Year: 11
Subject: History
Topic/Unit: Nazi Germany 1933-1945
When: Autumn Term

Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Overview: This unit explores the history of Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945. Students will examine how Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party dismantled democracy to establish a total dictatorship. The course investigates the methods used to control the German population, the radical changes to everyday life for different social groups, and the devastating impact of the Second World War and the Holocaust on both the German people and the people of occupied Europe.

Why this? Why now? Understanding the Third Reich is essential for recognising how democratic systems can be replaced by extremist regimes. It provides a vital context for modern discussions on human rights, the power of propaganda, and the importance of individual resistance. This study encourages students to think critically about how states use fear and persuasion to influence citizens. Completing this unit of work in Y11 enables students to apply developed source skills to the primary material that this part of the course demands.

Building on: Students apply prior knowledge regarding the Treaty of Versailles and the economic instability caused by the Great Depression to understand why the Nazis gained popularity.
Building to: This unit prepares students for advanced historical analysis of 20th-century international relations and provides crucial context for the Cold War in Asia course in Year 12.

Sequence Summary

1. **Establishing the Dictatorship (1933–1934):** Analysing the Reichstag Fire, the Enabling Act, and the removal of political rivals during the Night of the Long Knives.
2. **The Machinery of Control:** Investigating the role of the SS and Gestapo in creating a 'terror state' alongside Joseph Goebbels' use of propaganda.
3. **Changing Lives (1933–1939):** Examining Nazi policies toward workers, women, and young people, as well as the initial stages of Jewish persecution.
4. **Germany at War:** Studying the move to a war economy, the impact of 'Total War' on civilians, and growing internal opposition.
5. **Occupation and the Holocaust:** Comparing Nazi rule in Eastern and Western Europe and tracing the stages of the Holocaust from ghettos to death camps.

Key Vocabulary: Dictatorship, Enabling Act, **Gleichschaltung** (bringing into line), Gestapo, Propaganda, **Übermenschen** (superior humans), **Untermenschen** (sub-humans), **Lebensraum** (living space), Total War, Holocaust, Collaboration, and Resistance.

Assessments

- Practice 7, 15 and 18 mark exam questions across the learning of the course.
- 30-minute multiple-choice knowledge tests to ensure factual recall of key knowledge.
- End of unit assessment.

Able and Interested High-achieving students will engage with complex historiography and evaluate why resistance was so difficult in a terror state. All students will analyse Nazi sources, such as Goebbels' private diaries, to understand the regime's internal concerns.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills The curriculum uses adaptive reading strategies and visual aids to support diverse learners. It promotes personal development by encouraging respect when discussing sensitive topics and dehumanisation. Wider skills include critical source analysis and the ability to distinguish between historical myths and realities.

Homework and Independent Learning: Students will be set 30 minutes of homework weekly which may include: reading, research, completion of lesson tasks or skills practice.