

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Volksgemeinschaft

16. Measuring Importance I – Modifiers of Importance

Many GCSE students, asked to compare the importance of an event or development, will simply list its results, as though their importance is self-evident.

It is not: you have to list the results, say *how important* you believe each to be, *and then explain why/how* you judge it important/unimportant.

For this, you will need to use modifiers of importance such as:

**considerably, hugely, indispensably, particularly, profoundly, greatly
to some degree, moderately, generally
inconsequential, lesser, limited, little, minor, slight, some**

Say I have been asked to write the essay: ‘How greatly were people in Germany affected by Nazi rule, 1933-39?’, and the first group I wish to consider are the Nazi Party Members. I plan the paragraph as follows:

- **Basic sentence:** They were happy.
- **Modifier:** particularly
- **Explanation of Effect:** they got preferential treatment, power, & were regarded as *Herrenklasse*
- **Proving information:** businessmen joined the Party to get govt orders

And I can write my first paragraph thus:

One group of people affected by Nazi rule were the Nazi Party members. They were particularly happy, because they got all the best houses, preferential treatment, good jobs in the government and power over other people; they were regarded (and regarded themselves) as *herrenklasse* – superior human beings. Businessmen actually joined the Nazi Party to get government orders.

1. Use the following grid to plan what you would write for the other groups in society:

Group	Modifier	Explanation of effect	Proving information
Ordinary people	<i>to a degree</i>	KdF, SdA etc., law & order, autobahns, rallies, colour & excitement, trust BUT ALSO <i>Gleichschaltung</i> terror, loss of freedom,	.....
Women	<i>generally</i>	.....	<i>Deutsches Frauenwerk</i> and <i>NS-Frauenschaft</i> had 3½m members by 1938
Youth	.....	.....	.....
Opponents	.....	.....	.....
‘ <i>Untermensch</i>’	.....	.....	.....