How did these problems help the Nazis?
The depression was a gift to Hitler and the Nazis. For every problem the Nazis had an explanation or a promise.

- The Weimar government is weak; you need strong leadership. Hitler is your man
- Unemployment? The Nazis will get people back to work on road-building and public works.
- Worried about the Communist? Look at the Nazis’ (SA) – we are the only ones who really know how to deal with the communist.

Most importantly Hitler was very good at delivering speeches. When standing before a crowd delivering his moving powerful speech, he represented a strong decisive leader going back in German tradition to the Kaiser. Whilst the Weimar Republic appeared simply to be muddling through indecisively. Hitler’s strong personality and powerful ideas seemed to be just what Germany needed.

In the Reichstag elections in 1930 the Nazis made their first great breakthrough, jumping from 12 seats to 107 seats. They were suddenly the second largest party and were well ahead of the communist. In the 1932 elections they advanced to 230 seats and were the biggest party. The Nazi party was now the major force in German politics.