21C. ‘Using the four passages and your own knowledge assess the view that the Holocaust was mainly the result of a long term plan by Hitler to eliminate the Jews.’

To this day it is still debated to whether the Holocaust was a long term plan as well as when the event was finalised, Interpretation D sees it as the Wannsee Conference whilst Interpretation A argues that annihilation was brought about by war and exhausting all other eventualities until reaching the final solution. Despite its controversy, three of the four authors conclude that it was not a long term plan (V R Berghahn, Detlev Peukert, and Ian Kershaw.) Whereas Daniel Jonah Goldhagen deduced it was a long term plan, but the impartiality of his interpretation can be questioned due to his Jewish faith. Although all have differentiating factors to how it began and whether it was a long term plan it is shown that it is a long term plan brought about by a number of factors such as demands of war, mild racism escalating and exhausting all other options.

Interpretation A, written by V R Berghahn links the final decision to annihilate the Jews to the circumstances brought about by war. A clear indication of the argument it was a short term plan, Berghahn goes on to develop the point that elimination was never the original goal. The original goal as perceived by Berghahn was to resettle them “the only organisation to take a systematic approach was the SS and it came up with an emigration programme.” It was never actually followed up on but was the first step into developing the final solution, surprisingly the original plan was to emigrate all Jews to Israel which at the time was British mandate of Palestine. The idea of emigration saw prominence once more as “A revised version of the programme re-emerged in 1940/41” except this time it was more absurd in nature in which they planned to ship all Jews to “madagascar for resettlement.” Resettlement programmes were originally thought up