**Exam Practise – Unit 4, The Breakdown of Cooperation**

**Where would questions come up?**

**On Paper 1 of your IGCSE.**

**This is the long two hour paper on which there are two sections; Section A and Section B.**

**All the questions in each section follow the same a, b, c, ‘describe’, ‘explain’, ‘how far’ format.**

**In Section A – answer 2 questions.**

**In Section B – answer 1 question.**

**Sometimes a question on The Breakdown of Cooperation comes up in Section A in which case you’d be able to answer it (hopefully)!**

**Below are examples of BoC questions.**

(a) Describe what was agreed about the Saar in the Treaty of Versailles, and what happened in 1935 as a result.

(a) What was the policy of appeasement, followed by Britain in the 1930s?

(a) What happened at the Munich Conference in 1938?

(a) Describe the remilitarisation of the Rhineland in 1936.

(a) What was agreed at the Munich Conference of September 1938?

(b) Why did Britain go to war over Poland?

(b) Why did Britain and France fail to resist the Anschluss?

(b) Why did Stalin sign the Nazi-Soviet Pact?

(b) Why did Hitler want to unite Germany and Austria?

(b) Why was the Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 1939 important?

(c) How far had Hitler achieved his foreign policy aims by the end of 1939?

(c) How far was the outbreak of war in 1939 Hitler’s fault? Explain your answer.

(c) How far was Hitler’s foreign policy to blame for war in 1939? Explain your answer.

(c) How far was the policy of appeasement followed by Britain and France responsible for the outbreak of war in 1939? Explain your answer.

(c) How far was the Treaty of Versailles to blame for the outbreak of war in 1939? Explain your answer.

**You should be able to learn off answers for (a). (b) is harder to predict but we can safely predict that the final question will be about the causes of WW2.**

**The main causes of WW2 are –**

* **AGGRESSION (Hitler’s steps RESDRA Rearmament, Saar Plebiscite treated like a victory, trouble stirred up in Austria by Austrian Nazis, Rhineland remilitarisation, Anschluss).**
* **PREVIOUS MISTAKES (like the harsh terms of ToV. These gave Hitler the excuses he needed).**
* **APPEASEMENT (especially by countries like Britain and France who were influential).**
* **LEAGUE OF NATIONS FAILINGS (Germany wasn’t the first nation to show aggression but Japan and Italy had demonstrated that the League was ineffective).**



APAL

Read over the questions and answers below in preparation for your next test.

Obviously you won’t get exactly the same questions but the questions you do get will follow the same format and be about the same general topic.

Good luck with your revision ☺

**All of the Questions below are from Nov 2011**

**(a) Describe what was agreed about the Saar in the Treaty of Versailles, and what happened in 1935 as a result.**

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1]

e.g. ‘The people got their wishes.’

Level 2 Describes terms / events [2–5]

One mark for each relevant point; additional mark for supporting detail.

‘Under the Treaty, the Saar was made the responsibility of the League. The League gave control of the Saar to France for 15 years.’

‘The League had responsibility for the area for 15 years.’

‘It was agreed that a plebiscite would take place after the 15 years to see whether the population wanted to stay with the French or return to Germany.’

‘In the vote, 90% indicated a return to German rule.’

‘The rich coal-mining area came back under German control and was a tremendous propaganda success for Hitler.’

**(b) Why did Britain and France fail to resist the Anschluss?**

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1]

e.g. ‘Germany and Austria had been close friends.’

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons [2–3]

‘Britain and France were weak-willed.’

‘It was thought essential to avoid war.’

‘They were not armed sufficiently to take action.’

‘They genuinely thought they should be allowed to unite.’

‘Britain and France could not agree on action.’

‘They needed Hitler’s help against Communist Russia.’

Level 3 Explains reasons [4–7] (One mark for an explanation, additional mark for full explanation.)

e.g. ‘Britain and France had suffered heavily in the First world War and wanted to avoid war

at all costs. This did not seem to be a strong enough reason to take military action.’

‘Britain and France were not ready for war. They were unsure they would defeat Hitler if it came to war.’

‘Although Britain did not want to take action, the French were more interested as they had suffered more from German aggression. The two powers could not agree and France would not take action without Britain.’

