

# ANSCHLUSS WITH AUSTRIA 1938

# C → B → A → A\* JUDGE

## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- Hitler had been born in Austria and one of his aims was to see **Germany and Austria unite** as one country.
- By 1938 Hitler was ready:
- Hitler bullied the Austrian Chancellor, Schuschnigg, into accepting a Nazi, **Seyss-Inquart**, as Minister of the Interior.
- Schuschnigg ordered a plebiscite (vote) to be held to find out if the people of Austria really wanted a union with Germany.
- Hitler feared a 'no' vote, so he moved troops to the Austrian border, & threatened to invade if Schuschnigg did not resign in favour of Seyss-Inquart.
- Seyss-Inquart became Chancellor & invited German troops into Austria.
- On 12 March 1938 the German army entered Vienna.

## EXPLAIN GRADE B

Hitler had once again broken the Treaty of Versailles. Britain, France did nothing. This was because:

- Hitler was Austrian and many Austrian people welcomed the *Anschluss*.
- In the **plebiscite** over 99% voted in favour of union with Germany. Though the plebiscite result was influenced by Nazi pressure, many Austrians greeted the union with support. They wanted to be a part of the glory and success of Hitler's Third Reich.
- There was a feeling among people in Britain that the Treaty of Versailles had been harsh on Germany & Britain should not defend it.
- Mussolini had not interfered because of the **Rome-Berlin Axis**.
- There was no opposition from Britain and France who were reluctant to take any action against Hitler which might cause war.

## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Hitler openly broke the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations let him
- Hitler's prestige soared - especially in Germany
- It was the first time Hitler had tried aggression outside Germany
- Hitler confidence grew.
- *Anschluss* was a great success for Hitler.
- He now looked towards Czechoslovakia to attempt the Sudetenland. as his next target, although he told the leaders of Britain and France that he had no interest in winning land in Czechoslovakia.



## CAN YOU SPELL?

Anschluss  
Seyss-Inquart  
Chancellor Schuschnigg  
plebiscite  
Austrian

