

★ UNIT 1 — CRIME AND PUNISHMENT c1000–present + WHITECHAPEL



Key Question 1 — How did crime change over time?

1. Crime in Anglo-Saxon England

- Most crimes involved petty theft of food, tools, animals or valuables due to widespread poverty.
- Violent crime existed but was usually within small communities; murderers rarely escaped because everyone knew each other.
- Treason was considered the worst crime — betraying your lord threatened social order.
- Moral crimes included fighting, adultery, and drunkenness; often dealt with by the Church.
- Crime was local and based on survival rather than planned or organised crime.
- Outlaws (men who ran away from justice) could be killed on sight, creating fear around resisting the law.

2. Crime under the Normans

- William introduced **Forest Laws**, making activities like hunting, gathering wood or cutting down trees illegal in “royal forests”.
- Forest Laws criminalised ordinary behaviour; many families lost access to food sources.
- Murdrum fine: if a Norman was found killed, the community had to pay — encouraged people to report crimes.
- Resistance against Norman rule (e.g., rebellion) became a new category of serious crime.
- Trial by combat introduced — reflecting Norman belief in warrior culture.
- Normans kept older systems but added more offences to strengthen control.

3. Early Modern Crime (1500–1700)

- Heresy and treason became major crimes as monarchs changed religions (Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I).
- Vagrancy rose because of population growth and lack of stable jobs.
- Witchcraft became a serious crime; 1604 Act made it punishable by death.
- Smuggling increased because people wanted cheaper goods and tax rates rose.
- Civil War and political instability increased crime, especially looting and disorder.

- Crimes reflected religious tension and growing control of the state.

4. Industrial Era Crime (1700–1900)

- Cities grew rapidly, causing more street crime like pickpocketing and burglary.
- Highwaymen flourished until better roads, banks and policing reduced opportunities.
- Smuggling became highly organised (Hawkhurst Gang).
- Protest crimes like Luddite machine-breaking increased due to industrialisation.
- Poverty in industrial cities pushed some people to theft for survival.
- Growth of media increased public fear of crime, even when crime rates fell.

5. Modern Crime (1900–present)

- New technology led to new types of crime: cyber-fraud, hacking, identity theft.
- Terrorism increased (e.g., IRA in 1970s–90s; later extremist terrorism).
- Drug trafficking expanded with globalisation.
- Car-related crime became common (speeding, drunk driving, car theft).
- Hate crime and racism became new legal categories after 1998.
- Organised crime became international and harder to detect.

Key Question 2 — How did punishments change?

1. Anglo-Saxon Punishments

- Wergild: criminals paid the victim's family; amount varied by status.
- Stocks/pillory used to shame criminals publicly.
- Corporal punishment (whipping, mutilation) for repeat offenders.
- Execution for treason and the most serious crimes.
- Aim was compensation, not harshness — crime threatened community peace.
- Punishments carried out quickly and locally.

2. Norman Punishments

- William ended wergild — fines now paid to the king, showing royal control.
- Harsh penalties for Forest Law-breaking (blinding, mutilation).
- Execution used more to assert power after the conquest.
- Prisons used mainly for holding, not punishing — but more common.
- Collective punishments like murdrum fines.
- Aim: control population after conquest and deter rebellion.

3. Early Modern Punishments (1500–1700)

- Heretics burned at the stake — demonstrating religious power.
- Transportation to America and later Australia used as heavy punishment.
- Vagrants whipped and branded.
- Public executions meant to deter large crowds.
- Bloody Code introduced: 200+ crimes punishable by death.
- Punishments reflected fear of disorder in growing towns.

4. 18th/19th Century Reform

- Bloody Code reduced due to concerns about morality and effectiveness.
- Transportation ended partly because Australia objected.
- Prisons became central punishment — designed to reform character.
- Silent system: no talking; separate system: isolation.
- Hard labour (treadmills, oakum-picking) used to teach discipline.
- Victorians believed harsh conditions could reform behaviour.

