## Modern History

**Year 11 — Extended written response**

**Sources**

### SOURCE I (Seen)

 Extract from an article by Stephen Pagaard, a high school History teacher who published this article in 2005 to provide other teachers with “… some newer perspectives on the Hitler dictatorship and to demonstrate how the experience of young people in the Third Reich can be used as a case study.”

**Reference details**


### SOURCE J (Unseen)

The [Edelweiss Pirates] were composed mainly of students and working-class youth … [Some Edelweiss Pirate groups] … got involved in active anti-Nazi resistance work by writing graffiti, editing and passing out flyers and leaflets, and distributing pamphlets denouncing the Nazi regime. Some supported the Allies by hiding downed airmen, feeding prisoners, and offering help to German army deserters, political dissidents, and escapees from camps and prisons … The activities of the deviant youth groups [Edelweiss Pirates] lacked the political organisation to be anything more than an embarrassment to the regime. The isolation of these groups and individuals, their total lack of support from the majority of their compatriots ensured that social youth deviance would never amount to serious political opposition.

### SOURCE K (Unseen)

… [The Edelweiss Piraten presents no security threat. It is a name adopted by … loose living youths … who have been forced into small gangs in order to obtain food and lodging. The gangs are formed usually in the vicinity of railroad yards or stations. The goods they steal are usually sold to black market operators. The Edelweiss insignia is seen frequently in Germany, and it has become fashionable to wear the badge.

**Reference details**


**Context statement**

Extract from a report written by the Allied Powers’ intelligence group on 20 August 1943.

**Reference details**


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**Friday 3 June 2016**
**SOURCE A (Seen)**

Photographs comparing a group of Hitler Youth (top) and a group of Youths on tour (image), retrieved in the mid-fifties in West Germany.

*Reference details*

**SOURCE B (Unseen)**

Hilter’s power may lay toe was, and keep us locked in chains. But we will smash the chains one day. We’ll be free again. We’ve got lots and we can fight. We’ve got knifes and we’ll get them out. We want freedom, don’t we boys? We’re fighting Nazis.

*Context statement*
A translation into English of an Edelweiss Pirate song (circa 1943). The Navajos were a name of a group of Edelweiss Pirates stationed in Cologne.

*Reference details*
- Reference details
  - Photograph of Edelweiss Pirates being prepared for execution by the Gestapo in Cologne on 10 November 1944.
  - Reference details

**SOURCE C (Seen)**

Uh, we used to play pool, and we had our little meetings there and one would say, "We have a new member," and, uh, we would ask him questions, test him, and "Why do you like to join us?" and, you know, wanted to have some assurance. And, and, then we, we, no, ... What are we going to do next? and, maybe one would say, "You know, the Hitler Youth, Why uh, uh, stores uh, equipment of such- and- such a place. Let’s make it disappear. "Okay, when are we going to meet? Such-and-such a time. And that’s what we did. If became, uh, it came to the point that we became enemies and people began to fear us. And because we went a little too drastic, we, we knew you started maybe by defacing the Idea, then we made the whole bicycle disappear. So it came to the point where too many complaints.

*Context statement*
Interview with Walter Meyer in 1996. He reflects upon his time as an Edelweiss Pirate in Germany during the early 1940s.

*Reference details*

**SOURCE D (Unseen)**

... while the Edelweiss [Pirates] resolutely opposed the disciplinarianism of the HJ [Hitler Jugend or Hitler Youth], its own members rarely adopted any political goals at odds with the predominant National Socialist agenda. At most, there were a few nebulous connections to the Catholic and communist underground. Overall, however, the political development of the Edelweiss was clearly limited by the age of its membership cadre and by the oppressive political climate of Nazi Germany, which atomized all forms of social and political opposition.

*Context statement*
Extract from an academic essay by Heinrich Newacker, head of the Protection Squadron (SS), for the Security Service. It was issued on 25 October 1944.

*Reference details*

**SOURCE E (Seen)**

... while the Edelweiss [Pirates] resolutely opposed the disciplinarianism of the HJ [Hitler Jugend or Hitler Youth], its own members rarely adopted any political goals at odds with the predominant National Socialist agenda. At most, there were a few nebulous connections to the Catholic and communist underground. Overall, however, the political development of the Edelweiss was clearly limited by the age of its membership cadre and by the oppressive political climate of Nazi Germany, which atomized all forms of social and political opposition.

*Context statement*
Extract from an academic essay by Perry Biddiscombe, a Professor of History, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 37–38.

*Reference details*
-提取自一本学术论文集中的文章，作者为Perry Biddiscombe，文章标题为‘The Edelweiss Pirates and the role played by the Edelweiss Pirates in Nazi Germany．’

**SOURCE F (Seen)**

Located mainly in the Ruhr area, but Edelweiss Pirates as a whole, were mostly found in the countryside where they sang new lyrics to commercial folk and hilltop versions of folk and hiking songs. The vague countryside where they sang new lyrics or hitch to weekend meetings in the countryside symbolizing freedom — liked to cycle through the White flower found in the mountains and concealed by a lapel, being the small badge, the Edelweiss Pirates — their badge, the name of a group of Edelweiss Pirates from the British and American archives.

*Context statement*
Comments written in an academic article by Rolf Willett, a recently retired lecturer in American Studies at the University of Hull. He went through three comments in 1989 as part of a broader discussion about how American music was used by young people in Germany as a form of protest against the Nazi regime.

*Reference details*
- Willett, R. 1989, ‘We want freedom, don’t we boys? We’ve got knives and we’ll get them out. We’ve got fists and we can fight, We’ll be free again. But we will smash the chains one day,’ and, uh, we pro ... ‘What are we going to do next?’ and, uh, the Edelweiss Pirates, from the British and American archives, Journal of Contemporary History, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 37–38.

**SOURCE G (Seen)**

The rehabilitation of the Edelweiss pirates has once again touched upon the sense of collective post-war guilt in Germany. While many argue that it’s important to regain a stronger sense of self-consciousness by acknowledging that there was a resistance against the Nazis, others caution against a tendency to focus on those exceptions at the risk of forgetting the greater proportion of the population who did nothing.

*Context statement*
Extract from an article by Jennifer Macay, an investigative journalist, who wrote this article in 2014 for the Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international broadcaster.

*Reference details*

**SOURCE H (Seen)**

The Edelweiss Pirates have become local heroes in Cologne and are due to be immortalized in film. The director Nico von Gladows said he made the film after being surprised to discover the existence of this group. He says like many Germans he knew nothing about the Edelweiss Pirates despite having grown up in Cologne.

And I wanted to know why I had not heard about them and I asked my friend Jean Jülich and he said something very interesting. He said that if there is one hero in the country then the rest of the country could say they know nothing about what was going on. But if there is one hero on every street, then it looks bad for the rest of the street.

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