

ACTIVITY

How do you think Hitler would try to consolidate his position after his appointment as Chancellor in January 1933? Remember that Hitler's survival in power would be determined by his position in 1933 and by the actions both he and his opponents would take.

- I Make a list of
 - a) the problems he faced
 - b) his advantages.
 Refer to the Nazi Movement, its supporters and opponents, the overall context, etc.
- 2 a) Decide which one of each of the alternatives a)–n) in the table below you would expect him to take in the first eighteen months, and be prepared to explain your decision.
 - b) Then choose a statement from o) to describe his overall approach.
- 3 Decide on several more measures Hitler could take: for example, what might his initial foreign policy be?
- 4 How do you think his potential opponents would act?

	Radical option	Cautious option	
a) Reichstag	Abolish the Reichstag	Call new elections	
b) Chancellor's position	Declare himself as Chancellor and Führer to be omnipotent (all-powerful)	Use Article 48, and get Reichstag to grant emergency powers	
c) Political parties	Ban other parties; create one-party state	Promise to restore democratic rights	
d) Left-wing opposition	Arrest left-wing leaders and imprison them in new camps	Promise opponents that only traitors will be persecuted	
e) Catholic Church	Take over control of the Catholic Church	Arrange a deal with the Catholic Church	
f) Local government	Ensure Nazi control of local government	Respect local democracy	
g) President Hindenburg	Remove Hindenburg	Appease Hindenburg	
h) Civil service	Replace all top officials with Nazis	Use most of the existing officials	
i) Army and the SA	Replace army with expanded SA	Weaken SA and reassure army	
j) Cabinet	Abolish the Cabinet	Keep most of the original Cabinet	
k) Economic policy	Develop a major programme of public works to create jobs	Reduce government expenditure to balance the budget	
l) Jews	Round up Jews and put them in concentration camps	Allow limited anti-semitism	
m) Trade unions	Ban free trade unions	Respect trade union rights	
n) The press	Create propaganda ministry to control information and repress criticism	Respect press freedom	
o) Overall	Embark on a full-blooded Nazi revolution	Combine both cautious and radical measures in a 'legal revolution'	Abandon revolution to appease the elite