5. Modern Punishments (1900–today)

- Death penalty abolished (1965) — shift towards human rights values.
- Community service for minor crimes.
- Increased focus on rehabilitation (education, counselling).
- Probation introduced — supervision instead of prison.
- Young offender institutions for under-18s.
- Debate continues about effectiveness vs reoffending.

Key Question 3 — How did law enforcement develop?

1. Anglo-Saxon Enforcement

- Tithings: groups of 10 men responsible for each other's behaviour.
- Hue and Cry meant whole village had to chase criminals.
- Local courts (hundred courts) met monthly to judge minor crimes.
- Church courts dealt with moral issues (marriage, adultery).
- There were no full-time police officers.
- Strong belief in community responsibility.

2. Norman Enforcement

- Continued tithings and hue and cry but with greater royal supervision.
- Sheriffs and their deputies had more control over catching criminals.
- Forest officers enforced Forest Laws.
- Royal courts handled more serious crimes.
- Norman lords used castles as bases of local authority.
- Murdrum fine encouraged loyalty to Norman rule.

3. 18th Century Changes

- Britain's growing cities led to rising crime and ineffective community policing.
- Bow Street Runners were first paid detective force.
- Horse patrols reduced highway robbery.
- "Thief-takers" were paid to catch criminals but often corrupt.
- Magistrates increasingly involved in law enforcement.
- Newspapers spread crime reports, encouraging public interest.

4. 19th Century Police Forces

- 1829 Metropolitan Police Act: first professional police force.
- Officers wore blue uniforms to appear non-military.
- 1856: all areas required a professional police force.
- CID (1878) created as a detective branch for investigations.
- New technology: telegraphs, improved lighting, photography.
- Police became more accepted as professional, not oppressive.

5. Modern Policing

- Specialist units: counterterrorism, firearms, cybercrime, forensics.
- Use of DNA, fingerprinting, CCTV and digital databases.
- Community policing builds trust in local neighbourhoods.
- Cooperation with social workers, schools and councils.
- Computers and software analyse crime patterns.
- Policing focuses on both prevention and detection.



Key Question 4 — Why were the Whitechapel murders so hard to solve?

- Poor lighting and fog meant suspects couldn't be identified clearly at night.

- Overcrowded slum areas had thousands of possible witnesses but little accurate information.
- No modern forensics (no DNA, no blood typing, no crime scene preservation).
- Police rivalry between Met and City Police meant duplicated work and missed leads.
- Press pressure led to hoax letters and false accusations, wasting police time.
- Dislike of immigrants caused police to chase prejudiced assumptions.
- Prostitutes, the victims, often worked alone, making them vulnerable.
- Crime scenes were contaminated by crowds, reporters and officers.
- Whitechapel had high crime levels, making real clues hard to isolate.
- The killer targeted areas with confusing alleyways and escape routes.

Key Question 5 — What were conditions like in Whitechapel?

- Overcrowded lodging houses housed 200–300 people each night.
- Many people were unemployed and lived day-to-day on casual labour.
- Prostitution common because women had few other ways to earn income.
- Alcohol abuse widespread due to poor living conditions and stress.
- Jewish immigrants faced racist attacks and suspicion from locals.
- Poor sanitation caused disease and desperation.
- Back-to-back housing, dark alleyways and maze-like streets helped criminals hide.
- Workhouses harsh — long hours, poor meals and loss of dignity.
- Police struggled because people constantly moved between cheap lodgings.
- Rising crime and poverty made residents distrust authority.

Key Question 6 — How did police investigate the Ripper?

- Conducted house-to-house searches across entire districts.
- Interviewed hundreds of residents and lodging house owners.
- Increased patrols in areas around Whitechapel and Spitalfields.
- Checked employees at slaughterhouses and butcher shops.
- Used sketches and maps to look for patterns in the murders.
- Considered use of bloodhounds but plan abandoned.
- Post-mortems gave only basic clues due to lack of forensic science.
- Received over 300 letters, many hoaxes that wasted time.
- Worked with local vigilante groups, though relationship was poor.

