How did the early Nazi Party develop 1919-1923?

L/O – To examine the changes made to the German Workers’ Party (DAP) by Adolf Hitler
How did Hitler convince the people of Germany?
What on earth would make the German people decide to elect such a man?
Who was Hitler?

• Born on 20\textsuperscript{th} April 1889 in Braunau, a small town in Austria, near to the German border.

• Left school at 16 after failing exams.

• Father died at 14, mother died at 17.

• Lived in Vienna, Austria from 1907 as an artist and tramp.

• Joined the German army in 1914 as a volunteer.

• Became a war hero and was injured.

• Worked as a spy for the army after the war.
Hitler as a boy

“He always wanted his own way. He was boastful, bad-tempered and lazy... He ignored advice and got angry if he was told off. At the same time, he demanded complete obedience from his fellow pupils.”

Comments from one of Hitler’s teachers.
Hitler's final school report (September 1905) was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Dear Friend, To begin with, I am still in Vienna and am staying on. Still, I am enjoying my life... I have no other news to tell you except that I caught a gang of bedbugs floating dead in my own blood and that my teeth are chattering.”

Letter from Hitler to a friend in July, 1908.
Hitler as corporal in WW1, 1916

“Hitler has been with the regiment since 1914 and has fought splendidly in all the battles...as a messenger he was always ready to carry messages...at great risk to his own life.”

A report on Hitler by his Commanding Officer during the Great War
Hitler as Fuhrer, 1934
WHO: Explain how Hitler came to be leader of the Nazi Party
Which factors shaped Hitler?

How important do you think each event was in shaping Hitler?

1. Relationship with parents
2. Time at school
3. Going to Vienna
4. Fighting in the war
5. Joining the Nazi party

LO: Explain how Hitler came to be leader of the Nazi Party
The German Workers’ Party (DAP)

- After the war, Hitler was sent by the army to check up on political groups. One was the German Worker’s Party (DAP) in Munich.

- The DAP was founded by Anton Drexler on 9th January 1919. At Hitler’s first meeting in September 1919, there were only 23 people present.
The German Workers’ Party (DAP)

- DAP members were bitter and angry about:
  - Communists and Socialists who they blamed for bringing down the Kaiser.
  - Weimar Politicians who had agreed the ToV.
  - The weaknesses of Democracy.
  - The Jews – blamed for weakening the economy.

- In late **September 1919**, Hitler actually **joined** the party.
Mitgliedskarte

für


Nr. 555

Schröder

Christwart

Für den Arbeitsausschuß:

Presler

Diese Karte gilt als Ausweis bei geschlossenen Versammlungen
The 25-Point Programme

• By **1920**, Hitler was working as Drexler’s **right-hand man**. In **Feb 1920**, they both reveal the new **25-Point Programme** of the DAP.

• Hitler was a **passionate and energetic speaker** who attracted large number of people to meetings.

• Membership grew to about **1100 by June 1920**, attracting supporters from the army, the police and small businesses.

**TASK**
Read the hand-out and answer the questions that follow
Hitler’s Role in the DAP

- Hitler wasn’t just their best speaker but also their best political strategist.

- On 7th August 1920, the DAP changed its name to the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (NSDAP – Nazi for short).

- Hitler introduced the swastika and raised arm salute. Membership increased to 3000 during 1920.
Hitler takes over the NSDAP

- Increased membership boosted funds and the party was able to buy a newspaper – *the Volkischer Beobachter* – for 180,000 marks.

- On 28th July 1921 Hitler was appointed *Party Chairman* by Drexler.

- Hitler soon took over the leadership, acquiring the title ‘Fuhrer’ (leader).
Hitler takes over the NSDAP

- As Fuhrer of the Party he gathered around him loyal party leaders and powerful friends:
  - Ernst Röhm – scar-faced soldier
  - Hermann Goering – a wealthy hero of the German Air Force
  - Rudolf Hess – a wealthy academic who became Hitler’s deputy
  - Julius Streicher – founder of another Nazi paper, Der Stümer.
  - General Ludendorff – leader of the German army during 1918.
The Sturmabteilung (SA)

• In **1921**, Hitler created the SA or **storm troopers**. These were the party’s **private army**. They were recruited from demobilised soldiers, the unemployed and students.

• These ‘**brownshirts**’ provided security at meetings and **bodyguards** for Nazi leaders, they also **broke up** meetings of opposition groups.
The Stosstrupp (SS)

- Ernst Röhm was in charge of the SA and the SA became personally loyal to Röhm.

- The SA were thugs who were difficult to control so in 1923 Hitler selected members of the SA to form his own bodyguard, the ‘Stosstrupp’ or Shock Troop.
What did Hitler bring to the Nazi party?

There were three important ways in which Hitler contributed to the development of the Nazi party before 1923:

Click on the flag, the microphone or the helmet to find out more.

L/O – To examine the changes made to the German Workers’ Party (DAP) by Adolf Hitler
Exam Question

‘Use Source A and your own knowledge to explain the part played by Hitler in the early development of the Nazi Party 1919-1923’

(10 marks)

“In 1921 Hitler became party leader and in the same year founded the Sturm Abteilung (‘Stormtroopers’ or ‘Brownshirts’). The SA was a paramilitary organisation that paraded in full uniform, wearing the Nazi ‘swastika’. Its main task was to protect Nazi meetings and ‘disrupt’ those of its opponents.”

Source A: From a modern textbook