***1. What were the reasons for the Fascist seizure of power in 1922?***

(Structure: it is a list question and analyze the reasons from the model below).

Some key events:

1918 ..... End of WWI   
1919 ..... Resentment over the Treaty of St Germain (Paris Settlement).   
1919 ..... Sept: D‘Annuncio‘s seizure of Fiume.   
1919 ..... Land occupations, factory occupations.   
1919 ..... March: Fascist left-wing movement founded in Milan (Fasci di Combattimento) but gained few votes in elections.   
1920 ..... Wave of strikes.   
1920 ..... D‘Annuncio expelled from Fiume.   
1921 ..... 7% Fascist support in national elections. The Fascists now turned to the right.   
1921 ..... Giolitti offered Mussolini to join the government. He refused to join as a junior partner.   
1922 ..... Aug: Socialists and communists called for a general strike against fascist violence – a failure.   
1922 ..... Oct 16 Fascists decided to plan an insurrection.   
1922 ..... Oct 28 the King refused to sign a martial law. Prime Minister Facta resigned.   
1922 ..... Oct 30 Mussolini appointed P M.

## Analysis:

**A. Strengths of the Fascists.**

1. The fascist paper Il Popolo d’Italia was important in the communication the fascist idea.

2. **Mussolini**: sensed the mood of many Italians and was charismatic. He was also politically flexible and pragmatic. He was a skillful journalist and orator who expoited middle and upper class fear of communism.

3. The Fascists claimed that they offered ´**law and order**´ and an alternative to communism.

4. **Opportunism** in attracting support: In October 1921 a new programme was introduced which dropped earlier left wing ideas i.e. **anti-clericalism and republicanism**.

5. The Fascists had a very strong **local organization** – Ras.

6. Dedicated **black-shirts** were instrumental in the seizure of power: 250 000 men in 1922 organized ´squads´ who attacked the socialists. This attracted support from conservative groups. Between 1920-22 Fascists killed more than 3 000 socialists.

7. **Nationalistic appeal** attracted support from right-wingers.

**B. Weaknesses of the Liberal government.**

1. Historically there was a weak support for the political system. Until 1881 only half a million Italians had the right to vote out of a population of 32 millions. Liberal governments had a reputation for representing narrow class interests. The system by which political leaders used bribery and vote-rigging was known as ´**transformismo**´ and the political elite represented mainly the upper classes and did little for the masses.

2. There was also a rift between the church and the state due to the absorption of the Papal States by the new Italian kingdom during the unification of Italy in 1861-70. Until 1904 the church instructed Catholics not to vote in elections to the parliament.

3. The **lack of political stability** is reflected by the fact that between 1871 and 1900 there were no less than 22 governments.

4. The government between 1918-22 were unstable. **A proportional system of representation created a multi-party parliament which resulted in weak governments**. There were five governments only between 1918-22 and the 1921 elections resulted in a Chamber with 13 different parties or groups. It gave an impression of weakness at the top.

5. No strong coalition could be formed in the parliament due to the fact that the **three largest parties were unable to co-operate**. In the 1921 elections the Socialists (PSI) gained 123 seats, the Popolaries (PPI) 108 seats and ´Giolittian Liberals´ 60 seats – out of a total of 539 seats. The Popolaries couldn´t co-operate with the socialists due to the anti-clerical stand of the socialists. The Liberals couldn´t co-operate with the Popularies due to the Liberals anti-clerical policies and the Popolaries and the Liberals found it impossible to co-operate with the socialists due to their radical left-wing policies.

6. The government took **no strong actions** against occupations of factories and land, which made many middle- and upper class Italians to turn the Fascists.

7. **The King didn´t support** the liberal government fully.

**C. Other factors:**

1. **Resentment over the Paris Settlement**. Italians felt that they had been betrayed by her allies in the Paris Settlement. 600 000 men had lost their lives and Italy was only granted South Tyrol, Trieste and Trentino, but not Fiume and Dalmatia. Prime Minister Orlando was blamed by nationalist for not standing up for Italy´s interests.

