-founded in 1932 on platform of protectionism, radical economic reform leading to introduction of corporate state, anti-parliamentarianism and anti-communism
-attempted a merger, not wholly successfully, of all various British fascist movements
-‘Mussolini in policy and Hitlerite in organisation’ (Sir Bruce Lockhart)
-some initial success; 50,000 members by April 1934
-dramatic decline in membership late 1934 led to party adopting more confrontational and anti-Semitic style and ideology
-1936: Public Order Act banned wearing of uniforms
-generally seen as a nuisance rather than a threat by the establishment, undermined by its tendency towards violence, ‘alien’ style and ideology, and failure to attract influential supporters

Fascist Failure elsewhere
-Ireland: Army Comrades Association; adopted many trappings of European fascism, called for corporatist state; banned 1933
-Belgium: Christus Rex: emerged from mainstream Catholicism when young Catholic broke away from Christian Democratic Party in 1935; under leadership of Degrelle it won 11.5% of vote in 1936 election
-The Netherlands: National Socialist Movement adopted national socialist mantle of Nazism and style of Italian Fascism but rejected anti-Semitism; won 8% in provincial elections 1935, but then contracted, becoming more radical in the process

Why did Fascism fail and democracy survive?
-the threat from the Left was not seen a ‘real’ enough to provoke a right-wing backlash
-fewer nationalist grievances
-economic problem not as severe as elsewhere
-relatively mature democracies with well established traditions/institutions
-governments took action to prohibit the worst excesses of fascist groups
-historical factors (individual economic and political inheritance)
-contingent factors (actions of individuals/groups, special circumstances and luck!)