



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1A/B: Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

Interpretation A Henrik Metelmann in his book called 'Through Hell for Hitler', published in 1970.

Metelmann was a member of the Hitler Youth in the 1930s and he is referring to his experiences in this extract.

At the time, it was smashing. When we went on our marches the police stopped the traffic and passers-by had to give the Nazi salute. We were poor and suddenly had fine uniforms. I'd never been on holiday; now they were taking us to camp by lakes and mountains.

I am ashamed to say now that, to us, Hitler was the greatest human being in the world. At rallies we couldn't hear what he was saying – but we all screamed anyway. When war came I was so excited. I thought, 'Now, I can show the Fuhrer what I'm made of'.

Interpretation B Inge Scholl in her book called 'Students Against Tyranny' published in 1952.

Inge Scholl's brother Hans and her sister Sophie were members of the White Rose group. They were arrested and executed by the Nazi police state in 1943. Inge is referring to what happened when Hans returned from a Hitler Youth rally in the 1930s.

We could not believe it. I remember that the leaders had told Hans that his songs were not allowed. Why should he be forbidden to sing those songs just because they had been created by other races? Then came the racial legislation and our Jewish classmates had to leave school.

We were living in a society then, where hate and lies had become normal. No one was safe from arrest for the slightest unguarded remark, and some disappeared forever for no good reason. Unseen ears seemed to be listening to everything that was spoken in Germany.

END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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