2. **Fear of communism**. W W I had brought Bolshevik victory to Russia. Communist uprisings in Germany and Hungary scared many middle- and upper class Italians. The radical policy of the PSI resulting in both factory and land occupations in 1919 polarized political. Many saw the Fascists as the only alternative to the socialists (PSI) or the communists (PCI).

3. **Inflation and unemployment** after the war undermined support for the government. Prices went up by 50 % between 1918-20 and unemployment peaked in late 1921 with 2 millions.

4. **Law and order collapsed** when there was a wave of strikes and occupations and when Fascist squads killed thousands of political opponents.

5. **The King** was weak and in 1922, when the Fascists announced their ´march on Rome´ the King didn't give the liberal government support and invited Mussolini to form a coalition government in spite of the fact that the Fascists only had 7 % support in the 1921 elections.

## Conclusion:

It was a combination of weaknesses of the regime/strengths of the Fascists/other factors.

***2. Assess the successes and failures of Mussolini‟s domestic policies.***

(Structure: what were his aims - try to cover success both to Mussolini and Italy)

.Aims:

* To establish political control.
* To crush the left.
* To make Italy ´great again´.

## Successes:

1. Mussolini was able to abolish democracy and to create **a Fascist single party state** which was his aim.

2. The political **left was crushed** (at least as a political force).

3. **Public work programmes** described as "impressive‘ like draining marches and autostradas.

4. **Battle for Grain**: production doubled 22-39 (at the expense of other crops).

5. **Pig iron and steel production doubled** 1930-40 (but Italy was still weak industrially).

6. Mussolini‘s aim for the economy was to create a '**third way**' a mix between capitalism and a state planned economy. The state (IRI) controlled in 1939: 77 % of the pig iron industry, 45 % of the steel production and 80 % of the naval production.

7. **The Lateran Treaty**: healed the rift between the state and the church and was politically a success for Mussolini.

## Failures:

1. The growth of the economy was very low if you compare 1901-25 with 35-40

2. Real wages fell

3. **Battle for Births**: birth rate went down.

4. **Battle for marches** reached only 1/20 of what was claimed.

5. **Battle for the Lira** made export too expensive and imported goods remained expensive due to tariffs.

6. The **Corporate** system didn‘t work in practice.

7. Agriculture: no major changes in the **pattern of ownership**.

8. Too dependent on imports i.e. self **sufficiency failed**.

9. **Industrially Italy was still weak**. He didn‘t make "Italy great again".

## Conclusion:

Summarise your main points. His most notable success was the Lateran Treaty and his main failure was probably that he was never able to make Italy ´great again´.

***3. To what extent did the Treaty of Versailles cause the fall of the Weimar Republic?***

(Structure: show to what extent the Treaty of Versailles contributed to the fall of the republic and to what extent it did not).

## Part 1: Yes we can blame the Treaty:

1. The treaty created resentment in Germany (write one paragraph about the terms: the war guilt clause, the army, the indemnity, national self determination etc)

2. The new democratic government was forced to sign this treaty. This weakened the republic.

3. German patriots blamed the new government for signing such a humiliating treaty and since many Germans resented the treaty, it affected the popularity of the government.

4. The indemnity which was a part of the treaty, led to financial problems. It led to the occupation of the Ruhr and the inflation crisis 1922-23. This crisis was solved through the Dawes Plan, which however created an overdependence on American [credits](http://student-smartbacc.osc-ib.com/mod/page/view.php?id=3142). As a direct consequence of this dependence, the 1929 Wall Street Crash would hit Germany harder than other comparable countries. The subsequent massive unemployment and political polarisation in Germany prepared the way to power for the Nazis.

## Part 2: No it was not the Treaty:

1. Germany had no democratic tradition (a support of the continuity school ).

2. The constitution: the proportional system of representation gave an impression of political weakness. Between 1929 and 1933 this impression was confirmed as parliament could not solve the political crisis. During its 14 years, the Weimar Republic had 21 coalition governments, of which only 8 held a majority. The constitution made it possible to rule the country by presidential decree. This further weakened the democratically elected parliament.

