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

2

**Argument:** The Nazi policies towards women were not a success

**Exemplar question:** How far do you agree with interpretation 2 about Nazi policies towards women in the years 1933-39? Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

**Interpretation 2.**

*From Weimar and Nazi Germany by E. Wilmot, published in 1993.*

In 1933 there were over 4.85 million women in paid employment. This increased to 7.14 million in 1939. Economic reality forced Nazi ideology to do a U-turn. A labour shortage began to develop from 1936 and the government looked to women to plug the gap. In 1937, the Nazis overturned a clause in the marriage loans scheme to permit married women who had a loan to take up employment.

**Interpretation 1.**

*From Germany 1918-45 by J. Brooman, published in 1996.*

Women were soon brought in line. Shortly after the Nazi seizure of power, thousands of married women doctors and civil servants were sacked from their jobs. Over the next few years, the number of women teachers was gradually reduced. From 1936 onwards women could no longer be judges or prosecutors, nor could they serve on juries.

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| Arguments to support  | Arguments to challenge  |
| * From 1936 there was a labour shortage and more workers were needed in heavy industry due to rearmament.
* Employers preferred women workers as they were cheaper. Women’s wages remained only two-thirds of men.
* More and more employed women were employed in lower paid jobs.
* They abolished the marriage loans and introduced a compulsory ‘duty year’ for all women entering employment.
* The ‘duty year’ was often helping on a farm or in a family home in return for bed and board.
* The Nazi campaign has not been successful in reducing the numbers of women employed. It has simply squeezed them out of better paid positions in to the sweated trades.
 | * The number of female students starting higher education fell from just over 17000 in 1932 to 6000 in 1939.
* Labour exchanges and employers were encouraged to give first choice of jobs to women.
* In the first few years the number of married women in employment fell.
* The number of marriages and birth rate increased.
* The German Women’s Enterprise organised Mothers’ schools to train women in household skills, as well as courses, lectures and radio programmes on household topics. They had 6 million members.
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Other information:

Although this question is focusing on the type of jobs women did between 1933-9 you may also be asked how popular and effective the Nazi policies were towards women.

* They had mixed success. Some women were persuaded by Nazi views and were content.
* In some cases the Nazi policies towards women did succeed to an extent. For example fewer women went to university, the birth rate increased and the unemployment amongst German men fell.
* However, many women did not support Nazi ideas. Some women felt it degraded women and their domestic status was demeaning. Others did not like the Reich Women’s leader, Gertrude Scoltz-Klink.