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

2

**Argument: The impact of Nazi economic policy 1933-1939**

**Exemplar question:** How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the effectiveness of Nazi economic policy 1933-1939

**Interpretation 1.**

Most workers enjoyed real wage rises after 1933 and skilled workers prospered with a return to full employment after 1936. At the same time the working week increased from an average of 43 hours in 1933 to 47 hours in 1939. Industrial accidents and industrial related illness rose by 150 percent between 1933 and 1939. In addition there was some working class unrest. There were strikes at Russelheim and Berlin in 1936 and a Party report from Nuremberg found open insubordination, sabotage, go-slows and absenteeism

\*Absenteeism – Absence

\* Insubordination – Disobedience

**Interpretation 2.**

The success of Hitlers economic policies can be seen by the fact that unemployment was cured due to work creation schemes and rearmament. Heavy industry, iron and steel chemicals showed massive growth. The German Labour front, through it’s promotion of organisations like ‘Strenght through Joy’ and ‘The Beauty of Labour’ improved working conditions.

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| Arguments to support  The Nazis did achieve economic success | Arguments to challenge  The Nazis did not achieve economic success |
| * Unemployment was 6 million in 1933. Half a million by 1939 * 7000 km of motorway built * More than 125,000 men were involved in building the autobahns * Strength Through Joy (KDF) – provided cheap holidays, better leisure activities & sport events for workers – aimed to create a happy workforce (& more motivated) * Average wages increased (86 to 109 marks per week from 1932-3) * Crime fell as people got wealthier * The re-introduction of conscription in 1935 greatly rescued unemployment * Heavy industry was expanded. Coal and chemicals doubled in the years 1933-1939 | * Many women and Jewish people lost their jobs and were not included in the employment statistics, this was called invisible unemployment * Opponents of the * Nazis were also sent to camps and not included in the statistics * Workers had no rights as Trade Unions were abolished & replaced by the German Labour Front (DAF). * Strikes were made illegal and the DAF represented all workers * Average working hours increased (43 to 47 hours per * The unemployed were given a choice: do a job the government told you, or be called “workshy” and sent to a concentration camp * The Reich Labour service was compulsory and had very low pay * The cost of living rose throughout the 1930’s, all basic groceries cost more and due to the government policy of reducing agricultural production some food items were in short supply |

**Other information:**

This question focused on the economic miracle. Information on how the Nazis improved the standard of living may also be connected to this question. Consider the following:

* Average working hours increased from 43 in 1933 to 47 hours a week by 1939
* Very few workers could afford the schemes provided by Strength through Joy
* Volkswagen swindle – the idea to encourage people to save to buy a Volkswagen was a trick, when war broke out not a single car had been delivered and customers never got their money back