**Weimar and Nazi Germany 20 mark Question arguments**

2

**Argument:** The main reason the Nazis were able to control Germany was because of the use of terror

**Exemplar question:** How far do you agree with interpretation 2 about the role of the SS in the Nazi police state? Explain your answer using both interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context.

**Interpretation 2.**

**An extract from Years of Weimar and the Third Reich by D. Evans and J. Jenkins, published in 1999**

The SS members were totally dedicated to what they regarded as the supreme virtues of Nazi ideology – loyalty and honour. They saw themselves as the protectors of the Aryan way of life and the defenders of the people against agitators, the criminal classes and those they saw as being responsible for the Jewish-Communist threat.

*Wording of the interpretation gives across the idea that the SS were morally right – virtues, defenders of the people, protectors of Aryan, against agitators or criminals.*

**Interpretation 1.**

**An extract from documents on Nazism 1919-45 by J. Noakes and G Pridham, written in 1974**

Hitler needed an organisation which would not feel restrained by the law. It would act with utter ruthlessness and would be dedicated to expressing his will and the ideas of the Nazi movement. He found what he needed in the SS.

*Role of the SS was one of* ***terror*** *where they would not feel restrained by law or rules, as long as they were doing the will of the Nazi movement.*

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| Arguments to support Interpretation 2 | Arguments to challenge Interpretation 2 |
| From the interpretation:* Totally dedicated to…..supreme virtues of Nazi ideology – loyalty and honour.
* Protectors of the Aryan way of life.
* Defenders of the people.

Own Knowledge:* Police state: SS, SD and Gestapo – used as a means of keeping control.
* Role of SS bodyguard to Hitler
* Had established a clear visible identity – members wore black
* Showed total obedience to the Fuhrer
* 50,000 members who had to be examples of Aryan race –perfect German manhood – expected to marry racially pure wives
* SD kept a card index with details of everyone suspected of opposing the Nazis party or German government.
* Gestapo – non-uniformed secret police force – aim was to identify anyone who criticised or opposed the Nazis government – spied on people, tapped their phones, used networks of informants.
* 1939 alone, 160,000 people were arrested for political offences.
 | From interpretation 1:* Organisation which would not feel restrained by the law.
* …act with utter ruthlessness…

Own Knowledge:* SS, SD and Gestapo were not government run – they were run by the Nazis and accountable to Hitler.
* Their role was to protect and support the Nazi Party
* Himmler did not believe that the SS were obliged to act within the law
* The Gestapo were officially given permission to use torture when questioning suspects or gaining confessions.
* Main weapon of the Gestapo was fear – didn’t know who they were – can be taken without trial, sent to concentration camps.
* Could also talk about the use of:

Propaganda (radio, newspaper, theatre, Olympics) – impact of all of these? = indoctrinationRallies – organised, Germans felt safe from communist or Jewish threat.* Use of law courts – another way Hitler controlled his police state – having control within the legal system – courts were biased toward Nazis.
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Although the above question is asking about the role of the SS specifically this whole topic is about the **use of Terror** in controlling Germany.

How effective was the use of terror? Who administered it? How? Why? The use of concentration camps etc.

Were there other factors which allowed control other than terror e.g. propaganda, rallies