Nazi Society Fish Bowl Socratic Discussion Questions

IB History

**Instructions:** To evaluate to what extent Hitler and his Nazis achieved total control over German society, we are going to explore the below questions in a Socratic Discussion. The below questions are created to support responses to both Paper 2 and Paper 3 style questions. All of our assertions should be linked to specific concrete details and relative historiography.

You will each be expected to specialize in one of the subjects for the fishbowl discussion. You will be evaluated using the Socratic discussion rubric, so make sure that you come ready to engage. When you are not in the fishbowl, you are expected to listen carefully to the other discussions and take notes of strong evidence and relevant historiography. There will be time at the end of the discussion for you to check in with other classmates to clarify anything that you heard for your notes.

Education

1. What were the goals of the Nazi education system and how do they reflect the ideology?
2. To what extent can we say that the changes implemented by the Nazi’s achieved their goals?
3. How important is education as a method to maintain power in an authoritarian state? Compare and contrast between two authoritarian states we have studied
4. To what extent can we say total control was achieved in Nazi education?

Youth

1. What were the goals of the Nazi youth programs and how do they reflect the ideology?
2. To what extent can we say that the youth programs created by the Nazi’s achieved their goals? Consider both programs for boys and girls.
3. How important is having strong youth organizations as a method to maintain power in an authoritarian state? Compare and contrast between two authoritarian states we have studied
4. To what extent can we say total control was achieved over the young people of Germany?

Women

1. In what ways, and with what results, was the status of women affected by the policies of Hitler?
2. Compare and contrast the treatment of women and minorities in Nazi Germany.
3. “Social policies around gender roles was often undermined by economic concerns”. To what extent do you agree with the statement? Compare two authoritarian regimes we have studied.
4. To what extent can we say total control was achieved over the women of Germany?

Religion

1. Analyze the treatment of religious groups in Germany.
2. How did Hitler’s persecution of religious minorities help and hinder his control over the German people?
3. “Religion is a double-edged sword that hurt more than it helped the maintenance of power”. Discuss the validity of the above claim using two of the authoritarians we have studied this year.
4. To what extent can we say total control was achieved over the religion of Germany?

Outsiders/Opposition

1. Assess the importance of the use of force for the establishment of totalitarian control.
2. In what ways, and to what extent, was propaganda important in the rise and rule of Hitler?
3. What was more important in controlling the German people: Propaganda, or the Police State?
4. To what extent was Germany a totalitarian state?

Economics

1. How did the goals of the Nazi economic program reflect other goals of the regime?
2. What were the greatest successes and failures of Hitler’s economic policies?
3. “If Hitler valued ideology over economic growth.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
4. “Social and economic policies in authoritarian states did not always achieve their aims.” Discuss with reference to one Nazi Germany.