



Simple essay style

Below is a sample Part (a) exam-style question. Use your own knowledge and the information on the opposite page to produce a plan for this question. Choose four general points, and provide three pieces of specific information to support each general point. Once you have planned your essay, write the introduction and conclusion for the essay. The introduction should list the points to be discussed in the essay. The conclusion should summarise the key points and justify which point was the most important.

How widespread was opposition to the Nazi regime during the Second World War?



Develop the detail

a

Below are a sample Part (a) exam-style question and a paragraph written in answer to this question. The paragraph contains a limited amount of detail. Annotate the paragraph to add additional detail to the answer.

'Opposition to the Nazi regime had no significant impact on civilian morale during the Second World War.' How far do you agree with this opinion?

Left-wing opposition to the Nazi regime failed to have a serious impact on civilian morale during the Second World War. Robert Uhrig established resistance cells. Other socialists organised in other localities. The communists also set up anti-Nazi groups to collect information. Nonetheless, these groups were largely ineffective. Nazi intelligence services were successful in breaking up left-wing groups. The success of Nazi intelligence agencies meant that left-wing groups were unable to get their message across to the public, and therefore these groups had little impact on civilian morale during the war.

How efficient was the Nazi war economy?

Fighting the war placed enormous strains on the German economy and labour force.

The German economy during the early part of the war

Early on in the war, Hitler sought to dramatically expand the German war economy and issued a series of **decrees** to increase war production. Between 1939 and 1941, German military expenditure doubled. By 1941, 55 per cent of the workforce was involved in war-related projects. Despite these efforts, however, German productivity was disappointing and below that of their enemies. Britain produced twice as many aircraft as Germany in 1941 and the USSR 2600 more tanks. The chaotic organisation of the Nazi state hindered economic efficiency, as the various bodies responsible did not co-ordinate effectively. During the war, the Office of the Four Year Plan, various parts of the SS, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Armaments and the armed forces all had responsibility for armaments production whilst, at a local level, the powerful **Gauleiters** often interfered with economic plans.

The appointment of Speer

To try to resolve these difficulties, Fritz Todt, head of the Ministry of Armaments, simplified the production of armaments in January 1942. Industry was now directed to increase productivity. Hitler sought to further improve matters by appointing his trusted confidant, Albert Speer, as Minister of Munitions in February 1942 following Todt's death. In September 1943, Speer's powers were extended when he was given responsibility for all industry and raw materials as Minister for Armaments and Production.

Speer took a number of actions including:

- developing the work of Todt in establishing a Central Planning Board to co-ordinate economic organisation, while also giving industry more freedom to develop
- trying to exclude the military from economic planning
- encouraging the employment of women (with limited success)
- using concentration camp prisoners as labour
- preventing the conscription of skilled workers
- deploying production lines
- encouraging the standardisation of armaments and establishing an Armaments Commission to oversee this.

Speer had considerable success, as ammunition production rose by 97 per cent, tank production by 25 per cent and total arms production by 59 per cent. Between 1942 and 1944 German war production trebled. Raw materials were also used more efficiently and productivity per worker increased by 60 per cent in munitions.

The shortcomings of Goering

One of the reasons why the Nazi war economy performed so badly was the shortcomings of Goering. Hitler had appointed Goering as **Plenipotentiary** for the Office of the Four Year Plan in 1936. Consequently, he gave Goering almost limitless authority over the economy. However, Goering made strategic mistakes in economic planning. For example, he refused to introduce mass production into the aircraft industry and he wasted resources producing **ersatz** goods when cheaper imports were available. From 1939, Goering's morphine addiction was so severe that he was unable to work effectively. He spent most of the war neglecting his duties, collecting art from conquered territories, binging on chocolate, shopping in Paris, and fuelling his drug addiction.



Eliminate irrelevance

a

Below are a sample Part (a) exam-style question and a paragraph written in answer to this question. Read the paragraph and identify parts of the paragraph that are not directly relevant to the question. Draw a line through the information that is irrelevant and justify your deletions in the margin.

'The German war economy was inefficient for the duration of the Second World War.' How far do you agree with this opinion?

In the early part of the Second World War there is no doubt that the German war economy was highly inefficient. There were some successes. For example, between 1939 and 1941 Germany military expenditure doubled, and by 1941, 55 per cent of the workforce was involved in military production of some sort. However, in spite of these efforts, German productivity lagged behind the productivity of Britain and Russia. The British were able to produce twice as many aircraft in 1941 as the Germans. This was a major embarrassment to Herman Goering, the Chief of the Luftwaffe, who had staked his reputation on the success of his airforce. Additionally, the Russians were able to produce many more tanks than the Germans. However, it should be noted that, before June 1941, Russia and Germany were not at war, having signed a non-aggression pact in 1939. This lack of productivity can be explained by the chaotic organisation of the Nazi war economy, which was characterised by competing, overlapping organisations with no effective co-ordination. Historians have called this type of organisation 'polycratic'. In this way, the German war economy was certainly inefficient in the early years of the Second World War, because German productivity lagged behind that of other major powers.



