**Mussolini and the Fascist Political System – Chapter 5**

**The Nature and Extent of Mussolini’s Dictatorship**

1. What was meant by “personal dictatorship”? How was propaganda used to bolster Mussolini’s personal dictatorship?

2. What was the cult of personality and how did he use the media to promote this image of Il Duce? How successful was it?

3. In order to insure all real power rested with Mussolini, what roles were given to the King, government ministers, and parliament?

4. In order to further strengthen his personal dictatorship how did Mussolini:

* Attempt to win the support of key groups in the Italian state: civil service, armed forces, judges, and local government
* Seek to gain the support of key groups in society: the Catholic Church and Industrialists? (Lateran Agreements and Vidoni Palace Pact)
* Cement his control over the Fascist Party?
* Use divisions in the Fascist party to his advantage?
* Ensure there were no credible rivals to his leadership?

5. Why were there rivalries between the Party and government institutions? How did these rivalries increase Mussolini’s power?

6. How efficient was the Fascist government?

**Little Opposition to Fascism**

7. Why was there not more opposition to Fascist rule? Who were the main anti-Fascist groups? Why were they unsuccessful?

8. How did Mussolini encourage cooperation with Fascism? Consider the use of manipulation, regulating of professions, fear, rewards and promotions.

9. To what extent did propaganda generate support for Mussolini?

10. How extensive was the use of concentration camps for political opponents?

**Comparison of Fascism and Nazism**

11. What similarities and differences are there in the rise of Hitler and Mussolini?

12. What similarities were there in the importance of foreign expansion and war?

13. To what extent did Hitler copy the methods of Mussolini?

14. Why was the Nazi regime able to exert greater control over its citizens than its Italian counterpart?

15. How far did the dictators share a common racial ideology?

**Your Opinion**

To what extent were Mussolini and his Fascists, from 1924, in total control of the Italian state? Explain fully.