3. Key arguments for and against Britain offering the Guarantee to Poland in March 1939

Arguments For
• The guarantee was conditional on Polish independence being threatened, so it was designed to push Hitler towards peace as the alternative would cause a war with GB, France and Poland.

• It was strongly supported by Lord Halifax and the Cabinet as well as the British press; a good move in terms of British domestic politics as it showed that GB would not be pushed around any longer.

• European and British security were at stake.

• France had a similar commitment to Poland since 1921, and were prepared to fight as long as GB fought alongside.

• GB was prepared for war by 1939 with Spitfires, Hurricanes, the radar system and building up the British Expeditionary force.