Developing an argument

Below are a sample Part (a) exam-style question, a list of key points to be made in the essay, and a paragraph from the essay. Read the question, the plan, and the sample paragraph. Rewrite the paragraph in order to develop an argument. Your paragraph should explain why the factor discussed in the paragraph is either the most significant factor or less significant than another factor.

To what extent were the inadequacies of the German war economy primarily due to Hitler's refusal to mobilise women?

Key points:

- Hitler's refusal to mobilise women
- The inefficiency of the Nazi state
- Allied bombing raids
- Shortages of labour and raw materials

Sample paragraph

One reason for the inadequacies of the German war economy was the inefficiency of the Nazi state. For example, at the outbreak of war, in 1939, there were several agencies that had control of the Nazi economy. The Todt Organisation was responsible for the production of armaments, as was the Minister of Armaments and the Office of the Four Year Plan. The Ministry of Economics, under Walther Funk, was responsible for the general economic policy of Germany, as was the Office of the Four Year Plan under Hermann Goering. The SS was responsible for the economies of the newly conquered territories. Consequently, it had control of large reserves of manpower and raw materials. Yet, there was no co-ordinating body to ensure that the SS, the Office of the Four Year Plan, the Ministry of Economics, the Todt Organisation, or the Ministry of Armaments worked together. In this way, the inefficiency of the Nazi state played a role in the inadequacies of the German war economy, because it made it impossible to administer the economy effectively.

The failures of the war economy

Although German production levels increased, Germany was still out-produced by the USA and crucially also by the Soviet Union. In the end, despite the improvements in efficiency that Speer had put in place, the failures of the war economy contributed to Germany's defeat. There are a number of reasons for this:

- The state remained chaotic with some Gauleiters and the SS often acting against economic efficiency.
- Labour shortages held the economy back:
 - Unlike in the Soviet Union, Britain and the USA, women were not fully mobilised.
 - There was a heavy reliance on foreign workers (of whom there were 6.4 million by 1942). These were often little more than badly treated and underfed slave labourers; as a result their productivity was 60–80 per cent lower than that of the average German worker.
- Shortages of raw materials, such as coal and oil, were a problem of the war economy: the production of ersatz materials did not fully compensate for this.
- Germany needed the raw materials of the countries that they conquered in order to fight a major war, but the destructive manner of their conquest was not conducive to the effective exploitation of these resources. The SS were often more preoccupied with implementing racial policy than effectively organising the territory that they held and plunder did not amount to efficient economic organisation.
- Supply of some materials, such as iron ore and magnesium, did improve as other countries were overrun but in the Soviet Union, Stalin's **scorched earth policy** hindered the Nazis: in the Donbass region of the Ukraine, the output of Soviet coal mines was only five per cent of pre-war levels in 1942, for example.
- Allied bombing reduced the capacity of the German economy to expand further: industry was targeted and the Germans had to divert crucial resources towards **defensive** measures.

Women workers

Nazi ideology and policy had encouraged women to stay at home and raise children. Despite this, 52 per cent of German women worked at the time of the outbreak of war. The failure to actually conscript women or organise a campaign to increase their participation, combined with the already fairly high level of female employment meant that increasing the labour supply via the use of women workers did not really occur.



Spectrum of significance

Below are a sample Part (a) exam-style question and a list of general points which could be used to answer the question. Use your own knowledge and the information on the opposite page to reach a judgement about the importance of these general points to the question posed. Write numbers on the spectrum below to indicate their relative importance. Having done this, write a brief justification of your placement, explaining why some of these factors are more important than others. The resulting diagram could form the basis of an essay plan.

Why was the Nazi war economy so inefficient during the Second World War?

1. The inefficiencies of the Nazi state
2. Hitler's refusal to mobilise women
3. Shortages of raw materials
4. Shortages of labour
5. Allied bombing raids
6. The shortcomings of Goering



Very important

Less important



Introducing an argument

Below are a sample Part (a) exam-style question, a list of key points to be made in the essay, and a simple introduction and conclusion for the essay. Read the question, the plan, and the introduction and conclusion. Rewrite the introduction and the conclusion in order to develop an argument.

Why was the Nazi war economy so inefficient during the Second World War?