- Followed hundreds of false leads due to pressure from media and government.

UNIT 1 — 15 REVISION QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. What was a tithing?
2. What were the Forest Laws?
3. Why did smuggling increase in the 18th century?
4. What was the Bloody Code?
5. Who created the Metropolitan Police and when?
6. What were the Bow Street Runners?
7. Why did highway robbery decline?
8. What was transportation?
9. Why did the death penalty decline in the 19th century?
10. Give one reason why the Ripper case was difficult to solve.
11. What was a workhouse?
12. Why did overcrowding in lodging houses hinder police work?
13. What role did the press play in the investigation?
14. What kind of new crime emerged due to technology in the modern era?
15. What was the purpose of the murdrum fine?

UNIT 1 — 3 EDEXCEL-STYLE EXAM QUESTIONS

1. **4 marks:** Describe two features of policing in Whitechapel.
2. **12 marks:** Explain why punishments changed in the period c1700–1900.
3. **16 marks:** “The main reason the Ripper murders were never solved was the lack of forensic science.” How far do you agree?



★ UNIT 2 — ANGLO-SAXON AND NORMAN ENGLAND



🌀 Key Question 1 — What was Anglo-Saxon society like?

1. Social Structure

- Hierarchy: king → earls → thegns → ceorls → peasants → slaves.
- Earls controlled large regions and commanded armies.
- Thegns were local landowners with administrative duties.
- Ceorls were free peasants with some land.
- Slaves made up 10% of population and had no rights.
- Society relied on farming and local production.

2. Government

- Country divided into shires, each with a sheriff.
- Shires divided into “hundreds” for courts and taxes.
- King’s laws passed through local lords.
- Witan advised the king and chose new kings.
- Strong local control meant decisions were quick.
- Reeves collected taxes and organised local policing.

3. The Church

- Church hugely influential in education, law, and politics.
- Bishops advised kings and controlled large areas of land.
- Monasteries preserved written records.
- Religion shaped attitudes to crime and punishment.
- Priests taught obedience and loyalty.
- Church courts dealt with moral crimes.

4. Economy

- Mostly agricultural with small markets.
- Land ownership determined wealth.
- Trade with Scandinavia and Europe.
- Taxes collected in goods rather than money.
- Tolls paid at markets and bridges.
- Production small-scale and local.

5. Law and Order

- Tithings and hue and cry maintained peace.
- Collective responsibility meant whole villages punished for individual crimes.
- Blood feuds existed but mostly discouraged by wergild.
- Trials by ordeal used when juries unsure.
- Laws designed to maintain social stability.
- Harsh penalties for treason or rebellion.

6. Daily Life

- Most lived in single-room wooden houses.
- Hard physical work every day.
- Small settlements surrounded by farms.
- Clothing made from wool and linen.
- Diet mainly bread, meat, and vegetables.
- Strong family and community ties.

Key Question 2 — Why was there a succession crisis in 1066?

1. Edward the Confessor had no clear heir

- Edward died childless in January 1066.
- Promises he made to claimants were unclear or contradictory.
- His weak leadership meant powerful nobles held too much influence.
- Witan had to choose successor, causing competition.
- No established rule for who should inherit.
- Several rivals believed they had stronger claims.

2. Harold Godwinson's Claim

- Harold was most powerful English noble; brother-in-law to Edward.
- Claimed Edward promised him the throne on his deathbed.
- Supported by the Witan, giving legitimacy.
- Had strong military record and controlled strongest earldom.
- Popular with many Anglo-Saxons.
- Critics said he was too powerful already.

3. William of Normandy's Claim

- William claimed Edward promised him the throne in 1051.
- Harold allegedly swore an oath supporting William (possibly under duress).
- William trained a professional army and wanted the throne.
- Normans said Harold's oath-breaking made him a usurper.
- William gained Papal support, making his invasion seem holy.
- Normandy had strong military traditions.

