How far do you agree that Hitler became Chancellor in January 1933 due to the electoral success of the Nazi Party?

PLAN:
Introduction
Support: Electoral Success
Against: Political deals/underestimation
Alternative: Economic problems post-depression
Conclusion

The success of the Nazi Party and the correlating appointment of Hitler as Chancellor of Germany seem to be very clearly linked together. It can be said to be unlikely that his appointment was due solely to electoral success and many other things will have played a part. For example, the chronic poverty caused by the Great Depression left a gap in leadership that Hitler filled. As an alternative we could say Hitler’s deal with von Papen, and others’ political misjudgement as to the extent of his power once Chancellor, each can be argued to play a part in his appointment as Chancellor in January 1933.

Electoral Success undeniably played a large part in giving Hitler the position of Chancellor because unless he had significant support he would not even be considered for the role. Looking at electoral evidence there is a clear correlation between the number of Nazi votes and Hitler’s appointment. In the 1930s Reichstag election the Nazis gained 107 seats which was 18.3% of the seats available. Two years later, the NSDAP reaches 800,000 members and the next year Hitler is appointed Chancellor. From these figures we can see that there is definitely a link between rising support for the Nazi Party and Hitler’s appointment as Chancellor. The fact that he had voters from all areas of society also would’ve given Hindenburg more reason to appoint Hitler Chancellor. Not only did he have the numbers behind him to support him but he also had a diverse community of people behind him too. The voters for the Nazi Party are said to have ranged from Protestants, some Catholics, rural landowners, some large landowners, the lower and upper middle class, pensioners and even former KPD/SPD members. Clearly Hitler had enough support and hard evidence of support (through electoral success) to be considered a strong and supported Chancellor of Germany and so it seems that yes Hitler’s appointment was to a huge extent down to the electoral success of the Nazi Party.

Looking at the logistics of how Hitler became Chancellor it is clear that his political deals and the extent of underestimation surrounding his power definitely played a part. By agreeing with von Papen that, should Hitler became Chancellor, he could become Hitler’s deputy, he successfully gained allies with those with most power in Germany. Arguably with a desire to further his own position, von Papen persuaded