Key points

- The inefficiencies of the Nazi state
- Hitler's refusal to mobilise women
- Shortages of raw materials
- Shortages of labour
- Allied bombing raids
- The shortcomings of Goering

Introduction

There were a number of key reasons why the Nazi war economy was so inefficient during the Second World War. These were the inefficiencies of the Nazi state, Hitler's refusal to mobilise women, shortages of raw materials, shortages of labour, allied bombing raids and the shortcomings of Goering.

Conclusion

There were a number of key reasons why the Nazi war economy was so inefficient during the Second World War. The most important reason was inefficiencies of the Nazi state. This played a more significant role than all of the other factors.

The persecution of the Jews

Origins

Europe had a long history of Christian anti-Semitism. While in most parts of Europe the **Enlightenment** period had seen improvements in the rights of Jews, in certain areas, such as **Tsarist Russia**, Jews remained oppressed and **pogroms** occurred. At the turn of the twentieth century, old prejudices against Jews fused with new pseudo-scientific racial ideas and the idea that the Jews were racially inferior influenced **anti-Semitic** extremists. In Nazi Germany, the doctrine of Aryan racial supremacy had dangerous consequences for Jews and other people who did not fit into the Nazis' conception of a **master race**.

Victims of the Nazis, 1939–1945

- The Second World War caused more than 60 million deaths in total, including 26.6 million Soviet citizens.
- Around 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust (two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe) along with around 250,000–500,000 Roma people and 15,000 homosexuals.
- Over 1 million people (primarily Jews) were murdered by the **Einsatzgruppen** and their local collaborators in Eastern Europe and the USSR.
- Some 3 million Soviet prisoners of war were murdered or starved to death.

Persecution in Europe – timeline

Year	Persecution affecting Jews	Persecution affecting other groups
1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 April – Boycott of Jewish shops April – All Jews except war veterans removed from the civil service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political opponents of the Nazi regime held in concentration camps Law for compulsory sterilisation of the mentally ill
1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September – The Nuremberg Laws banned 'intermarriage' and removed Jews from German citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A-socials, including the homeless and alcoholics, put in concentration camps
1936		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Himmler established a Reich Office for Combating Homosexuality: 50,000 German homosexuals were arrested
1938	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March – Violent attacks on Jews and Jewish property following Anschluss. 45,000 Austrian Jews forced to emigrate November – Kristallnacht: anti-Jewish attacks on thousands of businesses and synagogues. Some 20,000 Jewish men sent to concentration camps Aryanisation begins: Jewish property seized; Jews banned from German economic life 	
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January – The SS establish the Reich Central Office for Emigration to promote emigration of Jews out of Europe September – Ghettos for Polish Jews established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> German Roma people sent to concentration camps in Poland and Germany The 'euthanasia' programme, Aktion T4, against disabled and mentally ill people starts
1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Madagascar Plan drawn up: a plan to move 4 million European Jews to live in Madagascar: the idea was eventually abandoned as impractical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of Roma children were gassed in Buchenwald concentration camp
1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Jews forced to wear the Star of David June – Following the invasion of the Soviet Union, Einsatzgruppen and their local supporters carried out systematic massacres of Jews 	
1942	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January – The Wannsee Conference: representatives of various party and state organisations agreed to the 'Final Solution' Spring – Death camps established at Auschwitz, Sobibor and Treblinka 	
1943–1944	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation of European Jews to death camps 	



Support or challenge?

Below is a sample Part (a) exam-style question which asks how far you agree with a specific statement. Below this is a series of general statements which are relevant to the question. Using your own knowledge and the information on the opposite page decide whether these statements support or challenge the statement in the question and tick the appropriate box.

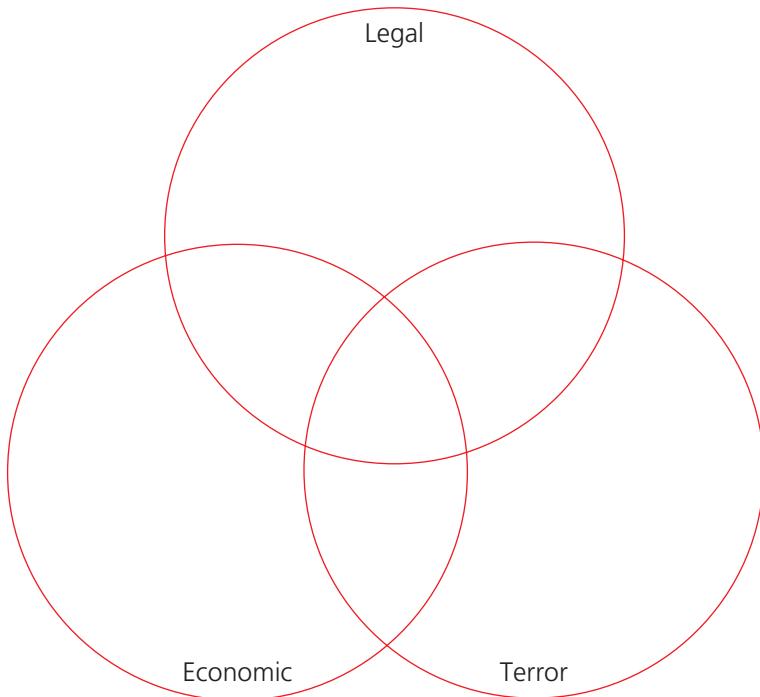
'The 'Final Solution' was the result of systematic planning from 1933.' How far do you agree with this opinion?

