the need for time to **rearm** ; fear of the Soviet Union.

Historians disagree: the "guilty men" view (1940) blamed Chamberlain for weakness; later historians stressed the limits Britain faced and the time gained to build fighters and radar; others reply that the time helped Germany too, and that Czechoslovakia's army and defences were lost.

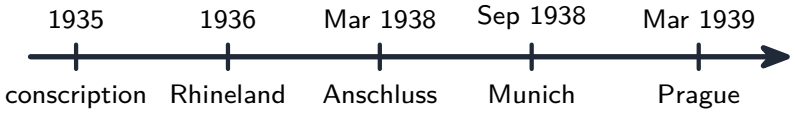
Worked Question 3 sentence. "Both Source A and Source C show that Britain wanted to avoid war in 1938, but while Source A presents this as wise, Source C presents it as a defeat."

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2 Practice

2.1 Define **appeasement**. [2]

2.2 Explain **two** reasons why Britain followed a policy of appeasement in the 1930s. Use your own knowledge. [4]



3 Exam-style questions

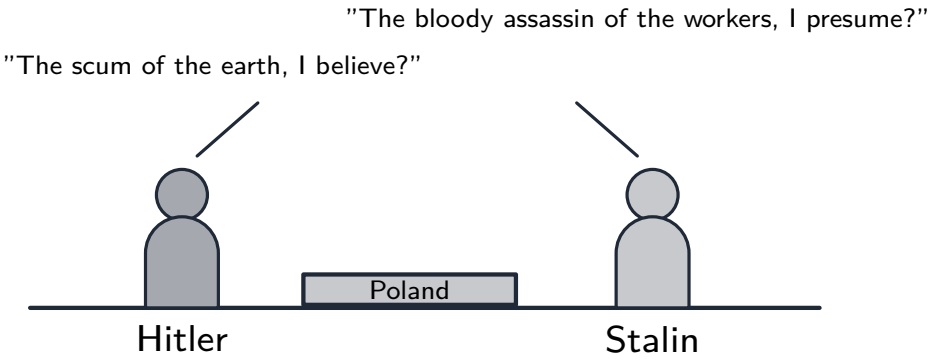
3.1 *(Paper 1 style.)* Read Sources A to D, then answer 3.1 to 3.5.

Source A. From a radio broadcast by Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister, 27 September 1938, during the Czech crisis (extract).

> How horrible, fantastic, incredible it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas-masks here because of a quarrel in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing. ... However much we may sympathise with a small nation confronted by a big and powerful neighbour, we cannot in all circumstances undertake to involve the whole British Empire in war simply on her account.

Source B. A cartoon about the Nazi–Soviet Pact, based on a cartoon by David Low published in the London *Evening Standard*, 20 September 1939 (redrawn in simple form for this practice).

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Source C. Winston Churchill, speech in the House of Commons, 5 October 1938, on the Munich Agreement (extract).

> I will begin by saying what everybody would like to ignore or forget but which must nevertheless be stated, namely, that we have sustained a total and unmitigated defeat, and that France has suffered even more than we have.

Source D. From a history of British foreign policy written by a historian in 2005 (written for this practice).

> Chamberlain had few good choices in 1938. The British public, the Dominions and the army chiefs all opposed war, and the RAF had very few modern fighters. Munich bought a year in which Britain built fighters and a chain of radar stations. Yet Munich also handed Germany the Czech defences and arms factories, and it convinced Hitler that Britain would not fight.

(Question 1(a).) According to Source A, why did Chamberlain not want Britain to go to war over Czechoslovakia? [3]

3.2 *(Question 1(b).)* What is the message of Source B? [2]

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3.3 *(Question 2.)* With reference to its origin, purpose and content, analyse the value and limitations of Source C for a historian studying the Munich Agreement. [4]

3.4 *(Question 3.)* Compare and contrast what Sources C and D reveal about the Munich Agreement. [6]

3.5 *(Question 4.)* Using the sources and your own knowledge, to what extent was appeasement a reasonable policy for Britain in 1938? [9]

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Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

a policy of giving in to some of the demands of an aggressive state in order to avoid war, e.g. Britain and France towards Germany in 1938

2.2

any two, explained: memory of the First World War: about 10 million soldiers had died, and the public was strongly against another war; Britain needed time to rearm: fighters and radar were not ready until about 1939–40; many thought Versailles had been too harsh, so some German demands, e.g. the Rhineland, seemed fair; economic weakness in the Depression and the Dominions' unwillingness to fight

3.1

any three, from the source: war preparations (trenches, gas masks) were horrible / he was horrified by the idea of war; it was a quarrel in a far-away country; between people the British knew nothing about, so Britain had little at stake; Britain could not involve the whole Empire in war simply for a small nation

3.2

the Nazi–Soviet Pact was cynical / an agreement between enemies; details: Hitler and Stalin bow politely while calling each other insults, over the body of Poland, which they have destroyed together

3.3

value: origin: a leading MP speaking in Parliament days after Munich, so it shows the views of the critics of appeasement at the time; content/purpose: to persuade Parliament that Munich was a defeat, so it shows how serious some thought the loss of Czechoslovakia was; limitations: purpose: Churchill was a long-standing opponent of Chamberlain's policy, so he presents only one side; origin: speaking in October 1938, he could not know what happened next, e.g. whether the extra year helped Britain rearm

3.4

Award [1] for each point of comparison or contrast, up to [6]; if the sources are discussed separately, with no linking, award up to [3]. Points that may be included: similarities: both see Munich as a loss for Britain and its allies in some way: C a "total and unmitigated defeat", D handing over the Czech defences; both suggest Munich strengthened Germany; both show that France and Britain were involved together (C mentions France; D British choices); differences: C condemns the agreement completely, whereas D says Chamberlain had few good choices; D says Munich gained time to build fighters and radar, whereas C sees no gain; C was written at the time by a critic, whereas D looks back with hindsight and weighs both sides

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3.5

Mark with the markbands: [7-9] focused on the question, sources and own knowledge used together as evidence, synthesis, a clear judgement; [4-6] sources and own knowledge used, but not always linked; some analysis; [1-3] sources or own knowledge only, mostly description. Points that may be included: reasonable: the public and the Dominions opposed war, and memories of 1914–18 were strong (Sources A and D); Britain was not ready: few modern fighters; the extra year let it build fighters and radar (Source D); many believed some German demands, e.g. over the Sudeten Germans, were understandable after Versailles; not reasonable: Munich was a "defeat" (Source C): Czechoslovakia's defences and arms factories went to Germany (Source D); Hitler took the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939, showing that his aims went beyond German-speaking areas; appeasement convinced Hitler that Britain would not fight, and the Soviet Union, left out at Munich, signed the Nazi–Soviet Pact (Source B); Germany also rearmed in the extra year; judgement: understandable given Britain's position in 1938, but it rested on a wrong judgement of Hitler's aims

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