
Assessment Rubric for a To What Extent Question

Categories	Incomplete/Does Not Meet Expectations 1	Approaching Expectations 2	Meeting Expectations 3	Exceeding Expectations 4
Sophisticated Criteria for the Topic are Defined and Used to come to Conclusions	Criteria is not defined or used to come to conclusions in the argument presented.	Some criteria is developed. Criteria is simplistic and undeveloped. Does not help student make a decision on the topic.	Good amount of criteria is included. Some criteria is not sophisticated or developed enough to help the student make a reasonable decision on the topic.	Good amount of criteria is developed. Criteria is sophisticated and helps the student make a reasonable decision on the topic.
Main Arguments are Reasonable and Plausible	No arguments are provided, or arguments are completely lacking logic, reason, or plausibility.	Some of the main arguments are lacking logic, reason or plausibility.	Thesis position is plausible. One of the arguments is lacking logic, reason or plausibility.	Thesis position and main arguments are logical, reasonable and plausible.
Supporting Arguments are Fully Explained and Supported by Relevant and Accurate Evidence	Supporting arguments are not explained or supported by relevant and accurate evidence.	Several of the supporting arguments are not fully explained, or lack relevant and accurate evidence.	Most of the supporting arguments are fully explained and include relevant and accurate evidence.	Supporting arguments are fully explained and include relevant and accurate evidence.
Answering a "To What Extent" Question	Only one side of the question is presented with no consideration for the opposite position.	One side of the argument is fully explained, but the opposite position is not discussed, yet it is clear that it was considered by the language used in defending the position presented.	The opposite side to the argument being presented is briefly touched upon.	Careful consideration of both sides of the argument are presented, which helps to strengthen the position the student is representing in the paragraph.

Total: /16 marks



How significant was the drive for rearmament 1936–9?

FOCUS ROUTE

- 1 Why was the Four-Year-Plan created in 1936?
- 2 What were the successes and failures of the autarky programme?
- 3 Explain the role of Goering in the economy.
- 4 How significant was the drive for rearmament during 1936–9?

Why did Hitler establish the Four-Year Plan in 1936?

The year 1936 marked a major turning point in the Nazi economy. Hitler's initial policies had clearly been successful. Confidence was restored and unemployment had been reduced to 1.6 million, so millions of Germans were benefiting. The question now was how to progress. Schacht, who had initially accepted the need for a large increase in public expenditure to reflate the economy and finance rearmament, was becoming increasingly concerned at the distortion of the economy due to rearmament. Severe strains due to a budget deficit and increasing balance of payments problems were occurring. Schacht wanted to encourage exports and slow the increase in arms expenditure. Hitler became impatient with Schacht's caution and on 4 September 1936 put Goering in charge of a new economic organisation, the Office of the Four-Year Plan.

The plan aimed to make Germany ready for war within four years. Priority had to be given to rearmament, and Germany had to be made as self-sufficient as possible in food and industrial production, a policy known as autarky. Emphasis was placed on the development of raw materials and machinery production, providing the base for the later concentration on arms production, ready for war in the mid 1940s. Goering, the Commander-in-Chief of the LUFTWAFFE, now became the major economic figure in Germany. As head of the Four-Year Plan he presided over a vast new organisation, typically cutting across existing economic ministries. The Office of the Four-Year Plan intervened throughout the economy, issuing a series of regulations controlling foreign exchange, labour, raw materials, prices, etc., thus creating a managed economy. The government set overall targets that private industry had to meet.

SOURCE 12.20 An extract from the Four-Year Plan Memorandum, August 1936

I thus set the following tasks:

I The German armed forces must be operational within four years.

II The German economy must be fit for war within four years.

[Underlined by Hitler] . . . The extent of the military development of our resources cannot be too large, nor its pace too swift.

How successful was the policy of autarky?

Autarky means economic self-sufficiency, that is a country providing all its economic needs within itself, and thus not being dependent upon imports. Hitler considered this crucial for a country geared for war to avoid the damage inflicted by an economic blockade.

Total autarky is very hard to achieve and it was not envisaged that Germany would be totally self-sufficient. It would, however, lose its dependence on other countries for key commodities. This was initially to be achieved by:

- increasing Germany's own production of key commodities, such as iron and food
- developing ersatz (substitute) products, for example developing Buna (artificial rubber) from acetylene to replace rubber imports, and using coal to produce oil.

However, it took 6 tons of coal to produce 1 ton of oil. By 1939 Germany still depended on foreign imports for one-third of its raw materials, especially iron ore, oil and rubber. Gradually, another method of 'self-sufficiency' was given more stress: conquering other countries to use their resources (for example, Austrian iron and eventually Russian grain).

ACTIVITY

Explain, with reference to content and provenance, what can be inferred about the success of autarky from Sources 12.21–4.