3. The Wall Street Crash was crucial, but this event was totally independent of the Treaty of Versailles.

4. The strengths of the Nazis: Hitler, Goebbels, the use of propaganda, the SA.

5. The "Backstairs intrigue: neither Hindenburg, von Papen, von Schleicher, nor Hitler, supported the democratic system. It survived 1923 due to Stresemann and it collapsed in 1933 due to Hindenburg, von Papen, von Schleicher and Hitler.

## Conclusion:

The fall of Weimar was a combination of '**weaknesses of the republic, strengths of the Nazis and other factors' (=mainly the Wall Street Crash and impact of the war)**

***4. “The constitution of the Weimar Republic played a major role in the fall of the Republic.” Do you agree?***

(Structure: write one part where you agree with the statement and a second part where you disagree)

## Yes, the constitution played a major role:

1. The proportional system of representation resulted in a multi party system. It would be enough to have 60 000 votes to get one seat in parliament. The result was a fragmentisation of the parliament which resulted in weak governments. Many Germans who had no experience of democracy got an impression of weak political leadership. Especially if we take into account the major crises that the young republic had to face in 1923 and 1929.

2. The proportional system of representation led to the formation of weak coalitions. In 14 years Germany had 21 coalition governments, of which only 8 held a majority.

3. The constitution made it possible for the President to rule by presidential decree according to its Article 48. It was not clearly specified how this power should be used in times of crisis. From 1930 Hindenburg together with the Prime Ministers started to use presidential decrees extensively. In 1932 Hindenburg issued 60 decrees while there were only 13 sittings in parliament. It totally eroded the power of the parliament and can of course be clearly linked to the constitution.

## No, there were other factors which had nothing to do with the constitution:

1. This was a country without any democratic tradition. It is an oversimplification to just blame the constitution. According to the 'continuity school‘ Germany had a long tradition of non-democratic rule, which is the reason for why democracy failed in Germany.

2. The Treaty of Versailles created so much resentment which weakened the government. The indemnity also affected the economy of the republic.

3. The Dawes plan, which can be linked to other factors than the constitution, made Germany over dependent of US money. ―Germany is dancing on a volcano‖, said Stresemann in 1928.

4. The Wall Street crash is of vital importance if you want to understand the fall of the republic i.e. the Nazi seizure of power. In 1928 the Nazis only had 2,6 % support in the elections. The massive unemployment which was a result of the Wall Street crash, led to a breakthrough for Nazism. In the 1930 election they got 18 % and in 1932, when the unemployment crisis peaked, they got 37 % support

5. Adolf Hitler and the strengths of the Nazis is of course another major reason for the fall of the republic.

## Conclusion:

The constitution contributed to the fall of the Weimar Republic. It led to weak governments and presidential rule between 1930-33. It can also be argued that some of the points in the second part of this answer (no, it had nothing to do with the constitution) actually can be linked to the constitution. Weak coalition governments made the effects of the economic crises worse. The impression of weak governments made many Germans turn to a strong leader who criticised this system. So the constitution is one important point explaining the fall of the republic – but not the only one. It was a combination between weaknesses of the republic, strengths of the Nazis and other factors. We would conclude that the constitution was one important factor, but that it didn‘t play a major role.

***5. To what extent did the Wall Street Crash cause the fall of the Weimar Republic?***

(Structure: show to what extent it caused the fall, and to what extent there were other reasons)Yes, the stock market crash led to the fall of the republic:

1. The crash led to an unemployment crisis.

2. The unemployment crisis led to a political crisis and an increase in support for Nazism ( political polarisation ). Explain how the inflation crisis in 1923 affected the middle class and how the unemployment crisis from 1929 affected the working class. The parliamentary system lost support.

3. The political crisis which started in 1929 led to an increasing use of presidential decrees.

4. After 3 years of presidential rule, the use of presidential decrees led to the acceptance of Hitler as Prime Minister. Leading politicians like President Hindenburg, von Papen etc. now accepted Hitler in order to get a strong government.

