

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

How was Hitler able to become Chancellor in January 1933?

13. Explaining II – exemplification

Assessment objective AO1 – “knowledge and understanding” – is built into EVERY markscheme, so you have no alternative – you need to put some facts or quotes into your answers.

And if you want to earn marks from that knowledge, it needs to be **RELEVANT** to the question asked.

So – when you cite a fact or a quote – ask yourself: does this prove the point I am trying to make? You need what I am going to call ‘proving information’.

Imagine you are answering the question: ‘How did Hitler come to power?’ and want an example which proves that his personal qualities were a major factor helping him do so.

Consider the following facts about Hitler:

- (1) “Hitler was a brilliant speaker, and his eyes had a peculiar power over people.”
- (2) “His words held the masses under an hypnotic spell.”
- (3) “His self-belief persuaded people to believe in him.”

Choose which of the three facts you would use as ‘proving information’ to support the idea that Hitler’s personal qualities helped him come to power?

All of the statements are true, but the answer is (3). You are trying to give an example which proves that Hitler’s personal qualities helped him come to power. Facts (1) and (2) proves Hitler’s personal qualities were remarkable, it is fact (3) that proves that they helped him come to power ... by getting people to believe in him.

1. Imagine you are answering the question: ‘How did Hitler come to power?’ and are writing about the reason: ‘Economic Depression’.

Which of the following three facts would be the best to use, and why?

- After the Wall Street Crash, the US called in its loans to Germany, and the German economy collapsed.
- The Number of unemployed grew; people starved on the streets.
- People wanted someone to blame, and looked to extreme solutions – Hitler offered them both.

2. The webpage provides lots of factual evidence about the following causes of Hitler’s rise to power. But find the relevant ‘proving information’ which **best** supports the claim that they helped him come to power:

- Deep anger about the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles.
- Weaknesses in the Weimar Constitution.
- The financial support of wealthy businessmen.
- Nazi propaganda.
- President Hindenburg.