The German Master Race

Hitler believed that the pure German people, the Aryans, were the master race. Hitler said that one of the reasons that Germany lost the First World War was that the German race had been weakened through Aryans marrying non-Aryans. Therefore if Germany was to become strong again, the Nazis had to ensure the purity of the Aryan race. This view of Germans as the master race was encouraged by the use of healthy, 'pure' Aryans in Nazi propaganda posters.

Source 1:

"The Aryan race is tall, long legged, slim. The race is narrow-faced, with a narrow forehead, a narrow high-built nose and a lower jaw and prominent chin, the skin is rosy bright and the blood shines through .... the hair is smooth, straight or wavy - possibly curly in childhood. The colour is blond."

Description of a 'pure' Aryan. From a leaflet 'The Nazi Race', 1929.

Source 2:

A boy and a girl used in a Nazi poster.

Question

Using the information from Source 1 and any other knowledge that you have, explain why the boy and girl in Source 2 were ideal candidates for Nazi posters.

To answer this question

1. Firstly outline Hitler's and the Nazi's views on race. Include details of who they believed the master race were.

2. Once you have done this, describe what the master race should look like. Do this by quoting from Source 1. Aim to select a short part of the source which highlights the look of the people in Source 2

3. Now explain why the people in source 2 were used for posters. Include in this part of your answer a description of the couple - matching it to your quote from source 1 (for instance - what colour hair do they have?) and explanation of why they would be ideal for Nazi propaganda - does it show the Germans to be fit or weak?

Answer 1

The girl and boy in the picture are good for Nazi posters because they are good looking. It says that the race is narrow-faced, which they are. They would have looked good in any poster and they would have made the people happy.

Answer 2

The girl and boy would be ideal for Nazi posters because they represent the image of the German people that Hitler wanted the world to see. In the publication of his political beliefs in 'Mein Kampf' (1925), Hitler had shown that he believed that those of pure German birth were superior to the other peoples of Europe. This view continued throughout his political career and especially became important after the Nazis came to power in 1933. Hitler was to make sexual relationships between Germans and ethnic groups such as Jews a crime punishable by death.

This view of the superiority of the Germans is reinforced by the extract in Source 1. Taken from a Nazi leaflet published in 1929, before the Nazis came to power, it gives us a description of what a 'pure' Aryan should look like. The Aryan race is the name given to those of pure German blood. This source is useful to us in so much as it paints the picture of the type of physical features that the Nazi's desired in their people.

It is by using the detail in Source 1 that we can confidently say that the couple in Source 2 would have been ideal for Nazi posters. The couple in Source 2 are obviously Aryan. They are "narrow-faced, with a ...narrow high-built nose" and even in black and white we can tell that the hair "colour is blond." From my studies I know that posters were one of the main weapons in the propaganda campaign that the Nazis used on the German people. By using this couple in posters for such things as the Hitler Youth, or the 'Strength through Joy' campaign, the Nazis would have encouraged the German people to believe that they were part of the 'master race' and thus feel confident that the Nazis were leading Germany in the best way.

Task

1. Mark each answer in the margin of the sheet (*if possible mark each way in a different colour*).
   a) Give one mark every time the answer uses information from the sources.
   b) Give one mark every time the answer explains what the source means/shows.
   c) Give one mark every time the answer uses personal knowledge (facts not taken from the source) to add to the answer.

2. Describe 5 ways in Answer 2 that the writer gains marks for use of personal knowledge (facts not taken from the source) in the context of the answer.

3. What phrase is used in Answer 2 to link the detail in Source 1 with Source 2?