## No, there were other factors apart from the Wall Street Crash, which led to the fall of the Republic:

1. This was a country without any democratic tradition. Use the arguments of the 'continuity-school‘

2. The Treaty of Versailles created widespread resentment among the population. The war indemnity also had negative effects on the German economy. This weakened support for the republic.

3. The constitution lay the foundation for weak governments and rule through presidential decree.

4. The Dawes Plan made Germany over dependent on US money. "Germany is dancing on a volcano", said Stresemann. The Plan is an isolated element which would aggravate the effects of the Wall Street Crash.

5. The strength of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. Write about how Hitler‘s ideas appealed to the German population.

6. The fear of communism and lack of support for the Weimar Republic from conservative groups contributed to the fall of the republic.

## Conclusion:

Again there is a risk that you simplify the answer by not realising that one "yes-explanation" might affect a "no-explanation" (see also conclusion question 2). It could be logical to argue, to give just one example, that the combination of a weak government ( a no-argument ) and the effects of the Wall Street Crash ( a yes-argument ), led to the fall of the republic. Therefore, again, we conclude that the fall was due to a combination between weaknesses of the republic, strengths of the Nazis and other factors.

***6. Were the policies and the development in Germany, by early 1929, sufficient for the survival of the Weimar Republic?***

## ****Yes, the republic would have survived because:****

1. **Support for extremism**, and especially support for Nazism, had gone down in the 1928 elections. The Nazis only won 2,6 % support in these elections. It is clear that without the Wall Street Crash a Nazi seizure of power seems unlikely. The pro-Weimar parties increased their support in the 1928 elections from 52 to 73 %. **This is a key point.**

2. Both the Dawes Plan of 1924 and the the Young Plan of June 1929, **reduced reparations**. The Young Plan reduced these payments from 132 000 million marks to 37 000 million marks. This reduction was substantial and offered the prospect of continued economic stability.

3. **The German economy took off**after 1924 and by 1927 Germany had recovered her pre-war industrial strength.

4. The country was led by **two politicians who were widely respected**. The old conservative elite, which still was very influential, had confidence in Field Marshal Hindenburg and Foreign Minister Stresemann.

5. The Republic had faced major crises in its early years but it had survived and by 1929 Germany had experienced 10 years of democracy.

6. Stresemann‘s foreign policy, i.e. the "**fulfilment policy”, had paid off**: the Locarno agreement, membership of the League of Nations, and the withdrawal of allied troops, all showed that the outside world also had confidence in the Weimar Republic. This view is further strengthened by the Young Plan of June 1929.

## ****No, the republic would not have survived:****

1. Even if we argue that support for extremism had gone down in the 1928 elections, the German Nationalists, the Communist Party and the Nazis, together **held 27 % of the electorate**. This made the young democracy very vulnerable and it was in line with the German tradition to support non-democratic policies. Again use the arguments of the 'continuity-school.‘

2. The recovery was very **dependent on U.S. money**. "Germany is dancing on a volcano…" stated Stresemann i.e. Germany was a country which was very dependent on foreign money.

3. Germany still suffered from **weak coalitions**. This was a country which had 15 coalition governments in 14 years.

4. There was also another **weakness in the constitution**: the president could, if he wanted to, rule by decree.

5. As the **president**had considerable power his attitude was of major importance. What if the president did not support the republic? The old Field Marshal Hindenburg was not a proven republican.

6. From 1927 Germany suffered from an **agrarian crisis**with falling prices.

7. It is wrong to state that the unemployment crisis started with the Wall Street Crash. There were 2.8 million people unemployed in early 1929. Even if the figures of 1932 ( 6 millions) are worse, the figures from 1929 are still alarming.