‘There were those who thought the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh on Germany and that there should be the Anschluss.’

 **(c) How far was the outbreak of war in 1939 Hitler’s fault? Explain your answer.**

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1]

‘The Treaty of Versailles was to blame for the outbreak of war.’

‘The weakness of the Allies was to blame.’

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons [2]

‘Hitler’s aim was to destroy the Treaty of Versailles, which inevitably meant war.’

‘The League of Nations proved to be a failure.’

‘The isolationist policy of the USA helped Hitler.’

‘Britain and France failed to act over Hitler’s aggressive foreign policy.’

‘The Depression gave rise to aggressive dictators like Hitler.’

**Level 3** Explanation of Hitler’s impact **OR** other reasons [3–5]

‘Hitler left the League, began re-arming, re-occupied the Rhineland and united with

Austria. This showed his determination to increase his power in Europe and avenge the Treaty of Versailles, which meant war.’

‘Hitler went too far with his aggressive foreign policy. He could not justify the occupation of Czechoslovakia or Poland. Britain had guaranteed to preserve the independence of Poland.

Hitler had pushed them to war.’

**OR**

‘The British felt that Germany had been harshly treated at Versailles and began to make concessions. Desperate to avoid war, Britain and France responded to Hitler’s demands with a policy of appeasement.’

‘The League of Nations’ main weapon was sanctions. It was unwilling to impose meaningful ones against powerful countries such as Italy. The failure of the League to act against Japan and Italy led to its demise and Hitler noted this. Britain and France stopped working through the League.’

Level 4 Explanation of Hitler’s impact **AND** other reasons [5–7]

Both sides of level 3.

Level 5 Explains with evaluation of ‘how far’ [8]

**(a) What was the policy of appeasement, followed by Britain in the 1930s?**

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1]

‘Britain gave in.’

‘It was a policy associated most closely with Neville Chamberlain.’

Level 2 Describes policy [2–5]

‘A policy used by Britain to avoid war.’

‘Britain made concessions to Hitler in the hope that he would be satisfied.’

‘A policy to reach agreement with Germany to settle its grievances once and for all.’

**(b) Why did Britain go to war over Poland?**

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1]

‘They thought it was the right time.’

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes reasons [2–3]

‘Britain had guaranteed to preserve the independence of Poland.’

‘Britain no longer trusted Hitler.’

‘Hitler ignored Britain’s ultimatum.’

‘Hitler invaded Poland.’

Level 3 Explains reasons [4–7]

‘Britain had no choice but to go to war over Poland. Britain had guaranteed they would preserve the independence of Poland and so when German armies invaded Poland and

Hitler then gave no reply to the British ultimatum, Britain was obliged to intervene and support Poland.

**(c) How far had Hitler achieved his foreign policy aims by the end of 1939?**

Level 1 General answer lacking specific contextual knowledge [1]

‘He had achieved some of his aims about land.’

Level 2 Identifies AND/OR describes achievement/lack of achievement [2]

‘Hitler had overturned parts of the Treaty of Versailles.’

‘He had gained some Lebensraum in the East.’

‘He had remilitarised the Rhineland.’

‘He had achieved Anschluss with Austria.’

‘He had not destroyed communism in the Soviet Union.’

‘He had not gained as much Lebensraum in Eastern Europe as he had hoped.’

Level 3 Explains achievement **OR** lack of achievement [3–5]

‘One of Hitler’s aims was to overturn the Treaty of Versailles. In March 1933 he announced that the German peacetime army was to be increased to 300,000. This was in direct defiance of the Treaty which had limited Germany’s army to 100,000 men. Two years later he reintroduced conscription, again defying the treaty.’

**OR**

‘Hitler wanted to gain Lebensraum in Eastern Europe. At the same time he thought he could defeat communism in the Soviet Union. By 1939 he had not achieved this. In order to take over Poland he had needed to sign the Nazi-Soviet Pact; he was still a long way from taking over the Soviet Union and destroying communism.’

Level 4 Explains achievement **AND** lack of achievement [5–7]

Both sides of level 3.

Level 5 Explains with evaluation of **‘how far’** [8]

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