**3d) How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929-32?**

To an extent I partly agree with interpretation 2 that suggests the main reason for increased Nazi Party support between 1929-32 was the crisis caused by the Great Depression. It states, ‘Events such as the Wall Street Crash, which led to depression in Germany, brought increased support for the Nazis…’ I agree with this view as I know that Germany was plunged into economic ruin with 6 million people becoming unemployed. This hardship caused resentment towards the Weimar Republic as they were believed to be incompetent for not finding a solution, and many people turned to extremist groups like the Nazis to improve the situation. The interpretation also states that, ‘Five years earlier the Nazis had been a small party in German politics with little support.’ Once again, I agree with this view as during the ‘golden age’ of the Weimar Republic (1924-1929) when the economy was booming, and society was flourishing the Nazi Party struggled to gain support and gained very few seats in the Reichstag. However, I do slightly disagree with the view that, ‘Chance events…played a much larger role than any actions of the Nazi leader himself in bringing Hitler to power.’ Without Hitler’s leadership qualities and public speaking skills he would not have gained as much support for the Nazi Party as he did.

As such, I also agree in part with the view of Interpretation 1 which suggests the main reason for increased Nazi support was Hitler’s, ‘charismatic leadership’ skills. It states for example that, ‘He was a powerful speaker with his timing, expression and the content of his speeches impressing listeners.’ I know that Hitler would rehearse his speeches before giving them and use dramatic gestures and energetic performances to boost the crowd and get them cheering his ideas. This would inevitably lead to further support and votes for the Nazis. It also says, ‘He used propaganda to target the specific grievances of many Germans.’ I know Hitler would make promises and propaganda to target certain people in society. For example, to the workers he offered ‘arbeit und brot’ (work and bread), whilst to the upper classes and businessmen he promised to destroy the threat of Communism, which was a big concern for them. They feared that their land and businesses would be taken from them and nationalised if a Communist government took over Germany. Even though I do agree that, ‘Hitler himself was central to the success of the Nazis...’ I also recognise that many of the promises Hitler made centred around fixing the problems caused by the Great Depression. As such, I believe Hitler’s real skill was manipulating the economic situation in Germany to his advantage.

Overall, I partly disagree with interpretation 2, as while I do agree ‘Events such as the Wall Street Crash…brought increased support for the Nazis…’ I do not believe it was the most important factor. Both Hitler’s effective leadership style and brilliant use of propaganda took advantage of the economic problems Germany was facing. He was able to make promises to German people that ultimately led to increased support and more seats in the Reichstag. True, when the economy was stable before the Great Depression the Nazi Party did not have a lot of support, however there were many extremist groups in Germany offering solutions to Germany’s problems. If it hadn’t been for Hitler’s grasp of the importance of propaganda and his unique public speaking skills the Nazi Party might never have come to power in 1933.