## ****Conclusion:****

Germany suffered from problems before the Wall Street Crash. There was strong support for extremism and a weak political system. It is possible to support both sides but my opinion is, with support from "yes-point" number 1, that the republic would have survived without the crisis in 1929. The Nazis had only 2,6 % support in 1928, the pro-Weimar parties had increased their support to 73 % and the economy had finally recovered its strength. So, without the Wall Street Crash, no Nazi seizure of power, according to our view. The element of continuity in modern German history was not strong enough to doom the Weimar Republic in itself. The republic could have survived.

*7.* ***How did Hitler achieve dictatorial power?***

*(Structure: This is a list question where you need to go beyond January 1933, when Hitler was appointed Chancellor)*

1. **Hitler was appointed**Prime Minister in January 1933 due to a combination of weaknesses of the Weimar Republic, strengths of the Nazis and other factors (the Treaty of Versailles and the Wall Street Crash). Don´t overwrite this point because it asks for *dictatorial power.*

2. **Elections were announced**immediately to March 1933. The plan was to secure a 2/3 majority in order to change the constitution so that the government should be given power to rule by decree.

3. Goering authorized the **SA to be an auxiliary police**in Prussia. The SA started a revolution from below in the spring of 1933 and harassed political opponents.

4. After the **Reichstag Fire**on the 27th of February a **decree was issued the next day which suspended civil rights**. Indefinite detention without trials were allowed and thousands of communists were arrested and placed in newly opened concentration camps. Noakes and Pridham describe it as *‖the most important single legislative act of the Third Reich.‖*

5. The government did not secure a 2/3 majority in the elections in March. By making a deal with the Catholic Centre Party a majority was secured. (the communists had been arrested and only the Social Democrats voted against). The **Enabling Act was passed**in March. It gave the government the right to rule by decrees for 4 years.

Hitler now started to issue decrees without consulting the other conservative members in the government and started a Nazification process i.e. the *Gleichschaltung*policy:

What do you need to control?

A. Civil Service: The Civil Service Law 1933.

B. Media: the setting up of the Ministry for People´s Enlightenment and Propaganda and the Reich Press Law 1933.

C. Political parties: the Law Against the Formation of Parties 1933.

D. Unions: The Labour Front replaced the old unions in 1933.

E. To centralize power to Berlin: the federation was abolished in 1934 with the Law for the Co-ordination of the Länder.

F. The right to use terror: the decree issued after the Reichstag Fire gave the regime an opportunity of indefinite detention without a trial. In the Basic Gestapo Law from 1936 Gestapo was put above the law i.e. no external control allowed.

6. The final step was taken in June 1934 with the Night of the Long Knives. The SA was a powerful organization with more than 2 million members headed by Ernst Röhm. There was an internal dispute about a continuing Nazi revolution and Röhm´s wish that a new German army should be built by th SA. President Hindenburg was an ex-general and army officers detested the SA-people. The President had a considerable power and could appoint and dismiss the Chancellor and still rule by decrees. When it was known that the President was seriously ill in 1934 Hitler solved the dilemma in his way. He blamed Röhm for planning a coup and executed most of the leaders of the SA in the Night of the Long Knives. With this action he gained the support of the army and when Hindenburg passed away in August 1934, he merged the office of Prime Minister and President and made himself Führer of the German Reich. With this he had total control.

**Conclusion:**

Summarize the points above. I would conclude that the Enabling Act was the most important step towards a dictatorship.

***8. How far was the single party regime in Germany successful by 1940 in achieving its aims?***

In answering this question, first it is necessary to identify what the Nazis’ aims were. The question does not specify foreign or domestic policy (the reference to ‘in Germany’ is to the regime, not to its policies in Germany), so both areas of policy should be considered. Below I have started by pointing to the debate among historians about the nature of the Nazis’ aims and then listed their main aims. Following this, I have created a detailed plan, which examines the Nazis’ success in certain areas of policy. I have also just indicated certain other aims that would merit assessment in this essay and you would then need to provide your own points and examples/evidence in answering this question.

**The historiographical debate** - was Hitler an ‘intentionalist’ (according to Bullock, Trevor-Roper) with a set agenda or was the Nazi regime opportunist/functionalist (according to Broszat, Mommsen) which lacked clearly formulated aims and instead responded to circumstances in a chaotic fashion (Hitler as “weak dictator”)?