4. Harald Hardrada's Claim

- Based claim on Viking agreements from previous kings (Cnut's dynasty).
- Supported by Tostig, Harold's exiled brother.
- Experienced warrior with large fleet.
- Claimed England belonged to Viking tradition.
- Many English in the north still had Viking heritage.
- Believed he could easily take the throne through force.

5. Edgar Aetheling's Claim

- Closest blood relative to Edward.
- Teenager with no military or political power.
- Witan did not choose him because England needed strong leadership.
- Supported symbolically by some nobles.
- After Harold's death, some tried to back him again.
- Too inexperienced for crisis situation.

6. Result: multiple invasions

- Harold crowned king immediately.
- William and Hardrada invaded separately.
- Led to two major battles: Stamford Bridge and Hastings.
- Rival claims weakened Harold's ability to defend England.
- Norman invasion succeeded due to divided English leadership.
- Succession crisis changed English history permanently.

Key Question 3 — Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

1. Harold's army was tired

- Harold marched north to fight Hardrada at Stamford Bridge.
- After winning, he marched 250+ miles south in just 4 days.
- Soldiers exhausted when they reached Hastings.
- Many fyrdmen returned home after Stamford Bridge.
- Harold couldn't gather full strength.
- His army lacked preparation time for the Norman threat.

2. Norman military skill

- William used cavalry, archers, and infantry in coordinated waves.
- Normans trained in warfare with years of experience.
- Duke of Normandy led from the front to inspire troops.
- Combined arms tactics (arrows weaken → infantry push → cavalry charge).
- Superior armour and equipment.
- Horses gave height, speed and power.

3. Battle tactics

- English shield wall strong but inflexible.
- Feigned retreats tricked English soldiers into breaking formation.
- Once gaps opened, cavalry and infantry exploited weaknesses.
- Archers shot high into the air later to hit behind shield wall.
- William's disciplined troops followed orders well.
- Harold's troops often charged without command discipline.

4. Leadership

- William highly experienced commander.
- Made strategic decisions like waiting for wind to change.
- Controlled army effectively throughout battle.
- Harold's leadership limited by injury (possibly eye wound).
- Harold placed himself at front — brave but risky.
- William boosted morale by raising helmet to show he was alive.

5. Luck

- Wind changed at perfect time allowing William to sail.
- Hardrada's invasion forced Harold to weaken his southern defences.
- William survived dangerous moments to rally his troops.
- One arrow likely killed Harold, ending English coordination.
- Norman horses not spooked by English shield wall.
- English had no cavalry to counter mounted attacks.

6. English weaknesses

- Fyrd less trained than Norman soldiers.
- Shield wall strong defensively but couldn't adapt.
- No archers in key phases of battle.
- Army lacked full numbers; many had returned home.
- Harold forced into battle quickly with no time for rest or planning.
- English fought entirely on foot, limiting mobility.

Key Question 4 — How did William control England?

1. Castles

- Motte-and-bailey castles built quickly across England.
- Positioned at key roads, towns and rebellions hot spots.
- Provided bases for Norman soldiers.
- Symbol of Norman dominance and fear.
- Protect settlers and control local populations.
- Allowed William to project military power rapidly.

2. Feudal System

- King owned all land; granted it to Norman barons for loyalty.
- Barons provided knights who served king militarily.
- Peasants worked land for their lord, providing goods and labour.
- Ensured military readiness and loyalty.
- Reduced power of Anglo-Saxon nobles.
- Landholding became reward for obedience.

3. Church Reforms

- Replaced Anglo-Saxon bishops with Normans.
- Introduced stricter discipline and more centralised Church.
- Church supported William's laws and authority.
- Norman-style cathedrals demonstrated power.
- Church courts given more authority.
- Archbishops loyal to William helped control England spiritually.

