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Stalingrad A Level Extension Task (Part 1)

Introduction

Read through the extracts below. From the list of key reasons why the Germans were defeated at Stalingrad select the five most important. For each of the five find the most compelling evidence from the extracts (Part 2) to back it up. Rank the five reasons in terms of importance, or assign them to groups that provide an answer to the overall question.

1. Hitler kept changing his mind about what his plans were
2. Stalin realised that he had made mistakes in the past and let his generals take more control
3. Hitler became obsessed with capturing the city named after his opponent
4. The Hungarian, Romanian and the Italian Armies (countries that Hitler had made his allies) were totally ill equipped and untrained to resist serious Soviet attacks.
5. Stalin gave Chuikov the freedom to use any means that he thought necessary to beat the Germans
6. Hitler completely underestimated the Red Army
7. The great advantage of mechanisation and aerial power, which the Germans had, tended to be lost in city fighting
8. Paulus followed everything that Hitler told him slavishly
9. Paulus' biggest mistake was to follow Hitler's orders of throwing tank crews into the street fighting in Stalingrad in October
10. Chuikov was certainly physically a brave man and he was also, I think, probably morally courageous
11. Chuikov was utterly brutal in the way that he defended Stalingrad. He was famous for smashing his own officers in the face if he disagreed with them or he felt that they were in some ways not performing properly

12. Paulus was in overall command of the German 6th Army and the Hungarian, Romanian and the Italian Armies in the area
13. The weakness of the Romanians was obvious because they had virtually no anti-tank guns and their command structure was pretty corrupt.
14. Hitler refused any idea of Paulus being allowed to fight his way out of the encirclement at Stalingrad