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

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**Argument: Hitler was only able to cement his power because of the Enabling Act 1933.**

**Exemplar question:** *How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 that Hitler was only able to cement his power because of the Enabling Act? Explain your answer using both interpretations and your own knowledge of the historical context*

**Interpretation 2.**

The Enabling Act was the most essential to Hitler when cementing his power, it granted him the authority to pass laws without the consent of the Reichstag. This hereby eliminated any political opposition to Hitler’s plans. Hitler was free to pass any law he wanted, giving him a lot of personal power as well as power of the government, which was important to him because he intended to become the sole ruler of Germany. The Enabling Act gave the Nazis security guaranteeing any law could be passed just with Hitler’s signature. This gave Hitler the power to do what he wanted, act swiftly in a crisis and gain public support.

**Interpretation 1.**

The Nazis had enough influence over the Reichstag, however Hitler’s rise to overall power was not swift, the significant but modest consolidation of power by Hitler aroused out of numerous events and tensions, many which remain controversial. When President Hindenburg died of natural causes, Hitler declared himself Fuhrer: jointly President, Chancellor and Head of the Armed Forces, the final cementation of his power.

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| Arguments to support | Arguments to challenge |
| * Terms of Enabling Act(passed by 444 votes to 91): * Hitler to pass laws which did not require the agreement of the Reichstag for four years | * Reichstag Fire * Emergency Powers * March election * Trade Unions banned * All opposition parties banned (July 1933) * Night of the Long Knives (June 1933 – Why? How? Impact?) * Death of Hindenburg * Oath of Loyalty to Hitler (Fuhrer) |

Other information:  
This question is asking you about how Hitler rose to power and removed opposition**.** Be guided by the sources.

Don’t forget there were many steps, you are examining the period from Hitler’s appointment as chancellor 1933-1934 when he becomes chancellor. You will explain how Hitler legalised his dictatorship, removed threats and put in methods to persuade and encourage. This includes The Reichstag fire, Enabling act, removal of opposition (end of trade unions, Nazi party only legal party), Night of the Long Knives with the final support from the army as they swear their oath to the Fuhrer.

Some additional Key info:  
Nazi party won 288 seats in the 1933 March election   
SA used throughout to intimidate  
1925 SS set up Hitler’s personal body guards