4. Domesday Book

- Large survey completed in 1086.
- Recorded land, livestock, population and taxes.
- Allowed William to tax England efficiently.
- Helped settle land disputes.
- Showed extent of Norman control.
- Useful for planning defence and governance.

5. Use of Force

- Harrying of the North destroyed crops/villages.
- Thousands starved — deterred further rebellion.
- Brutal punishments for rebels.
- Rapid response to uprisings (e.g., Ely).
- Gave Normans reputation for strength.
- Forced English to accept new rulers.

6. Replacing English Nobility

- Removed almost all Anglo-Saxon earls and thegns.
- Gave land and titles to Norman knights and barons.
- Reduced chance of rebellion from old elites.
- Created a loyal Norman aristocracy.
- Ensured England became culturally Norman.
- Destroyed Anglo-Saxon political traditions.

Key Question 5 — What was the Feudal System?

1. King at the top

- Owned all land legally.
- Granted land to tenants-in-chief.
- Controlled loyalty of whole country.
- Could take back land if disloyal.
- Military service owed directly to him.
- Absolute political authority.

2. Tenants-in-chief

- Barons/bishops given huge estates.
- Provided knights to king.
- Managed justice and defence locally.
- Responsible for maintaining order.
- Held land in exchange for loyalty.
- Could build castles and collect taxes.

3. Knights

- Given smaller estates by barons.
- Performed military service.
- Controlled local peasants.
- Provided minor law enforcement.
- Could be called to fight at any time.
- Important in maintaining stability.

4. Peasants

- Worked land in return for shelter and protection.
- Had to do farming and labour service.
- Paid rents and taxes.
- Most were unfree (villeins) with limited rights.
- Bound to their lord's land.
- Backbone of Norman economy.

5. Purpose of the Feudal System

- Ensured loyalty from top to bottom.

- Provided ready-made military force.
- Helped William reward supporters.
- Prevented English nobles regaining control.
- Connected land ownership to loyalty.
- created stable political control.

6. Impact

- Norman control firmly established.
- Society became more hierarchical.
- Reduced freedom for peasants.
- Increased power of barons.
- Strengthened Church role.
- England transformed politically and socially.

Key Question 6 — How did Norman rule change towns, language and the Church?

1. Town changes

- Normans expanded towns around castles.
- Markets and trade increased near fortifications.
- New boroughs created with trading rights.
- Towns like London grew under Norman control.
- Norman merchants encouraged to settle.
- Towns taxed more efficiently.

2. Architecture

- Large stone churches replaced wooden Anglo-Saxon ones.
- Romanesque style with rounded arches.
- Towering cathedrals such as Durham and Winchester.
- Castles dominated skylines.
- Symbolised Norman cultural superiority.
- Showed power of Church and king.

3. Language

- Anglo-Saxon English lost prestige.
- Norman French used in court and government.

- Latin used in Church and law.
- Led to blend of languages over time.
- Many English words of French origin (government, castle, justice).
- Created class divide through language.

4. Church organisation

- Archbishops chosen by king loyal to him.
- Bishops now appointed, not elected.
- Church more centralised and disciplined.
- More monasteries built.
- Church courts expanded roles.
- Priest education improved.

5. Economy

- Towns taxed heavily.
- Markets controlled by Norman lords.
- Trade routes strengthened.
- More coins minted for money economy.
- Wool trade increased.
- Towns gained charters giving them rights.

6. Justice

- Church courts dealt with religious and moral crimes.
- Barons had authority in their courts.
- Royal courts increased in importance.
- Witan replaced by king's council.
- Trial by combat used in disputes.
- Legal system more centralised.



UNIT 2 — 15 REVISION QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. What was the Witan?
2. Who were thegns?
3. Why did Edward's death cause a crisis?
4. What advantage did Harold have when chosen king?
5. Give one reason William won at Hastings.
6. What was a motte-and-bailey castle?
7. What was the Domesday Book?
8. Why was the Feudal System effective?

