

SUITS CARD SORT

Nazi Control of Germany

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

The cards on the page following represent 27 reasons German people obeyed the Nazi government.

Print off and cut out the cards. Then, in discussion with others, sort them into four piles:

- ♣ — clubs (those that worked by force, fear and violence)
- ♥ — hearts (those that worked by making people love Hitler and the Nazis)
- ♠ — spades (those that worked by providing people with jobs and activities)
- ♦ — diamonds (those that worked by giving people benefits and making them prosperous)

When you have finished, sort the cards again, this time into those that affected:
highly effective — some positive effect — no real benefit — counterproductive

There are no right or wrong answers; you need to discuss and argue your way to a consensus. Key in your discussion will be:

- *how* it worked to encourage people to be obedient and loyal to the government
- *how well* it worked in securing obedience and loyalty

When you have finished, discuss these three key questions:

- 1 How do you measure the 'effectiveness' of a means of control?
- 2 Which in your opinion was the most effective measure?
- 3 How effectively, overall, did the Nazis control Germany, 1933–1945?

Army swore an oath of allegiance	Benefits and holidays under KdF	Better life — jobs, no crime, unity and direction
<i>Blockleiters</i>	Burning the books of Jews and Communists	Concentration camps for 'undesirables' — such as beggars and homosexuals
Concentration camps for political opponents	Concordat with the Pope	Control of the newspapers
Encouraging the idea of national community	Encouraging antisemitism	Encouraging theories of an Aryan 'master race'
Euthanasia for mentally impaired people	Executing opponents such as Sophie Scholl	Genocide of Jews and gypsies in Europe
Gestapo and SS	Giving every family a radio	Indoctrination of young people at school
Special advantages for Nazi Party members	Night of the Long Knives — destruction of the SA	Olympic Games
People's Courts	Political parties and trade unions banned	Reich Chamber of Culture insisting on 'German' art
Reich Church	Sterilisation for medically impaired people	Youth groups such as the HJ and the BDM