

GCSE



CCEA GCSE TEACHER GUIDANCE

History

Unit 1 Section A Option 1:
Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–45

Resource Pack:
Germany at war – Life in Germany
during World War II

Option 1: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–45

Introduction to Resource Pack

This pack has been developed to help support the teaching and learning of *Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45* and, in particular, content new to this option: *Germany at war: Life in Germany during World War II.* The specification content for this topic is:

Life in Germany during World War II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the impact of the war on the German people• air raids and bombing• total war and rationing• labour shortages and the role of women in the workplace
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For each activity, there is a *teacher guidance* section as well as *instructions for students*. Some brief background information for each activity is also provided. Each activity provides opportunities to develop the statutory skills requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 4 as well as the skills students will be expected to demonstrate in the examination for this option:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1); and
- explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second-order historical concepts including continuity, change, cause, consequence, significance, similarity and difference (AO2).

Background to topic

The early period of the war, 1939-41, was successful for the German army and there was little ill-effect on the civilian population. Successful Blitzkrieg tactics meant that Germany was able to take resources from conquered territories such as Poland, Holland and Belgium. While rationing was introduced many people actually ate better during the war than before. During this early period, Allied bombing was confined to military and industrial targets, although the government did take the precaution of moving women and children to the countryside in 1940. It was not until February 1942, that the focus of Allied bombings changed to 'area bombing' which made no distinction between combatants and non-combatants. Therefore from 1942 onwards, the Allied bombing campaign intensified with German cities attacked both day and night by the RAF and USAAF. The impact this had on the German people was significant - evacuations to the countryside became even more of a necessity, as did the need for replacement housing. Both of these created discontent amongst the German people. Class and religious tensions emerged and the population experienced a drop in morale. Families were separated with male workers remaining in the cities and mothers and their children moved to the countryside. The situation was made worse by the fact that throughout the duration of the war the government failed to address the lack of adequate housing. In addition to this, 800,000 civilian lives were lost as a result of the Allied bombing campaigns and, as morale declined, increasingly repressive tactics were used by the Nazi regime. However, although the German people became increasingly 'war weary' the Allied bombing campaigns did not succeed in fully breaking their will.

The introduction of a rationing system before the war began had improved the daily diet of many German people. The Nazi regime was generally reluctant to make significant changes to the civilian population's normal consumption levels for fear of increasing anti-war sentiment. As a result of this early planning, the rationing system worked effectively between 1939 and 1941 and it was not until 1945 that the German people experienced severe food shortages as a result of the ongoing war.

The shortage of labour proved a problem for the Nazi government during the war. The most obvious solution was to employ women within the industrial sector. However, Nazi ideology was opposed to such a move and as a result, the number of German female workers in industry actually declined between 1939 and 1941. As the war progressed, the need for industrial labour grew. The government issued decrees in 1941 and 1943 which sought to recruit childless women between the ages of 17 and 45 into the workforce. Despite these tentative measures the government relied on foreign labour for much of the war and it was not until the summer of 1944 that women were recruited into the labour workforce on a much larger scale. In addition from 1943 onwards, women were also conscripted into auxiliary roles in the armed forces.

Activity One

Title: Life in Germany during World War II

Key Question: How did the war years affect the morale of the German people?

Instructions for Students

- * **THINK** – consider the information you have already been taught in class on Life in Germany during World War II. Mind Map significant events during the war which you think would have affected the morale of German people.
- * **PAIR** – share your ideas with a partner and add at least three events to your Mind Map from your partner’s list.
- * **SHARE** – share your ideas with the whole class – your teacher will guide you through this.
- * **DEVELOP** – uses the template of events (Template A) provided and, with your partner, discuss each event in chronological order. Decide whether the event increased or decreased morale and support for the war and colour code these on your handout. (For example – highlight all the events which increased morale in yellow and all those which decreased morale in blue).
- * Plot these events and their impact on a Living Graph (Template B).
- * Discuss your findings with other members of your class and reach a consensus on the overall impact the war had on the lives of the German people.

Teacher Guidance

- * Teachers may edit the prepared list to include additional points.
- * Print a copy of each template for students to use.
- * To differentiate, teachers could distribute specific events to different groups depending on ability, rather than each group considering each event on the list.
- * Teachers could engage the class in a debate as a way to structure the class discussion at the end of the task.

