

SAAR RETURNED 1935

C → B → A → A* JUDGE

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles stated that:

- The League of Nations was to control the Saar for 15 years but France was to control the coalfields.

DESCRIBE GRADE C

- The industrial area around the Saar was removed from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles and put under the control of the League of Nations.
- A plebiscite (vote) among the German people was to be held after 15 years to decide whether it should be returned to Germany.

ASSESS RESULTS GRADE A

- The Nazi Party celebrated the plebiscite result as a great victory.
- Greeted with huge celebration in Germany.
- One historian stated that, '*the greatest triumph of the Nazis in a free election*' = massive boost to Hitler's prestige.
- It showed that Germans outside Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles & loved Germany more than they feared Hitler.
- It gave moral authority to Hitler's claims on Austria/Sudetenland.
- The Nazi Party presented it as the first of the injustices of Versailles to be removed.
- The return of the Saar was not illegal. Hitler had kept within the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.



EXPLAIN GRADE B

- In January 1935 90% of the people voted in favour of returning to Germany.
- 8% wanted to remain under the control of the League.
- 2% wanted to join France.
- The events in the Saar was not an example of Hitler breaking the Treaty of Versailles, or even of him confronting the international community, but they were a major step in his build up to World War Two.

CAN YOU SPELL?

Saar plebiscite
Treaty of Versailles



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS • LEAGUE OF NATIONS
VOLKSABSTIMMUNGSKOMMISSION
DES VÖLKERBUNDES

Beibehaltung der gegenwärtigen Rechtsordnung
(Status quo)

Vereinigung mit Frankreich

Vereinigung mit Deutschland

DER ABSTIMMUNGSBERECHTIGTE MACHT
EIN KREUZ (X) IN DIE WEISSE KREISFLÄCHE
DES SEINER WAHL ENTSPRECHENDEN FELDES
ZU SETZEN.