

Evidence Cards

<p>A. The OND provided leisure facilities for workers in return for listening to Fascist ideology. By 1936 it is estimated that 80% of salaried workers were a member of the organisation.</p>	<p>B. The OVRA (secret police) was used by Mussolini to keep opponents under surveillance. They performed an estimated 20,000 visits, searches and arrests a week.</p>
<p>C. In regions like South Tyrol and Istria an attempt was made to 'Italianise' the population, with education only being allowed in Italian and names changed to fit Italian traditions.</p>	<p>D. The Vidoni Pact of 1925 abolished non-Fascist trade unions and the right to strike in order to ensure control of the workers and to prevent socialist uprisings.</p>
<p>E. Teachers and other public servants were expected to join the Fascist party and swear an oath of loyalty to Mussolini in order to keep their jobs.</p>	<p>F. The cult of Il Duce was a key element of Fascist ideology. Mussolini was seen as the new Caesar, the heroic leader who would restore Italy to its former glory.</p>
<p>G. In November 1923 the Acerbo Law was passed which ensured that the party who achieved at least 25% of the vote could claim two thirds of the seats in government.</p>	<p>H. Mussolini had control of 14 separate government posts by 1933 including Minister of War, Minister for Corporations and Minister for Public Works.</p>
<p>I. In November 1925 Mussolini passed the decree Legge Fascistissime which banned all opposition parties from Italian government. In October 1926 a decree confirmed the one party state.</p>	<p>J. Mussolini demonstrated his talents by obtaining his flying licence, skiing, reading literature and leaving his office light on overnight to make it seem like he worked hard for Italy.</p>
<p>K. Only registered journalists could write in the press. Newspapers practiced self-censorship (monitoring their own content) as they were aware that Mussolini read the papers every day.</p>	<p>L. The 'Third Way' or Corporate State was designed to find the mid-point between communism and capitalism, meaning workers were not exploited and profits helped Italy prosper.</p>

<p>M. In 1937 the Ministry of Popular Culture was established. Radio broadcasting was state controlled and Cinecitta (Italian Hollywood) came under Fascist control.</p>	<p>N. 98% of the Italian population was Catholic and by signing the Lateran Treaty in 1929 Mussolini confirmed that it was acceptable to be Fascist and Catholic.</p>
<p>O. After publishing an article on Fascist vote-rigging, Socialist deputy Matteotti was kidnapped and murdered by a Fascist group (the Ceka) in June 1924.</p>	<p>P. Throughout Mussolini's rule the King remained the head of the nation and had the power to dismiss Mussolini at any time, which he would eventually do in 1943.</p>
<p>Q. The OVRA were understaffed, with only 375 agents responsible for monitoring the whole of Italy. They appeared far more intimidating than they actually were.</p>	<p>R. The Corporate system worked in favour of employers, with bribes given to Fascist party members to ensure that certain businesses prospered, not Italy as a whole.</p>
<p>S. The existence of the King and Pope as figureheads in Italy meant that Italians had others to look up to rather than focusing their worship and respect on Mussolini.</p>	<p>T. When the Pope spoke out against anti-Semitic policy he was seen to be right and Mussolini wrong as the Pope was seen as infallible on matters relating to religion or morality.</p>
<p>U. The Duce appeared infallible. 'Mussolini is always right' became a popular phrase and Mussolini stated that 'often I would like to be wrong, but so far it has never happened'.</p>	

Task sheet

1. Define each of the key features of totalitarianism below each of the titles.
2. Complete the table using examples from the evidence cards. Aim for at least one example in every box. Some cards may belong in more than one box.

Feature of totalitarianism	Evidence it was achieved in Italy	Evidence it was not achieved in Italy
Official ideology:		
One-party state:		
Mass communication:		
Terror:		
Control over the economy:		
Cult of personality:		

Extension

You should now have enough information to answer the exam style question:

How far did Mussolini succeed in creating a totalitarian state in Italy? (24 marks)

Teaching notes

This task was prepared as a review activity for the AQA course HIS1N Totalitarian ideology in theory and in practice, c1841 – c1941.

Objective

- Assess the extent to which Fascist Italy became a totalitarian state.

Preparation

- Print sets of the task sheet (p.3) on A3 paper, and sets of the evidence cards. Students could work individually or in groups, as your prefer.

Instructions

- Ask students to define the six key features of a totalitarian state and write this in the first column of the table.
- Distribute the evidence cards.
- Ask students to sort the cards into successes and failures for each of the key features. Some points will lead to debate. Cards are lettered to allow easier class discussion.
- Students should write up the points in the table once it has been agreed which cards belong where.

Differentiation

- The task could be made easier by distributing the workload between students. Ask each pair to find successes and/or weaknesses of just one feature and then share their findings with the class.
- These definition cards might be mixed in to help with the first part of the task.

A system of ideas by which all aspects of the state are organised and controlled.	A country in which a single political group forms the government, to the extent that there is no effective opposition.
How well a government or individual manages to reach the public with their ideas.	The use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims.
The extent to which the government or an individual manages to influence the production and spending of a country's wealth.	The creation of a sense that a country's leader is perfect, heroic or even god-like.