

# EDExcel A LEVEL HISTORY



**Link to Edexcel specification:**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/history-2015.html>

# What will I be studying in the first year?

## Route G: Nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in twentieth-century Europe

Paper	Content	Assessment
<b>Paper 1</b>  2 hours 15 minutes  <b>30% A Level</b> <b>60% A</b>	<b>Germany and West Germany, 1918-89</b> -Political and governmental change -Opposition, control and consent -Economic development and policies -Aspects of life in Germany -Hitler's foreign policy (How far was it responsible for causing the Second World War?)	A breadth study focusing on developments and changes over a broad timescale and a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question.  The examination comprises three questions; two essays and one interpretation question.
<b>Paper 2</b>  1 hour 30 minutes  <b>20% A Level</b> <b>40% A</b>	<b>The rise and fall of Fascist Italy, 1911-46</b> -The liberal state, 1911-18 -The rise of Mussolini and creation of a fascist dictatorship, 1919-26 -The fascist state, 1925-40 -Challenges to and the fall of the fascist state, 1935-46	A depth study focusing on the extent and nature of political, economic and social change.  The examination comprises two questions; one essay and one source evaluation question.



# What can I do to prepare for A Level History?

Working independently is an essential skill in order to succeed in A Level History. The step up to A Level from GCSE is a large one which requires you to develop the skills of research and self-motivation.

Over the Summer please complete the Unit 1 and Unit 2 tasks in this booklet which are outlined in the yellow box below.

Hand in one copy into Mr Hart, Director of Sixth Form, and one to Dr Bradshaw in the first week of term.

The following work is **compulsory** and must be completed on lined paper.

1. Questions on the article '**German president Gauck calls for greater international military commitment**'.
2. Questions on the article '**Italy's mixed feelings about Fascism**'.

Extension tasks are provided at the end of the booklet and are **optional**.

# **Why are Germans so reluctant to become involved in modern military interventions?**

**Read the article carefully. Use the internet and your own knowledge to answer the following questions.**

1. Why was the military so important in Nazi Germany (1933-45)?
2. How did Germany contribute to the outbreak of the Second World War?
3. What was the Weimar Republic (1918-33)?
4. How did life in the Weimar Republic differ from life in Nazi Germany?

**Extension Question:** Do you think that Germany should play a more important role in military intervention when it is deemed necessary?

# German president Gauck calls for greater international military commitment

Joachim Gauck says the German military should play a greater role in resolving international conflicts. The German president, however, said he understood the country's post-WWII hesitation. In an interview published on Saturday, President Joachim Gauck advocated a more active role abroad for the German military, the *Bundeswehr*.

"I have the feeling our country should maybe drop the reluctance that was in order in past decades in favour of a stronger sense of responsibility," Gauck told *Deutschlandradio Kultur*, after a trip to Norway.

Germany's Nazi past means officials are hesitant to send troops abroad, with overseas deployments largely unpopular at home. Authorities have, however, advocated a more active diplomatic role over recent months. Gauck, whose position is largely ceremonial and with a moral authority, said he understood the reluctance, but that Germany was now a "solid and reliable democracy."

However a stronger overseas role, he said, did not imply dominance.

"I don't mean the behaviour that Germany put on in past centuries or in the decade of war: a demeanour of German dominance. The opposite is what I mean," Gauck said.

"A 'yes' to an active participation in conflict resolution in a bigger framework, together with those who work with us in the European Union and in NATO."

Gauck, a former pastor from East Germany, said that in defending human rights and lives "it is sometimes necessary to take up arms," and not rule out a military response in advance as a "last resort."

Gauck's comments add to those he made in an interview with *Deutsche Welle* earlier this year. Gauck's remarks drew sharp criticism from Germany's opposition Left party. Its foreign policy spokesman Jan van Aken said Gauck's view of the military was "one-sided" and "highly dangerous."

Germany must work for freedom and justice in the world through the use of non-military means, van Aken said, adding that the majority of Germany's population "for good reasons" rejected a Germany as "world policeman."

A report published on Wednesday showed that Germany was the world's third largest arms exporter after the United States and Russia from 2008 to 2012.

# Has Italy moved on from fascism?

**Read the article carefully. Use the internet and your own knowledge to answer the following questions.**

1. Who was Benito Mussolini?
2. Find out what happened in Italy during World War II (1939-45).
3. After World War II, an intensive de-Nazification programme was carried out in Germany. Why do you think a similar process did not occur in Italy?
4. Do you think the lack of such a process has led to the presence of support for fascism in modern day Italy?