Activity One

Template A – Germany at war

<i>September 1939</i>	<i>Invasion of Poland France and Britain declare war on Germany Wage reductions imposed on German workers</i>
<i>October 1939</i>	<i>Defeat of Poland</i>
<i>Winter 1939-Spring 1940</i>	<i>Severe winter due to coal shortages</i>
<i>Spring- Summer 1940</i>	<i>Victory over Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium</i>
<i>July 1940</i>	<i>Britain refuses Hitler's offer of peace</i>
<i>August 1940</i>	<i>Bombing of Berlin by RAF began</i>
<i>Winter 1940</i>	<i>Coal shortages, rising prices</i>
<i>June 1941</i>	<i>Invasion of USSR</i>
<i>Winter 1941</i>	<i>Initial announcements of victory against USSR Rising casualty figures Military setbacks at Stalingrad</i>
<i>March 1942</i>	<i>Start of mass bombing campaign against German cities by the Allies</i>
<i>January 1943</i>	<i>German defeat at Stalingrad</i>
<i>February 1943</i>	<i>Engagement of German nation in 'Total War'</i>
<i>June 1944</i>	<i>Allied landings in Normandy</i>
<i>May 1945</i>	<i>German surrender</i>

Activity One

Template B – Living graph

How did the war years affect the morale of the German people?



Activity Two

Title: Life in Germany during World War II

Key Question: What impact did the war have on the German people?

Instructions for Students

- * Step One – you will be given a piece of paper with a statement written on it. When instructed, move around the room and share your statement with other students.
- * Step Two – write down the statements you hear from other members of your class in the space provided under your own statement.
- * Step Three – your teacher will put you into groups depending on the theme of the original statement you received. As a group, decide how your factor affected the German people during the war.
- * Step Four – designate a spokesperson for your group – they will share your group’s ideas with the class.
- * Step Five – with your teacher’s guidance – complete the Consider all Factors template. List the factors under the left hand column and make a judgement about its impact in the right hand column.

Teacher Guidance

- * Print out the cards (Template C) for students to use. You may wish to enlarge the template to A3 in order to provide students with more writing space.
- * Students move around the room, sharing and collating ideas/statements from other members of the class.
- * Divide the students into three groups using the following headings – rationing/labour shortages and the role of women/air raids and bombing.
- * Invite students to discuss the different opinions and work on a summary of ideas related to their particular focus (rationing/labour shortages and the role of women/air raids and bombing) to share with the class.
- * Guide students in completing their Consider all Factors template (Template D). Under each factor (left hand column), key points should be noted and then an impact judgement should be made in the right hand side column.
- * An overall summary of the impact of the war on the German people can be included in the bottom section of the template.

Activity Two

Template C

Impact of rationing cards

<p><i>Between 1939–1941 rationing worked resulting in no serious food shortage.</i></p>	<p><i>There were numerous shortages of coal and shoes during the war.</i></p>
<p><i>The introduction of rationing ensured that everyone ate a balanced diet initially. Many people ate even better during the war.</i></p>	<p><i>By 1945 there were severe food shortages in Germany.</i></p>
<p><i>The Nazi regime redistributed food supplies from newly conquered territories for the German people.</i></p>	

Template C

Impact of labour shortages and the role of women in the workplace cards

<p><i>Unwillingness to employ women to work in industry because of Nazi ideology</i></p>	<p><i>1941 – Decree issued that all women who were given family allowance benefit and who had given up employment but produced no children would have to register for work again</i></p>
<p><i>1943 – Decree issued that all women between the ages of 17-45 would have to register to work</i></p>	<p><i>1943 – Many exemptions to work decree- pregnant women, mothers of two or more children, farmers' wives</i></p>
<p><i>As the situation worsened, more and more women were recruited into the labour force</i></p>	<p><i>From 1943 onwards, women were conscripted into auxiliary roles in the armed forces</i></p>
<p><i>The number of German women workers in industry declined between 1939-41</i></p>	

Template C

Impact of air raids and bombing cards

<i>1942 – Allied mass bombing campaign. RAF attacked German cities by night, USAAF attacked by day</i>	<i>Around 800,000 civilians were killed by Allied bombing raids</i>
<i>Around 50 per cent of the bombs fell on residential areas, and 12 per cent on factories and war industries</i>	<i>Evacuation of women and children from cities commenced in 1942</i>
<i>Housing shortages became a major issue for German people during the war</i>	<i>The Nazi regime turned increasingly towards repressive tactics for those citizens who demonstrated a ‘defeatist’ attitude</i>
<i>Despite frequent bombing, workers continued to attend their place of work until the end of 1944</i>	<i>Bombing campaigns did not break the German people’s morale entirely</i>

Activity Two

Template D – Consider all Factors

What impact did the war have on the German people?

Air raids and bombing

What impact did the war have on the German people?

Rationing

What impact did the war have on the German people?

*Labour shortages and the
role of women in the
workplace*

What impact did the war have on the German people?

Overall, I think that...