

# Grade 9 Answer

## Interpretation Evaluation

8/8  
Marks

### Question:

Which interpretation gives the more convincing opinion about the experiences of young people living in Nazi Germany? Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in Interpretations A and B. (8 marks)

### Answer:

Interpretation A gives the more convincing opinion about the experiences of young people living in Nazi Germany. This is because it reflects the intense indoctrination of girls in the League of German Maidens, emphasizing their role as future mothers of the Aryan race. Isle McKee's account highlights how girls were taught from an early age that motherhood was their duty to the Reich, and this aligns with Nazi policies that glorified motherhood as vital to the future of Germany. Young girls were taught how to become good wives and mothers at the Nazi youth group the League of German Maidens. Additionally, McKee's observation that teenage girls often felt they were fulfilling their patriotic duty, even in cases of illegitimacy, shows how deeply these ideas permeated the minds of young girls, reflecting the significant social pressures placed on them by the regime.

In contrast, Interpretation B, while accurate in portraying Bert Trautmann's excitement about joining the Hitler Youth, provides a more individual perspective on the experiences of young boys. While many boys did enthusiastically join the Hitler Youth, Interpretation B focuses on one person's personal pride in wearing the uniform and swearing loyalty to Hitler, which does not fully capture the broader complexities of youth experiences in Nazi Germany. It is well-documented that not all young people were as enthusiastic, and some families, like Trautmann's mother, had reservations about the intense indoctrination of their children. There were also many youth resistance groups such as the Edelweiss Pirates that did not accept the Nazi regime and beat up Hitler Youth members. Therefore, this interpretation offers a narrower view of the youth experience under the Nazis.

In conclusion, Interpretation A is more convincing because it provides a broader insight into the experiences of young girls in Nazi Germany, reflecting the extensive indoctrination and social pressures placed on them to serve the state through motherhood.

### Feedback:

This answer would get 8/8 marks because the pupil has given a complex evaluation of the interpretations based on contextual knowledge, and they have given their overall judgement on which interpretation is more convincing, with reasoning.

## Interpretation A

**From Isle McKee's autobiography 'Tomorrow the World', published in 1960. McKee was a member of the German League of Girls.**

**We were told from a very early age to prepare for motherhood, as the mother in the eyes of our beloved leader and the National Socialist Government was the most important person in the nation. We were Germany's hope in the future, and it was our duty to breed and rear the new generation of sons and daughter. These lessons soon bore fruit in the shape of quite a few illegitimate small sons and daughters for the Reich, brought forth by teenage members of the League of German Maidens. The girls felt they had done their duty and seemed remarkably unconcerned about the scandal.**

## Interpretation B

**An excerpt from Catrine Clay's book 'Trautmann's Journey: From Hitler Youth to FA Cup Legend' published in 2010. It tells the story of the famous goalkeeper Bert Trautmann's youth.**

**Bert Trautmann couldn't wait to join the Hitler Youth. His mother, better educated than his father, had her misgivings...But begged by Bert and bombarded with Nazi propaganda, his parents scraped together the money it took to buy the uniform... Bert wore it with intense pride as he stood erect giving the Nazi salute before the swastika banner, hair shorn short back and sides, and spoke the oath: "In the presence of the blood banner, I swear to devote all my powers and my strength to the saviour of our Reich, Adolf Hitler. I am willing and ready to give up my life for him, so help me God.**