

HITLER'S RISE TO POWER INTERACTIVE

Sample Answer

How did Hitler establish his dictatorship in Germany 1933-1934? [12 marks]

Although Hitler became the chancellor in January 1933, it must be remembered that he was not a dictator straight away. At first he had to work closely with Hindenburg and had no real power. Other restrictions on Hitler's power were that he only had 2 other Nazis in the cabinet, he didn't have a majority in the Reichstag and Von Papen, his vice-Chancellor was supposed to be 'keeping an eye' on Hitler. However within two years, Hitler had become Fuhrer and was in complete control of Germany.

The first event that helped Hitler to become a dictator was the Reichstag Fire. On the 27th of February 1933 the Reichstag is burnt down. A Dutch communist was found at the scene with fire starting equipment. Hitler used the opportunity and blamed the communists and showed everyone how dangerous they were and by the next day 4,000 communists had been arrested.

The next day Hindenburg issued Article 48 emergency decree for the protection of people and the state. This meant Hitler could arrest anyone he wanted without trial. Hindenburg said it was to protect from the KPD (the communists).

Hitler had previously managed to convince Hindenburg to have new elections for the Reichstag. These elections took place on 5 March 1933, a week after the Reichstag Fire. The Nazis gained 288 seats and the communists lost support. Although the Nazis did very well in these elections, he did not get enough votes for a majority in the Reichstag.

Hitler's next step on his road to dictatorship was to pass the Enabling Law. This helped him to become a dictator because the law gave him the power to make his own laws for 4 years. He banned other parties and closed the Reichstag down.

Hitler then dealt with the SA. On the 30 of June 1934, Hitler organised the assassination of 400 SA leader on the Night of the Long Knives. Hitler realised that Rohm had a lot of power. By weakening them, he removed any possible opposition and also strengthened his dictatorship.

There were other ways in which Hitler became a dictator.

Germany became a police state run by the SA and Gestapo.

Germany was ruled by fear and terror with concentration camps, censorship and propaganda.

Finally, in August 1934, Hindenburg died and Hitler appointed himself president of Germany and merges chancellor and president into the same role of 'Führer' this is when Germany became a dictatorship and Hitler made the army swear an oath that they would serve him and only him.

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Peer Assessment Sample Answer Mark Grid

<u>What to look for</u>	✓ ☒	<u>What to look for</u>	✓ ☒	<u>Your overall Assessment</u>
Is there an introduction and conclusion?		Does it reach the word limit of at least 300 words?		<p><u>Study the mark scheme carefully</u></p> <p>1. What was good about the answer?</p> <p>2. What level would you award this answer at?</p> <p>3. What mark within the level would you give it?</p> <p>4. Say why you gave it this level and mark?</p> <p>5. How would you improve this answer?</p>
Does it give reasons why Hitler was able to establish his dictatorship?		Are paragraphs (rather than lists, headings or bullet points) used?		
Does it <u>explain</u> reasons why Hitler was able to establish his dictatorship?		Does it use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar?		
Does it <u>link</u> any reasons why Hitler was able to establish his dictatorship?		Does it provide detailed factual evidence (e.g. dates, name of individuals, references to specific events)?		