How do we know what the Nazis’ aims were? – The Twenty-Five Points (1920), Mein Kampf (1925), Four Year Plan Memorandum (1936), Hossbach Memorandum (1937).

## What were the Nazis’ aims?

The Nazis were not united, especially over the socialist elements of the Twenty- Five Point programme; Gregor Strasser and many of the SA leaders sought a “second revolution” involving the creation of a people’s army and the nationalisation of big businesses. By 1933, Hitler had rejected these demands.

**Foreign policy**

To rip up the Versailles Treaty; rearmament; unite all German speakers; win Lebensraum in the East. The German historian Fritz Fischer has argued that there is a continuity between German foreign policy pre-1914 and pre-1939 but other historians point to the unique racial element in Nazi foreign policy.

**Domestic policy**

* Economic: to revive the German economy in order to (a) maintain domestic support by reducing unemployment, (b) to support rearmament; achieve autarky (economic self-sufficiency).
* To destroy/suppress opposition & maintain a monopoly of political power.
* To create a totalitarian state in which all aspects of Germans’ lives were controlled and to indoctrinate the population with Nazi ideology.
* To create a master race

**How successful were these aims?**

**1. In Economic policy?**

* Mopped up unemployment very successfully (only 0.2 million by 1938) by means of deficit financing, public works schemes, and rearmament.
* Industrial output reached record levels; by 1939 GNP was 33% higher than in 1929.
* Huge rearmament - 66% of investment went on rearmament in the period 1936-39.

**But there were limits to this success and serious problems emerged -**

* Nazi officials and economics experts/businessmen were divided over the ‘Guns or Butter Crisis’ in 1936. Hitler responded with the Four Year Plan.
* The economy was not geared for total war by the end of 1939 (some historians question whether this was Hitler’s aim, Richard Overy argues that it was).
* 1939-41 saw a huge increase in investment in rearmament but this was inefficiently managed. Only under Albert Speer (from 1942) was there efficient co-ordination of war production. He trebled weapons production in two years.
* Inflationary pressures began to build from 1937, this was partly why Schacht resigned as Economics Minister. Tim Mason argued that Hitler went to war in 1939 in order to escape a growing economic crisis; however, this view is not generally shared by historians.
* Autarky failed; Germany was still dependent on imports, particularly food (importing 19% of its requirements in 1939) and Swedish iron-ore.
* Real wages in the late 1930s were below the 1928 level and consumer good production lagged far behind that of industrial goods; this reflects Hitler’s priorities (i.e. rearmament paramount after 1936).

**2. In terms of destroying/suppressing opposition and maintaining a monopoly of political power?**

**(a) Very successful application of terror state**

* Hitler quickly established a single party state in 1933; Law for the Protection of the German People and State (February 1933) used to arrest thousands of Communists; Enabling Act (March 1933) allowed Hitler to make law without the Reichstag; trade unions banned (May 1933); all other parties outlawed (June 1933); state parliaments abolished (January 1934).
* Purge of the SA in Night of the Long Knives (June 1934); Hitler became Fuhrer after Hindenburg’s death (August 1934) and army swore oath of personal loyalty to him.
* Creation of a police state: Gestapo, SD, SS (expanded to 200,000 by 1935), 18 concentration camps - 225,000 people imprisoned 1933-39.

However, opposition was not totally eliminated, e.g. activities of SOPADE (200,000 people read Socialist Action in mid-1930s), conspiracy by General Beck in 1938.

* Nevertheless, opposition was driven underground and it was very ineffective.

**(b) The regime also generated considerable positive support**

**3. In creating a totalitarian society?**

**4. In creating a master race?**

**5. In Foreign policy/rearmament?**

***9. How did Hitler exploit conditions in Germany to create a single party state?***

Firstly, you need to take the question apart and see that you are being asked to analyse both the conditions which prevailed in the Weimar Republic which made possible Hitler’s creation of a Nazi regime and the methods he used to take advantage of those conditions. Secondly, you should see that the question requires you to consider developments up to July 1933 (rather than just January 1933, when Hitler became chancellor) when the Nazi Party became the sole legal party.

