Rise of Hitler

Conditions of Rise:

| War - Impact of WW1 | Following WW1, Germany was forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles:  
| -Accepted full blame for the war, massive £6.6 billion reparations, union with Austria (Anschluss) forbidden, self-determination denied to Germans leaving in Sudetenland etc., demilitarized Rhineland, corridor of land given to Poland leading to separation of East Prussia form mainland Germany, Restricted armed services, navy limited to 5 ships, 100,000 army limits, conscription banned  
| -NB also “Stab in the Back” Theory (Der Dolchstoss) that socialist Jewish politicians betrayed the armed services and the German people by signing the Armistice while Germany could have fought on. Supported by Hindenburg and Ludendorff (both Generals and leaders of German Army, Ludendorff: support for Nazis in Munich Putsch and Hindenburg later President)  
| -Effects deep felt due to 1923 French march into the Ruhr. Passive resistance and strikes (stop of industrial production) leads to hyperinflation  
| -Also Dawes Plan which eventually leads to financial crisis as the loans are recalled following the Wall Street Crash. Dawes Plan signed because Germany could not pay the reparations |

| Economic Factors | Wall Street Crash 1929 leads to the USA calling back Dawes Plan loans and stop pf the financial merry-go-round (collapse of the export market), also collapse of Creditanstalt (a major Austrian bank)  
| -Leads to financial crisis in Germany, 1931 currency crisis  
| -Result: 1932, German unemployment quadrupled from 2 million in 1930 to nearly 6 million in 1932  
| -A third of German workers were without regular wages  
| -However, why experts have suggested that by 1933 the German economy started to recover.  
| -Increased appeal of NSDAP and KPD (political polarity) who blamed Weimar for inaction and promised a prosperous future:  
| -5 Reichstag elections contested in 2 years 1930-1933. Political radicalization is apparent as votes for anti-Weimar parties increased:  
| -E.g. NSDAP: 1928: 2.6% (12 seats), 1930: 18.3% (107 seats); KPD: 1928: 10.6%, 1930: 13.6%  
| -July 1932: NSDAP largest party in Reichstag with 230 seats (37.3%) – but no majority of the vote  
| -BUT decline to 196 seats (33.1%) in November 1932 suggests decline in support for the Nazis.  
| -1932 Presidential Election: Hindenburg wins in the second ballot  
| -NB Lack of landslide victory in elections suggests NSDAP could not win control over Germany through democratic means. |

| Weakness of Political System | Political instability (collapse of the Grand Coalition of moderate parties (majority of Reichstag) in 1930) -> leads to political weakness  
| -Situation was hard to stabilize e.g. Kurt von Schleicher’s attempt to organize a coalition between center and Gregor Strasser’s socialist Nazis failed  
| -Heinrich Brüning’s “haircut” budget (cut government spending, austerity) – budget rejected by Reichstag so to pass it he implemented |