SOURCE 12.21 Figures from the Four-Year Plan launched in 1936

Commodity	Actual output (in thousands of tons)			
	1936	1938	1942	Four-Year Plan target
Oil	1,790	2,340	6,260	13,830
Aluminium	98	166	260	273
Buna rubber	1	5	96	120
Nitrogen	770	914	930	1,040
Explosives	18	45	300	323
Steel	19,216	22,656	20,480	24,000
Iron ore	2,255	3,360	4,137	5,549
Brown coal	161,382	194,985	245,918	240,500
Hard coal	158,400	186,186	166,059	213,000

SOURCE 12.22 Percentage of major foodstuffs produced within Germany

	1927–8	1933–4	1938–9
Grain	79	99	115
Potatoes	96	100	100
Vegetables	84	90	91
Meat	91	98	97
Fats	44	53	57
All food	68	80	83

SOURCE 12.23 A joke circulating in Germany in the late 1930s

A would-be suicide buys a length of rope with which to hang himself but the rope snaps. He jumps into the river, but is kept floating on the surface by the wood in his clothes. Thereupon, he decides to live, only to starve to death after four weeks on normal consumer rations.

SOURCE 12.24 In his book *Account Rendered* (written in 1949), Schacht comments on Goering's approach in 1936

Goering set out with all the folly and incompetence of the amateur to carry out the programme of economic self-sufficiency, or autarky envisaged in the Four-Year Plan. Hitler had given him as chief of the Four-Year Plan operations an order to extend his own influence over economic policy, which he did not find difficult, since he was now of course in a position to place really large contracts ... On December 17th 1936 Goering informed a meeting of big industrialists that it was no longer a question of producing economically but simply producing.

■ **Learning trouble spot**

The Four-Year Plan and the timing of war

Students often put too much stress on 1940 as the final year of the Four-Year Plan preparing Germany for war. In fact, Hitler considered a major war for German control of Europe would be more likely in 1942–3, not 1940. The Four-Year Plan was not based on a plan for a specific war in 1940, but was part of a series of plans aiming at readiness for a major war by the mid 1940s. The first plan had been drawn up in 1933 to tackle unemployment.

ACTIVITY

- 1 How significant a shift was the adoption of the Four-Year Plan in 1936?
- 2 Britain and Germany went to war in September 1939; the USA in December 1941. What can be inferred about their attitudes to war from the figures for spending on rearmament by these countries in peacetime?
- 3 What do the comparative figures for production during the war suggest about the organisation of the countries?

What was the impact of Germany's drive for rearmament?

As early as 1935 Hitler put extra resources into industries related to rearmament and this contributed to both economic recovery and balance-of-payments problems. From 1936, with the Four-Year Plan, rearmament became the main focus of the German economy.

Hitler's stress on military requirements was another sign of the gradual radicalisation occurring in the regime. International comparisons (see Source 12.25) illustrate Germany's great stress on rearmament. However, Hitler was unable to subordinate all other areas to the rearmament drive as the tension between 'guns and butter' illustrates (see Learning trouble spot below). Furthermore, as we shall see, the regime faced considerable problems in military supplies when war broke out in 1939.

SOURCE 12.25 Gross National Product and military expenditure in Germany, the USA and Britain, 1929–45

Year	Germany			USA			Great Britain		
	GNP (RMb)	Military expenditure (RMb)	% GNP	GNP (\$b)	Military expenditure (\$b)	% GNP	National Income* (£b)	Military expenditure (£b)	% NI
1929	89	0.8	1	104	0.7	1	4.2	0.1	2
1932	58	0.8	1	59	0.6	1	–	0.1	–
1934	67	4.1	6	65	0.7	1	3.9	0.1	3
1936	83	10.8	13	83	0.9	1	4.4	0.2	5
1938	105	17.2	17	85	1.0	1	4.8	0.4	8
1940	141	53.0	38	101	2.2	2	6.0	3.2	53
1942	165	91.0	55	159	49.6	31	7.5	4.8	64
1943	184	112.0	61	193	80.4	42	8.0	5.0	63

*Britain's GNP was about £1b above national income, so % of GNP estimates would be lower than national income, e.g. 1938 7%, 1942 57%.
Note: 1940–3 figures for Germany include Austria and Sudetenland

Historians talk much about the fats problem in the Nazi economy. This is a reference to the comparative shortage of fats, both for consumption for example butter, margarine, lard for use in cooking and eating, and for industrial purposes, such as grease for weapons. So fats could be classified as both 'butter and guns'.

Learning trouble spot**Did the Nazis favour guns or butter?**

The phrase 'guns or butter' relates to the tension between putting economic resources into rearmament and supplying consumer goods, especially food fats, to German consumers. No one actually argued for total concentration on one to the abandonment of the other, but there was a debate about priorities. The issue also arouses controversy amongst historians. Originally, it was assumed that Hitler could afford to give priority to guns and neglect butter, since he was the all-powerful ruler of a repressed population. However, as we have seen, many historians now challenge this view of a powerful totalitarian state. Several argue that Hitler was wary of squeezing domestic consumption too far, and that he was concerned to ensure good supplies of butter as well as guns.

