

# REARMAMENT 1935

# C → B → A → A\* JUDGE

The military terms of the Treaty of Versailles stated that:

- German army limited to 100,000 men
- Conscription not allowed.
- No submarines (No Unterseeboot/U-Boats).
- No aeroplanes.
- Only 6 battleships.
- No armoured vehicles (no tanks).
- Rhineland de-militarised.



## CAN YOU SPELL?

rearmament conscription  
Luftwaffe disarmament



## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- In 1932-33, 61 nations met at an international **disarmament conference** to discuss disarmament.
- In 1933 Hitler walked out of the conference when the other powers refused to disarm to Germany's level. This gave Hitler the legal justification to begin rearmament.
- Hitler also walked out of the **League of Nations** in 1933.
- In 1935 Hitler began building a new air force, the *Luftwaffe*.
- Germany began to **rearm**, introducing **conscription** in 1935.

## EXPLAIN GRADE B

- Rearmament breached the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Many in Britain felt that the Treaty of Versailles was unfair and needed to be revised.
- France were afraid of German recovery but would not act alone.
- Britain sympathised with Germany, France did not. Hitler took advantage of these differences.
- Soviet Russia, afraid of a strong Germany joined the League of Nations.
- Although Hitler often threatened to use force to achieve his aims, every time he acted against the treaty he followed it with promises of peace. Britain paid more attention to these promises than to the reversal of the treaty.
- 1934 **Ten year non-aggression pact** with Poland guaranteed the boundaries of Poland. Britain saw this as proof that Hitler's aims were peaceful.
- 1935 **Anglo-German Naval Agreement** - Britain agreed to Germany rearming but this agreement allowed Britain to limit the size of the German navy.

## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Hitler openly broke the Treaty of Versailles and got away with it
- Britain HELPED him, Anglo-German Naval Agreement - beginning of appeasement
- Not necessarily aggressive - Hitler said he only wanted them as a deterrent ... but he later used them to threaten and bully.
- Rearmament allows Hitler to achieve his Foreign Policy aims - he needed a strong army.

# SAAR RETURNED 1935

# C → B → A → A\* JUDGE

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles stated that:

- The League of Nations was to control the Saar for 15 years but France was to control the coalfields.

## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- The industrial area around the Saar was removed from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles and put under the control of the League of Nations.
- A plebiscite (vote) among the German people was to be held after 15 years to decide whether it should be returned to Germany.

## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- The Nazi Party celebrated the plebiscite result as a great victory.
- Greeted with huge celebration in Germany.
- One historian stated that, '*the greatest triumph of the Nazis in a free election*' = massive boost to Hitler's prestige.
- It showed that Germans outside Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles & loved Germany more than they feared Hitler.
- It gave moral authority to Hitler's claims on Austria/Sudetenland.
- The Nazi Party presented it as the first of the injustices of Versailles to be removed.
- The return of the Saar was not illegal. Hitler had kept within the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.



## EXPLAIN GRADE B

- In January 1935 90% of the people voted in favour of returning to Germany.
- 8% wanted to remain under the control of the League.
- 2% wanted to join France.
- The events in the Saar was not an example of Hitler breaking the Treaty of Versailles, or even of him confronting the international community, but they were a major step in his build up to World War Two.

## CAN YOU SPELL?

Saar plebiscite  
Treaty of Versailles



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS • LEAGUE OF NATIONS  
VOLKSABSTIMMUNGSKOMMISSION  
DES VÖLKERBUNDES

Beibehaltung der gegenwärtigen Rechtsordnung  
(Status quo)

Vereinigung mit Frankreich

Vereinigung mit Deutschland

DER ABSTIMMUNGSBERECHTIGTE MACHT  
EIN KREUZ (X) IN DIE WEISSE KREISFLÄCHE  
DES SEINER WAHL ENTSPRECHENDEN FELDES  
ZU SETZEN.

# RHINELAND REMILITARISED 1936

# C → B → A → A\* JUDGE

- The Treaty of Versailles **demilitarised the Rhineland** this meant that Germany would not be able to keep military forces in a 50km stretch of the Rhineland.
- Hitler resented this term because it made Germany vulnerable to invasion. Hitler was determined to rearm Germany and strengthen German borders.

## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- Whilst the rest of the world was watching Abyssinia, Hitler ordered his troops to occupy the Rhineland.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> March 1936 German troops moved back into the **Rhineland**.
- This was German territory but had been declared demilitarised at the Treaty of Versailles.
- This was a calculated risk by Hitler.
- It was a clear breach of the **Treaty of Versailles** and broke the terms of the Locarno Treaty.
- Hitler and his generals were nervous. It was a **bluff** - the German army had only 22,000 soldiers and had strict orders to retreat if they met any resistance.
- German troops were in no position to stand up to the French army if it reacted.

