How to answer the exam questions

Question 1

About the question



How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about...

In this question you compare two interpretations and identify and explain differences between them in terms of their content.

Answering the question

1 Read Interpretations A and B.
How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A
about the reasons for Hitler's appointment as Chancellor?
Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B.
(4 marks)

Interpretation A

From the memoirs of a close friend of Hitler, written in 1946.

The author of Interpretation A worked closely with Hitler in the years 1929 to 1933 as an economist and administrator of the SA. He wrote his memoirs while in a military prison after the war.

Hitler had every right to be Chancellor. If the 1930 election had been our breakthrough, then the election of July 1932 proved once and for all that the German people wholeheartedly supported NSDAP policies and yearned to have Hitler lead Germany out of the sorry mess caused by the weak-willed fools of the Weimar Republic. Only Hitler had the answers to make Germany great again and it was his destiny to become our Führer.

Interpretation B

From an article written in a British newspaper in 1950. The author had been a British diplomat working in Berlin in 1933.

Papen convinced Hindenburg that a deal with the Nazi Party would solve their problems. If Hindenburg made Hitler the Chancellor, the government would have the support of the largest party in the Reichstag. It was true that the Nazi Party was backed by violent thugs and had unrealistic and unpleasant policies. But between them, Hindenburg and Papen were sure that they could make Hitler do what they wanted. Papen would be Vice Chancellor, controlling Hitler behind the scenes. Papen said he had Hitler 'in his pocket'.

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As the question is only worth 4 marks, you need to be concise and focused in your answer. It is a good idea to use quotes from the interpretations to support your explanation.