	SUPPORT	CHALLENGE
All Jews were removed from the civil service in 1933, except for veterans of the First World War.		
In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws removed citizenship from German Jews.		
In 1938, Kristallnacht resulted in the imprisonment of 20,000 Jews in concentration camps.		
In 1939, the SS established the Reich Central Office for Emigration.		
In 1940, the Nazis drew up the Madagascar Plan.		
In 1941, <i>Einsatzgruppen</i> were deployed throughout the conquered territories.		
In 1942, the Wannsee Conference co-ordinated the 'Final Solution'.		
In 1942, death camps were established at Auschwitz, Sobibor and Treblinka.		



Complete the Venn diagram

Use the information on the opposite page to add detail to the Venn diagram below. In the non-intersecting areas of the diagram, list aspects of Jewish persecution which were either legal, economic, or based on terror. In the intersecting areas of the diagram, note ways in which these methods of persecuting the Jews overlapped.



The causes of the ‘Final Solution’

The role of Hitler

In Hitler’s speeches, the 25 Points of the Nazi Party of 1920, and in *Mein Kampf* (1925), Hitler’s view that Jews were not and should not be Germans was clear. His language could be considered **proto-genocidal**. Hitler’s anti-Semitism was a core part of his world view. Hitler’s ideas were the inspiration behind the ever-escalating anti-Semitism of his regime. It is also inconceivable that Hitler did not agree to the policy of the ‘Final Solution’ and indeed a diary entry of Himmler’s indicates that, at a meeting to discuss the ‘final solution of the Jewish question’ in December 1941, Hitler authorised or ordered that Jews should be ‘exterminated as partisans’. However, most historians do not believe that Hitler had a clear plan for the ‘Final Solution’ that pre-dated the war.

Cumulative radicalisation and the chaotic state

Another part of the explanation for the ‘Final Solution’ is that it was a consequence of the process of ever-growing extremism that occurred in the Third Reich as a result of the chaotic decision-making procedures. The chaos encouraged local initiatives and ideological radicalism. **Cumulative radicalisation** led to escalating action: German Jews were subject to restrictions and repression at the start of the war, but were not confined to ghettos. Polish Jews were then subject to the same measures and ordered into overcrowded ghettos run by the SS. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union, *Einsatzgruppen*, who followed the army ensuring SS control, had wide-ranging instructions to eliminate opponents and massacres of Jews followed. These became systematic as the army moved eastwards and culminated in a policy of organised genocide in the death camp system.

The impact of the war

The ‘Final Solution’ developed in the context of war:

- The German invasion of Poland had created what the Nazis regarded as a problem: the Jewish

population of Poland was large, around 3 million. Jews were forced into ghettos which were overcrowded and insanitary. When Jews from other parts of Europe started to be deported to the ghettos, the problem intensified.

- Fighting, particularly on the Eastern Front, was brutal and dehumanising.
- When invading areas of the Soviet Union, *Einsatzgruppen* carried out the first systematic massacres of the Holocaust: when the ‘Final Solution’ was planned, mass killings of Jews and some other groups, such as Roma people, were already occurring in the USSR.
- As the invasion of the Soviet Union put strains on the German war economy, the cost of feeding people in ghettos was considered too great.
- With the failure of the Madagascar Plan and the success of small-scale experiments with murder by gas, the plan for the ‘Final Solution’ was drawn up and executed: the systematic transportation to death camps of the entire Jewish population of Europe.

The *Einsatzgruppen*

These were SS Death squads who followed the German army as Germany conquered Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, carrying out mass killings of ideological and ‘racial’ enemies of the Nazis.

Conclusions

The Holocaust and the ‘Final Solution’ were inspired and authorised by Hitler, but there was not a clear blueprint to try to murder all of the Jews of Europe until after the invasion of the Soviet Union. The policy developed in the context of the war and the cumulative radicalisation of the Nazi state.