

Grade 9 Answer

Reason for Differences

4/4
Marks

Question:

Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the experiences of young people living in Nazi Germany. You may use Sources B and C to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

Answer:

The interpretations are different because they put different weight to difference sources. For example, Source B, which depicts the experiences of the youth to be positive and shows a Hitler Youth member looking proud, provides some support for Interpretation 1 which states that some young people enjoyed living in Nazi Germany, and felt proud to be a part of groups such as Hitler Youth. Whereas Source C, which shows evidence that many young girls were pressured into having children at a young age by the Nazis, provides some support for Interpretation 2, which emphasises the fact that young girls had a duty to be good mothers, and intellectual opportunities were taken away from them.

Feedback:

This answer would get 4/4 marks because the pupil has identified a reason for difference in the interpretations, explaining this reason with analysis.

Source B

Source B: A poster by Ludwig Hohlwein who was a strong supporter of Hitler. The text reads 'The German Student Fights for the Führer and the People' (c. 1935)



[<https://spartacus-educational.com/GERyouth.htm>]

Source C

Source C: 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 1

Interpretation 1: Catrine Clay 'Trautmann's Journey: From Hitler Youth to FA Cup Legend' published in 2010.

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.

Interpretation 2

Interpretation 2: Cate Haste 'Nazi Women', published in 2001

It was German girls' duty to be healthy, for their bodies belonged to the nation. They must be fit in every way for their ultimate destiny: childbearing. Sport, along with physical training and exercise, was essential. Massive displays of formation dancing and group gymnastics were a regular feature of BDM life. Sport and domestic skills took precedence over intellectual pursuits, which the male leaders considered were against their 'nature'. All girls were trained in household subjects – the theory of nutrition and baby care and the practice of sewing, handicrafts, cooking, healthy eating, and the importance of fresh air and exercise and cleanliness.