In terms of analysing ‘conditions’ which gave rise to the Third Reich, you might either group these into short (1929-33) and long-term (since 1918) or, alternatively, adopt a thematic approach (probably better, less likely to lead you in to a narrative which becomes unfocused) in which you look at ‘political’, ‘economic’ and ‘social’ conditions. In order to write a really good answer, you should look to establish links between these conditions. With reference to the methods by which Hitler exploited these conditions, you need to ensure that you link methods to conditions, rather than simply describing what Hitler’s methods were.

Below this paragraph, you will see some points relating to different types of condition, which played a part in the creation of a single party state in Germany. You would need to add more points and examples to illustrate the key points.

## Political conditions

**Long-term**

* The Republic was handicapped because of its association with the hated Versailles Treaty. Nationalist hostility towards the Republic was shown by the Kapp Putsch (1920).
* The Weimar constitution contained weaknesses; proportional representation, given the existence of a large number of parties, made for a series of short-lived coalition governments. The constitution also gave the President enormous power, particularly through Article 48.

**Short-term**

* Collapse of the “Grand Coalition” in 1930 after the SPD walked out because of an argument with the Centre over cutting unemployment benefit.
* Growing political polarisation in 1930-33, saw the rise of both the NSDAP and the KPD (the latter gained 17% of the votes cast in Nov 1932 elections).
* The Reichstag Fire (February 1933) increased the propertied classes’ fear of a communist revolution.

## Economic conditions

* Early economic crisis 1919-23; many of the middle-class were permanently alienated by a loss of savings during the hyper-inflation.
* Germany was hit particularly hard by the effects of the Wall Street Crash (1929), causing soaring unemployment.

## How was Hitler able to exploit the above conditions?

* Hitler - charismatic leadership, oratory
* Hitler saw after the Munich Putsch (1923) that the way to power had to be by means of ‘legal revolution’. Hitler committed the NSDAP to becoming the largest party in the Reichstag.
* By forming an alliance with Hugenberg and the DNVP from 1929.
* As a result of the Reichstag Fire, Hitler was able to persuade Hindenburg to declare a state of emergency.
* The Enabling Act (March 1933) gave Hitler the power to make law without the Reichstag; he used this power to dismantle democracy and create a single party state.

***10. To what extent was Primo de Rivera responsible for his own downfall?***

*Structure: to what extent so the essay must be built around an agree/disagree format, with evaluation.*

Line of Argument: Miguel Primo de Rivera was responsible for his own downfall because he did not go far enough with his policies to see them through, which was fatally insufficient against the deep-rooted problems in Spain.

1. Unstable political nature of Spain. The ploy that his regime held to maintain power, whilst long-standing problems continued to fester.

* Long-term regionalism in Spain made unification and a moderate (dictablanda) dictatorship was not strong enough to deal with this. The coalition-style de turno system was similar to Italy’s political situation before the rise of Mussolini.
* He achieved great successes in terms of socio-economic reform and infrastructure, as well as national pride. Used the mercantilism approach for government, which facilitated rapid change but only on the outside appeared to be a major improvement for the people. “Showpieces”.
* He was also portrayed as a kind dictator, who promised a swift transition to civilian government, and he made sure to be seen as a fatherly/patriarchal figure to the lower classes of the nation. His aims were genuinely for the betterment of the Spanish people’s lifestyles after years of turmoil.
* All this only served to distract the people and disguise the fundamental problems of the state. Regionalism and corruption were never properly dealt with, and tax reforms were unsuccessful which heightened impact of the Great Depression.
* His political party was weak, and became corrupt similar to all the other parties. (caciquismo and de turno system). He despised free market and liberalism, which was needed if there was to be a flourishing economy to handle the Great Depression.
* Conservative stance with close ties to the Catholic Church only served to isolate the Catalans.

