IB HL /SL History Mr. Blackmon

**Source Based Analysis: Prescribed subject 3: The move to global war**

**Hitler’s Foreign Policy Goals**

[This Source Based Analysis is adapted from the 1988 Paper 01 IB History Examination]

*Texts in this examination paper have been edited: word additions or explanations are shown in square brackets [ ]; substantive deletions of text are indicated by ellipses (three points ... ); minor changes are not indicated. Candidates should answer the questions in order.*

The following extracts relate to Germany’s foreign policy under Adolf Hitler 1933-1937

**Document A** *Memorandum of Ulrich von Hasell, German ambassador to Italy, indicates that Hitler is considering the re-occupation of the Rhineland, February 1936*

“The Führer said that he was at present considering an extremely far-reaching question . . . . The question was whether Germany should take the Paris ratification of the Russian Pact as grounds for denouncing Locarno and once more stationing troops in the demilitarized zone. . . . Until now, he had always envisaged the spring of 1937 as the right moment. Political developments, however, made one wonder whether the psychological moment had not arrived now. Admittedly the fact that militarily Germany was not yet ready . . . was an argument for postponement. . . At the moment . . . England was in a bad state militarily, and much hampered by other problems. France was distracted by internal politics. In both countries, there was a strong opposition to the Russian Pact, which was to our advantage. He did not think that such a step on Germany’s part would be answered by military action.”

**Document B** *Hitler on the Four Year Plan August 1936*

“. . . the essence and goal of Bolshevism is the elimination of those strata of mankind which have hitherto provided the leadership and their replacement by world wide Jewry. . . .

Germany will . . . have to be regarded as the focus of the Western world against the attacks of Bolshevism. I do not regard this as an agreeable mission but as a serious handicap and burden for our national life, regrettably resulting from our disadvantageous position in Europe. We cannot, however, escape this destiny . . . . In the face of this danger of warding off this danger (of a victory for Bolshivism), all other considerations must recede into the background as completely irrelevant. . . .

I thus set the following tasks:

I The German Army must be operational within four years.

II The German economy must be fit for war within four years.”

**Document C** *Extract from the Hoßbach Memorandum, November 1937. This is the only record of a secret conference of advisers held by Hitler in the Reich Chancellery on 5 November 1937.*

“The Führer then continued :

The aim of German policy was to make secure and to preserve the racial community and to enlarge it. It was therefore a question of space. . . .

Germany’s problem could only be solved by means of force and this was never without attendant risk. . . . If one accepts as the basis of the following exposition the resort to force with its attendant risks, then there remain still to be answered the questions of ‘when’ and ‘how’.

Hitler then outlined three possible cases. In the first of which ‘it was his unalterable resolve to solve Germnay’s problem of space at the latest by 1943-1945. The necessity for action before 1943-1945 would arise in cases 2 and 3 [these were situations in which France would be ‘neutralised’.]”

**Document D** *General Alfred Jodl, Chief of the National Defense Section in the Armed Forces High Command, on “Operation Green”, the plan for an offensive against Czechoslovakia, December 1937.*

“When Germany has achieved complete preparedness for war,. . . , then the military conditions will have been created for carrying out an offensive against Czechoslovakia, so that the solution of the German problem of *Lebensraum* [Living Space ] can be carried to a victorious conclusion. (In certain circumstances, Operation Green might begin before the completion of Germany’s full military preparations for war.)

The military objective of Operation Green is still the speedy occupation of Bohemia and Moravia with the simultaneous solution of the Austrian question in the sense of incorporating Austria into the German Reich.”

**Questions**

1 Explain briefly the following references

(A) “. . . the Russian Pact as grounds for denouncing Locarno” (Document A)

**(3 marks)**

(B) “France was distracted by internal politics” (Document A)  **(2 marks)**

2 With reference to its origin and purpose, assess the value and limitations of Document C for historians studying the origins of war in Europe 1932-1939. **[4 marks]**

3 How consistent are Documents B and D in describing Hitler’s foreign and economic policies? **(6 marks)**

4 Using the sources and your own knowledge, to what extent was Hitler’s foreign policy based upon “carefully calculated risk-taking”?