9. What was the Harrying of the North?
10. Why did Normans replace English bishops?
11. What language did Norman elites speak?
12. What was a shire?
13. How did William use force to keep control?
14. What were boroughs?
15. What was trial by combat?

UNIT 2 — 3 EDEXCEL-STYLE EXAM QUESTIONS

1. **4 marks:** Describe two features of the Anglo-Saxon legal system.
2. **12 marks:** Explain why William was able to establish control over England after 1066.
3. **16 marks:** “The most important reason William won the Battle of Hastings was Harold’s mistakes.” How far do you agree?

UNIT 3 — WEIMAR AND NAZI GERMANY



Key Question 1 — Why was the Weimar Republic weak at the start?

1. Treaty of Versailles

- Germany blamed for starting WWI (“War Guilt Clause”).
- Forced to pay huge reparations (£6.6 billion).
- Lost land, colonies, and military strength.
- Many Germans called the Armistice a “stab in the back”.
- Politicians who signed the Armistice called “November Criminals”.
- Destroyed support for the government early on.

2. Proportional representation

- Every small party got seats in Reichstag.

- Led to unstable coalition governments.
- Hard to pass laws consistently.
- Extremist parties gained a platform.
- No strong majority to deal with crises.
- Public saw government as weak.

3. Spartacist and Kapp uprisings

- Left-wing Spartacists tried to overthrow government (1919).
- Government relied on Freikorps to crush uprising.
- Freikorps later rebelled themselves (Kapp Putsch).
- Showed government lacked its own military support.
- Citizens lost confidence.
- Demonstrated political instability.

4. Weak leadership

- Friedrich Ebert tried to unite Germany but faced opposition.
- Government seen as linked to defeat in war.
- Politicians lacked authority compared to army generals.
- Many Germans preferred strong leadership.
- Democracy seemed new and untested.
- Reichstag frequently changed governments.

5. Economic problems

- War debts caused inflation.
- Shortages and unemployment widespread.
- Reparations payments put stress on economy.
- Ruhr invasion worsened crisis.
- Food prices rose quickly.
- Public associated democracy with economic suffering.

6. Opposition from both sides

- Communists wanted revolution like Russia.
- Nationalists wanted return of monarchy.
- Freikorps disliked treaty and Weimar politicians.
- Army secretly supported anti-Weimar groups.
- Government had limited control over regions.
- Extremists appealed to angry population.

Key Question 2 — What caused the hyperinflation crisis?

1. War Debt

- Germany borrowed heavily to fight WWI.
- Government expected to win and repay through reparations.
- Defeat made repayment impossible.
- Printing money seemed an easy short-term solution.
- Currency weakened steadily.
- Public worried about savings.

2. Reparations

- Huge annual payments placed heavy strain.
- Allies expected payments in gold or foreign currency.
- Germany struggled to meet deadlines.
- Government printed more money to buy foreign currency.
- Caused further inflation.
- Almost impossible to restore value.

3. Ruhr Invasion (1923)

- France and Belgium invaded Ruhr to seize goods.
- German workers went on strike (“passive resistance”).
- Government paid workers by printing more money.
- Less production → more money in circulation.
- Currency collapsed rapidly.
- Prices doubled daily.

4. Loss of international confidence

- Foreign investors withdrew savings.
- Exchange rate fell dramatically.
- Imports became hugely expensive.
- Germany could not buy essentials.
- Industry suffered heavily.
- Public panic made crisis worse.

5. Effects on people

- Savings wiped out; middle class suffered most.

- Wages paid twice a day; money lost value by evening.
- Bartering returned (people traded goods instead of money).
- Some wealthy bought businesses cheaply.
- Pensioners faced starvation.
- Public lost trust in Weimar government.

6. Stresemann's Solutions

- Introduced Rentenmark, stabilising the currency.
- Ended passive resistance in Ruhr.
- Reduced government spending.
- Negotiated Dawes Plan for loans from USA.
- Economy recovered quickly after 1924.
- Temporary stability restored.