**Extension Question:** Can the art of the fascist period be separated from the fascist regime?

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- **Research this by starting with the following websites:**
- <http://www.ideologicalart.com/fascism/>
- Follow the link here to “degenerate art” and compare the two. What is the social function of each art form?
- <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog/2012/sep/24/art-fascist-italy-paintings-florence>
- What is the point made here about the effect of subjecting Art to social engineering?
- See also for more detail:
- <http://www.media-studies.ca/articles/fascism.htm>

# Italy's mixed feelings about Fascism

By David Willey BBC News (January 2013)

The ghost of Benito Mussolini, Italy's 20th Century Fascist dictator and *Duce*, dead and gone now for almost 70 years, is still stalking the country's politics. Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is actively campaigning for re-election in next month's general election, set off a chorus of outrage this week. He suggested, while attending a Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony in Milan, that the *Duce* had not been as entirely bad as the history books made out. In fact he had done some "good things". Mr Berlusconi said that the racial laws, which led to 8,000 Italian Jews being herded off to death camps, were Mussolini's "worst mistake". Mr Berlusconi was even rebuked by Italy's head of state, President Giorgio Napolitano, who said that democratic Italy knew that Fascism was an "aberration". The canny media magnate was immediately accused of courting extreme right-wing support for his proposed new People of Freedom party coalition in the run-up to the election on 24-25 February. He later backtracked, but his tactless remarks - and his even more tactless conduct in dozing off during part of the ceremony - recalled another occasion a decade ago when he appeared to praise Mussolini by claiming that the Fascist dictator had "never killed anybody".

Mr Berlusconi made his comments to TV crews in Milan on Holocaust Memorial Day.

In Germany de-Nazification was actively and officially pursued for years after the end of World War II. Chancellor Angel Merkel said this week that Germany's responsibility for the Holocaust was "everlasting". But in Italy, Fascism was never rooted out with the same enthusiasm. True, the new Italian republic which succeeded two decades of Fascist rule made it a crime to attempt to revive Mussolini's Fascist party. But for decades after the war, the right-wing MSI (Italian Social Movement) led by Giorgio Almirante was represented in parliament and managed to keep alive many Fascist ideals while avoiding prosecution under this law. "If being a gentleman means that I am a Fascist," he once told the BBC, "then I am a Fascist." The distinguished Italian historian of Fascism Emilio Gentile has written that Mussolini raised his political ideology to the status of a religious cult. Mussolini's grand-daughter Alessandra is still active in politics. She founded a right-wing movement of her own and latterly has been supporting Mr Berlusconi's Freedom Party coalition. Shouting, she stalked out of a TV political debate this week because a leftist journalist had, in her opinion, insulted the memory of her grandfather.

Italy's political ambivalence over its Fascist heritage has been mirrored in the arts. The 1920s and 1930s were a period of considerable artistic and architectural endeavour and achievement, encouraged by the Mussolini regime, but political taboos have tended to hinder serious attempts to re-examine the art of the Fascist periods - until now. This winter, an exhibition at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence of paintings and sculpture from the 1930s entitled *The Arts in Italy Beyond Fascism* has attracted large numbers of visitors. Apart from works of important Italian painters of the period who also circulated in Paris and Berlin, the exhibition included a large composite of four monumental nudes by Hitler's favourite artist, Adolf Ziegler. This was one of the most reproduced works of modern art in Nazi Germany.

The curators of the Palazzo Strozzi exhibition - under the direction of a Canadian art historian who heads the museum - invited visitors to "explore the decade without prejudice", breaking political and intellectual taboos which have endured since Mussolini's ignominious end in Milan in 1945.

# Challenge and extension

The extension tasks below are designed to extend and develop your knowledge further.

	Germany	Italy
<b>READ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Book Thief</b>, Marcus Zusok</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Duggan, <u>Fascist Voices: An Intimate History of Italy</u>.</li> <li>• Carlo Levi, <u>Christ stopped at Eboli (1944)- rural Italy</u></li> </ul>
<b>WATCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Cabaret-</u> (1966) Life in Berlin on the eve of Nazi takeover.</li> <li>• Nazis: A Warning From History <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mplu3Q8ZOjw&amp;list=PL51668B98E800C0F3">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mplu3Q8ZOjw&amp;list=PL51668B98E800C0F3</a></li> <li>• <u>The Life of Others-</u> evocation of Life in East Germany during the Cold War</li> <li>• <u>Death in Berlin-</u> East-West German spy drama of the 1960s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Tea With Mussolini</u> (film)</li> <li>• <u>Mussolini: the untold story</u> (TV. 1985) mini series George C. Scott.</li> <li>• <u>Il giovani Mussolini</u> (1993) An Italian film on Mussolini's early life with Antonio Banderas in the title role.</li> </ul>

# Log book

**You must record all work in the log book and hand it into Mr Hart, Director of Sixth Form on your return to school. The actual work itself will be collected by Dr Bradshaw in the first week of term.**

Work	Date completed
Questions on the article 'German president Gauck calls for greater international military commitment'.	
Questions on the article 'Italy's mixed feelings about Fascism'.	
Extension tasks (Art)	
Extension (Books and Films)	