The Marxist historian Mason has argued that this need to try to supply both hindered the rearmament programme and made Germany less prepared for war than it would otherwise have been. Different interpretations of economic statistics also lead to divergent opinions on the guns-and-butter issue. Some historians argue that war preparation was a fairly insignificant part of the economy during 1933–9, and that Hitler was only planning for a minor war. Overy has convincingly argued that the key point is to distinguish between the period 1933–6, when public works and a revival of consumer demand were more important in economic recovery, and the period after 1936 when rearmament needs predominated as Hitler geared the whole economy to war.

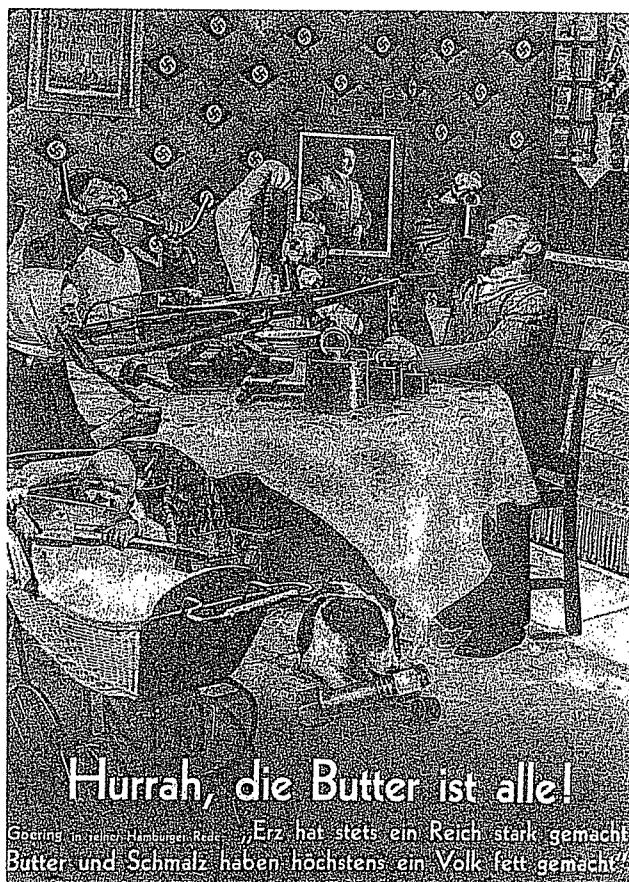
12C The options: guns or butter?

	Butter (i.e. more stress on consumer goods)	Guns (i.e. more stress on rearmament)
Advocates	Schacht Industrialists, e.g. Krupp* Military*	Goering
Strategy	Develop consumer goods Develop exports Limited rearmament Links with other countries	Major rearmament Autarky, siege economy

*Although industrialists like Krupp were to do very well from Hitler's war-based economy, they initially favoured a more traditional policy. Similarly, most generals advocated caution in foreign policy and over rearmament, and were wary of Hitler's grand aims.

SOURCE 12.26

'Hurrah, the butter is finished!': a cartoon by John Heartfield that appeared in the banned Communist magazine *AIZ* (Workers' Illustrated Paper) in December 1935. It was inspired by a speech by Goering in which he said: 'Would you rather have butter or guns? Shall we bring in lard or iron ore? I tell you, guns make us powerful. Butter only makes us fat'



ACTIVITY

- 1 Explain the point Heartfield is making in Source 12.26.
- 2 Look at the photograph of Goering below. Do you think his comment would be universally appreciated?



Hermann Goering (1893–1946): economic dictator

Born into a Bavarian gentry family, Goering was decorated for bravery as a fighter pilot in the First World War. In 1922 he joined the Nazi Party, becoming a commander of the SA and was wounded during the 1923 Munich Putsch. Elected to the Reichstag in 1928, he became its presiding officer in 1932. He used his contacts with elite circles to reconcile them to the possibility of a Nazi government. As one of the original three Nazi ministers, he played a crucial role in the Nazi consolidation of power as Minister without Portfolio, Prussian Minister and Interior Minister; he organised the terror that swept Germany in 1933 and the Berlin action in the Night of the Long Knives in 1934.

Goering lived a life of luxury. His first wife, a Swedish aristocrat, died in 1931. In 1935 he married the actress Emmy Sonnemann. Fat, glamorous and charming, he enjoyed his power and wealth, sometimes changing his clothes five times a day. His extravagance and sexual activity were the focus of much humour in the Nazi state.

In 1935 he was made Commander-in-Chief of the new Luftwaffe and in 1936 Commissioner Plenipotentiary for the Four-Year Plan. Although he had no experience or expertise in business, he became the economic dictator of Germany. In November 1937 he became Economics Minister and founded the Reichswerke Hermann Goering (see page 228). In 1939 he was named Hitler's successor, but when his Luftwaffe failed to stop the RAF bombing Germany his influence declined. At the Nuremberg trials in 1945–6 he was found guilty on all charges but killed himself with cyanide the day before his execution. His body was burnt in a Dachau oven.