Key Question 3 — How did the Nazis rise to popularity?

1. Great Depression

- Wall Street Crash 1929 destroyed US loans to Germany.
- German businesses collapsed.
- Mass unemployment (6 million by 1932).
- Weimar government failed to respond effectively.
- People desperate for strong leadership.
- Extremist parties gained votes.

2. Hitler's leadership

- Powerful speaker with emotional, persuasive style.
- Promised jobs, national pride, and end of Versailles.
- Presented himself as Germany's saviour.
- Built image of strength and discipline.
- Travelled nationwide for rallies.
- Used modern campaign methods.

3. Propaganda

- Goebbels used radio, posters, films and rallies.
- Nazis targeted specific groups (farmers, workers, women).

- Messages simple: “Work and Bread”.
- Films and speeches portrayed Hitler as heroic.
- Frequent parades created sense of unity.
- Blamed enemies like communists and Jews.

4. Fear of Communism

- Many Germans feared a communist revolution.
- Nazis promised to crush communism.
- Industrialists funded Nazi campaigns.
- Middle class feared losing property and jobs.
- SA fought communists in streets.
- Police often ignored SA violence.

5. Weak Weimar government

- Democracy seen as ineffective.
- President Hindenburg ruled by emergency powers (Article 48).
- Governments changed frequently.
- Public saw Nazis as strong alternative.
- Coalition politics failed to solve crisis.
- Hitler presented as only solution.

6. SA intimidation

- SA used violence to break up opposition meetings.
- Created fear and disorder that Nazis blamed on others.
- Appealed to young men attracted to uniforms and action.
- Gave impression that Nazis controlled the streets.
- Police often sympathetic to SA.
- Helped Nazis appear powerful.

Key Question 4 — How did Hitler secure power 1933–34?

1. Chancellor appointment (Jan 1933)

- Hitler appointed by President Hindenburg.
- Conservatives believed they could control him.
- Nazis only had largest party, not majority.

- Hitler used position to demand new elections.
- Controlled access to key government departments.
- Gained political legitimacy.

2. Reichstag Fire (Feb 1933)

- Reichstag building destroyed by fire.
- Hitler blamed communists.
- Emergency Decree suspended civil liberties.
- 4,000 communists arrested.
- Nazis eliminated their main political rival.
- Election campaign now unfair.

3. Enabling Act (March 1933)

- Needed 2/3 majority to pass.
- SA intimidated members into supporting it.
- Communists banned from voting.
- Gave Hitler power to pass laws without Reichstag.
- Effectively ended democracy.
- Hitler became dictator legally.

4. Removing opposition

- Trade unions banned, replaced with German Labour Front.
- Political parties banned (Germany became one-party state).
- Press censored; opponents arrested.
- Gestapo created to spy on public.
- Courts controlled by Nazis.
- Civil service purged of anti-Nazi officials.

5. Night of the Long Knives (June 1934)

- Hitler ordered SS to kill SA leaders, including Röhm.
- SA seen as threat because wanted to merge with army.
- Removed political rivals (e.g., Schleicher).
- Gained army's full support.
- Proved Hitler ruthless and powerful.
- Strengthened SS control.

6. Hindenburg's death (Aug 1934)

- Hitler combined roles of Chancellor and President into "Führer".
- Army swore oath of loyalty directly to Hitler.

- No legal authority left to challenge him.
- Absolute dictatorship complete.
- Propaganda celebrated him as Germany's hero.
- Totalitarian state established.

Key Question 5 — How did life change under Nazi rule?

1. Censorship and propaganda

- Goebbels controlled all newspapers, radios, films and books.
- Radios cheap so most people owned one.
- Anti-Nazi information banned.
- Posters and rallies everywhere.
- Hitler presented as strong leader and father figure.
- Propaganda focused on unity and national strength.