## EXPLAIN GRADE B

- There was no resistance because France was preoccupied with domestic problems and Britain was not keen to provoke Germany.
- *"Germany was only 'going into her own back garden'"* Lord Lothian.
- British government now believed that the Treaty of Versailles had been unfair. A righting of wrongs.
- Hitler's gamble paid off.
- The League of Nations condemned Hitler's action but did nothing about it.
- Hitler offered to make a peace treaty that would last for 25 years. This was his way of calming those countries that wanted peace.



## 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.
- Hitler's position strengthened & it increased his **confidence**.
- It was the start of a feeling that he would always get away with it (Britain & France would always back down) that led to WWII in the end.
- Led to the signing of the **Rome-Berlin Axis**.
- Encourages Hitler to try to reunite with Austria - *Anschluss*.

## CAN YOU SPELL?

Rhineland      Remilitarised  
Treaty of Versailles



# 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



# SUDETENLAND CRISIS & MUNICH AGREEMENT 1938

# C → B → A → A\* JUDGE



## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- Hitler wanted to expand into the area of **Czechoslovakia** known as the Sudetenland.
- **3 million German-speaking people** inhabited (lived in) the Sudetenland.
- The Sudetenland had strong, well fortified defences.
- Hitler ordered **Henlein**, the leader of the Sudeten Germans to stir up **trouble** in the Sudetenland and demand self-government and union with Germany.
- Hitler **threatened to invade Czechoslovakia** unless these demands were met.
- The British Prime Minister, **Neville Chamberlain**, believed a peaceful solution could be worked out.
- Chamberlain **persuaded** the Czech President Benes to agree to self-government for the Sudetenland.
- Hitler demanded more. Chamberlain returned to London & prepared for war.



## EXPLAIN GRADE B

- **Munich Agreement:** On 29-30 September 1938, Hitler met Chamberlain, Mussolini and the French Prime Minister, Daladier at Munich.
- Czechoslovakia and USSR were **not invited** to the meeting.
- In this meeting Hitler **promised** that he did not want the rest of Czechoslovakia.
- Czechoslovakia was **forced to hand over** the Sudetenland to Germany.
- Hitler & Chamberlain agreed to a declaration that Britain and Germany would never go to war again.

## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Chamberlain returned to Britain a hero. **Peace** had been maintained. He had **prevented war**, saying the agreement was '**Peace for our time**'.
- The results of Munich however were **serious** for Czechoslovakia & Europe as a whole.
- Czechoslovakia had been **betrayed & weakened**. Only a matter of time before Hitler took over the rest,
- Hitler had gained the Sudetenland without fighting.
- The Czech government was completely **humiliated**.
- Czechoslovakia was now **defenceless**: the Sudetenland contained its defences against Germany.
- Germany had gained armaments (Skoda tanks) and mineral resources (coal)
- Britain and France had again shown their **weakness** by giving way to Germany.
- Hitler decided that Britain and France were **afraid of him** and would not stop him whatever he did.
- Britain speeded up rearmament to prepare for war (they had gained a year but so did Hitler).
- USSR felt left out & betrayed → **Nazi-Soviet Pact**.

## CAN YOU SPELL?

Sudetenland Czechoslovakia  
Munich Agreement

# APPEASEMENT

C → B → A → A\* JUDGE

## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- Britain and France followed this policy in the mid- and late 1930s.
- It meant giving Hitler what he wanted on condition that he did not try to expand further.
- The two countries did not want war as they felt they were not strong enough.
- However, at the same time Britain and France began to rearm.
- In 1938 this policy appeared to be working, but by the end of 1939 it had been shown to be unsuccessful.
- Was the policy followed by Chamberlain justified?



## CAN YOU SPELL?

Appeasement  
Czechoslovakia

## EXPLAIN GRADE B

### Arguments Against Appeasement

- Appeasement was morally wrong. If Hitler used 'bullying tactics' it was up to Britain to oppose him.
- By following appeasement Britain betrayed the Austrians and the Czechs.
- Appeasement made Britain look weak and gave Hitler the confidence to step up his demands.
- Appeasement did not work because Hitler could not be trusted to keep his word.

### Arguments For Appeasement

- Britain was not ready to go to war and had to buy time to prepare.
- Germany was mistreated at Versailles and most of Hitler's demands were reasonable.
- War had to be avoided at all costs.
- Hitler was anti-communist and was doing a good job of restoring Germany, so he should be supported.
- By following the policy of appeasement Hitler was shown to be clearly in the wrong and a man not to be trusted, so the British people would not then hesitate to go to war.

## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Britain gained time to build up her armed forces - but so did Hitler.
- Hitler decided that Britain and France were afraid of him and would not stop him whatever he did - in this way appeasement encouraged Hitler to start WWII.
- Russia decided that Britain and France would never stand up to Hitler, and made the Nazi-Soviet Pact.
- It also improved the war morale of the British people, who knew they had done everything possible to avoid war.



## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- At Munich Czechoslovakia had lost 70% of its heavy industry and its defensive frontier.
- In October 1938 Poland gained Teschen from Czechoslovakia and Hungary also gained land. The Slovaks began to press for their independence.
- In March 1939, the Czech President Hacha, was forced to hand over what was left of **Czechoslovakia** to Hitler.
- Hitler marched in, claiming to be restoring order.
- Britain and France protested but did not oppose directly.
- Britain and France now abandoned their policy of appeasement realising that Hitler's promises made at Munich were worthless.
- They were rapidly rearming and were determined to stand up to future German demands.



## CAN YOU SPELL?

Czechoslovakia

## EXPLAIN GRADE B

- The occupation of Czechoslovakia marked the end of appeasement. Hitler could not justify taking Czechoslovakia. There were no German speaking people there & no demand from the people to join Germany. Hitler could not argue that he was reversing the wrongs of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Hitler had proved to Chamberlain that he could not be trusted. Chamberlain was personally upset that Hitler had broken not only the **Munich Agreement** but also the promise he had made personally with Chamberlain to consult Britain before taking action that could lead to war.
- Lithuania was forced to surrender Memel which had a mostly German population.

## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Britain did not help Czechoslovakia but supported by France, signed an agreement with Poland promising to help if Poland was invaded.
- Mussolini, Hitler's ally conquered Albania.
- Britain guaranteed the independence of Romania and Greece.
- Conscription was introduced into Britain during peace time.
- Hitler strengthened his relationship with Mussolini by signing the **Pact of Steel**.
- Hitler withdrew Germany's **non-aggression pact** of 1934 with Poland and the **Anglo-German Naval Agreement** of 1935.
- Russia decided that Britain and France would never stand up to Hitler, and made the **Nazi-Soviet Pact**.

# NAZI-SOVIET PACT 1939

# C → B → A → A\* JUDGE

## DESCRIBE GRADE C

- Poland was Hitler's next target.
- In April Hitler demanded the return of the port of **Danzig** and the **Polish Corridor**.
- Britain and France signed an alliance with Poland; Poland refused Hitler's demands.
- Hitler's policy of **Lebensraum** involved conquering territory east of Germany, including the USSR. Because of his hatred of communism he would almost certainly attack the USSR.
- Poland was as much afraid of an invasion from the USSR as it was from Germany
- The future of Poland now depended on the attitude of the Soviet Union.
- Britain and France reluctantly opened talks with Stalin, the Soviet leader, but were very surprised when the **Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact** was signed on 23 August 1939.
- The **world was shocked** when, on 23 August 1939, the two countries signed the **Nazi-Soviet Pact**.

## EXPLAIN GRADE B

- This Pact guaranteed that the Soviets and Germany would not fight each other in the event of war in Europe.
- In **secret** both powers agreed to divide up Polish territory should war occur.
- Both countries agreed not to attack each other and through a series of secret clauses they **divided Poland** between them. Germany was to attack Poland from the west, the USSR to attack from the east.
- Hitler was sure Britain and France would not carry out their promise to Poland - why should they, they had backed down over Czechoslovakia? He felt free to attack Poland.
- Why did the USSR sign the Pact? Their leader, **Stalin**, appeared to run out of patience with Britain's failure to sign an agreement with them. He had been annoyed when left out of the discussions at Munich and was suspicious that Britain and France were trying to direct Hitler's attention to the east and away from the west.

## CAN YOU SPELL?

Nazi-Soviet Pact	<i>Lebensraum</i>
Non-Aggression	Stalin

## ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- Freed up Hitler to invade Poland - he knew that Britain couldn't do anything to defend Poland (he invaded 9 days later).
- Hitler's attack on Poland was inevitable.
- Hitler presumed that the pact would prevent Britain from opposing his attack on Poland. He thought Britain would back down as it had at Munich, especially as Danzig was German & the Polish Corridor separated Germany from East Prussia.
- Ended Britain's hopes of an alliance with Russia to stop Hitler - people in Britain realised that nothing would stop Hitler now but war.
- Improved morale of British people for war - showed Hitler as an opportunist and a trickster, who could never be trusted.
- The anger at Russia was to become a cause of the Cold War.
- The Nazi-Soviet Pact brought war closer.
- The **German army invaded Poland on 1 September 1939**.
- Chamberlain tried to get them to withdraw and hold a peace conference.
- This failed, and on 3 September Britain declared war on Germany, followed shortly after by France.



RENDEZVOUS