1. Radical changes where there was insufficient foundation for him to fall back on in the event of failure. Weak countermeasures increased polarisation of the nation.

* He created numerous enemies in the shutting down of various political parties such as the CNT (anarchists).
* His plan to “quickly” return power to the civilians lasted 7 years.
* Promotion-by-merit scheme was unpopular with the powerful and influential Artillery Corps, and also earned the King’s disapproval.
* 30% cut to the army
* Primo’s isolation of the intellectuals/student body created a sustained opposition, which led to Primo cancelling on his previous measures. His weakness diminished business confidence in the regime, and led to a further weakening in support.

1. Opposing argument of the Great Depression’s impact.

* Whilst there is evidence of major impact of the Great Depression on Spain, there is research that suggests the impact on Spain was milder than other European countries.
* Miguel Primo de Rivera resigned two months after the crash in New York.
* Government intervention in accordance with Primo’s policy of mercantilism protected local businesses to an extent.
* His extravagant infrastructural spending was incompatible with the nations tax policies and reliance on foreign loans, which was a factor in the decline of support for his regime.

***11. To what extent were religious tensions responsible for the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War?***

**Religious Tensions was the defining factor.**  
[*In the short-term, the policies of the 2nd Republic veered from one extreme to the other: the Left Republic banned*[*Jesuits*](http://www.google.co.uk/search?&q=Jesuits)*and condoned attacks on convents, but the Right Republic then reversed its policies since it was dominated by the Catholic Party,*[*CEDA*](http://www.google.co.uk/search?&q=CEDA)*. In the mid-term,*[*Primo de Rivera*](http://www.google.co.uk/search?&q=Primo%20de%20Rivera)*'s policies failed to address anticlerical feeling - for example, he recognised degrees from Catholic Churches. In the long-term, the Church had too much hold over education due to the 1851 Concordat and this was the source of great tension*]

**Religious Tensions intensified Regionalism.** The inherent conservatism of the Catholic Church pitched it against the rising tide of regional feeling, since it stubbornly insisted on the benefits of traditional, centralised government. [*In the short-term, the 2nd Republic set up then suspends Catalan Assembly. In the mid-term, Primo de Rivera also set up, then suspended, the Catalan Assembly. In the long-term, Catalonia and the Basque regions have long tradition of Separatism*]

**Religious Tensions also impacted upon Socio-Economic Problems.** The conservatism of the Catholic Church meant that it was associated with powerful, wealthy conservative interests, which served to exacerbate socio-economic tensions. [*In the short-term, the 2nd Republic's Latifundia Reform failed in the countryside, whilst its slow reforms in industry led to the Asturias revolt. In the mid-term, the Impact of Depression limited the scale of reform that could take place under Primo de Rivera and subsequently. In the long-term, agriculture was backward and industry was underdeveloped due to Spain's legacy of over-reliance on gold from the New World*]

**Religious Tensions, in addition, aggravated Military Problems.** The stress of the Catholic Church upon tradition, order and hierarchy provided added authority and self-righteousness to the army, which saw itself as being increasingly under threat in a Spain with no Empire. [*In the short-term, The Left Republic's attacks on Military privileges caused tension in the army - for example, forcing early retirement on officers. In the mid-term, a humiliating military defeat in Morocco led to a military rebellion which installed Primo de Rivera as leader. In the long-term, the loss of Cuba in 1898 spelt the end of the Spanish empire and left the army overstaffed, underworked, and turned its attention to domestic politics*]

**Regionalism, in turn, affected Political Problems.** Regionalism was one of the major issues which divided the political parties in Spain prior to the Civil War. [*In the short-term, the creation of Popular and National Fronts in 1936 meant that politics were completely polarised. In the mid-term, Primo de Rivera's Patriotic Union Party never gained support. In the long-term, Constitutional Monarchy had never promoted true democracy*]

***12. Why did Franco and the Nationalists win the Spanish Civil War?***

***See Mr Tipney’s notes***