2. Youth

- Hitler Youth for boys taught military skills and loyalty.
- League of German Girls taught motherhood and obedience.
- PE increased in schools for strength.
- Teachers trained to teach Nazi ideology.
- Jewish children excluded from many schools.
- Youth groups compulsory by 1939.

3. Women

- Encouraged to focus on “Kinder, Küche, Kirche” (children, kitchen, church).
- Loans given for marriage and having children.
- Women removed from professional jobs.
- Told not to wear makeup or smoke.
- Medals awarded for large families.
- Expected to support Nazi values.

4. Workers

- Trade unions banned; replaced by DAF.
- Strength Through Joy (KdF) offered cheap holidays.
- Beauty of Labour improved workplaces.

- Autarky (self-sufficiency) policies created jobs.
- Wages kept low; strikes illegal.
- Workers had little bargaining power.

5. Minorities

- Disabled people sterilised or murdered (T4 programme).
- Roma and Sinti persecuted.
- Homosexuals imprisoned.
- Political opponents sent to concentration camps.
- Religious groups monitored and controlled.
- Equality destroyed under racial ideology.

6. Jews

- Boycotts of Jewish shops.
- Nuremberg Laws removed citizenship.
- Mixed marriages banned.
- Jewish children forced out of schools.
- Kristallnacht (1938): synagogues burned, businesses smashed.
- Increasing violence leading to Holocaust.

Key Question 6 — How were Jews persecuted before WWII?

1. 1933 boycotts

- SA stood outside Jewish shops.
- Slogans painted on windows.
- Aimed to isolate Jews economically.
- Many Germans avoided Jewish businesses.
- First major public anti-Jewish action.
- Government denied involvement but encouraged it.

2. Removal from jobs

- Jewish civil servants fired.
- Jewish teachers, doctors and lawyers restricted.
- Universities limited Jewish students.
- Jews seen as “non-Aryan”.

- Families lost income.
- Increased poverty and exclusion.

3. Nuremberg Laws (1935)

- Jews lost German citizenship.
- Marriage between Jews and non-Jews banned.
- Defined Jews by ancestry, not religion.
- Designed to separate Jews socially.
- Legal foundation for segregation.
- Jews became outsiders legally.

4. Social exclusion

- Banned from parks, swimming pools, cinemas.
- Jewish businesses boycotted.
- Public signs saying “Jews not wanted”.
- Newspapers published propaganda.
- Cultural and social life destroyed.
- Children bullied and isolated at school.

5. Kristallnacht (1938)

- Triggered by murder of German diplomat.
- 1,000+ synagogues burned.
- Jewish shops smashed (“Night of Broken Glass”).
- 30,000 Jewish men arrested.
- Germans forced Jewish community to pay fine.
- Marked shift to open violence.

6. Emigration and restrictions

- Jews encouraged to leave Germany.
- Jewish passports stamped with “J”.
- Jews banned from owning businesses.
- Restrictions made leaving difficult.
- Borders tightened in late 1930s.
- Persecution intensified leading to Holocaust.



UNIT 3 — 15 REVISION QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. What was Article 48?

2. Why did the Treaty of Versailles weaken the Weimar Republic?
3. What caused hyperinflation?
4. What was the Rentenmark?
5. Why did the Great Depression help the Nazis?
6. What did the Enabling Act allow Hitler to do?
7. Who were the SA?
8. What happened during the Reichstag Fire?
9. Why was the Night of the Long Knives important?
10. What was Strength Through Joy (KdF)?
11. What were the Nuremberg Laws?
12. How did propaganda help the Nazis?
13. Why were youth groups important to Nazi control?
14. What happened on Kristallnacht?
15. How were Jews discriminated against before the war?

UNIT 3 — 3 EDEXCEL-STYLE EXAM QUESTIONS

1. **4 marks:** Describe two features of Nazi control of young people.
2. **12 marks:** Explain two reasons why the Nazis increased their support between 1929 and 1932.
3. **16 marks:** “The most important reason Hitler became dictator was the Reichstag Fire.” How far do you agree?