Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Hitler’s appeal to the people of Germany? (8 marks)

 Recycle words to answer the question

Provenance  limitations convincing

 Content  limitations convincing

 Judgement

The interpretations focus on different aspects of Hitler’s rule. Interpretation B focuses on Hitler’s reaction to the depression whereas interpretation A focuses on Hitler’s personal attributes. Considering both content and provenance I believe B is more convincing.

 Interpretation A was written in 1930 by a convicted Nazi. He heard Hitler speak which means he has first-hand knowledge of the appeal of Hitler however as a known supporter his interpretation is not surprising and therefore unconvincing.

Interpretation B was written in 1950 by a contemporary journalist and socialist who was working in Paris in the 1930s. He was a German living in Paris and a socialist so no generalisations can be made about his ideas regarding Hitler based on his provenance therefore this interpretation is more convincing from this perspective.

In terms of content interpretation A makes a convincing argument about the emotional appeal of Hitler. The source explains that the threat of communism and other achievements of Hitler were rooted in the enthusiasm he personally commanded. This is significant in explaining why people followed him however it does not consider external factors like the Wall Street Crash. My knowledge of the elections during the 1930s demonstrate that Hitler increased his popularity dramatically following the depression which suggests that other factors were more significant than Hitler’s speaking skills. Interpretation A is therefore convincing to someone lacking prior knowledge.

Interpretation B focuses on the external factor of the depression and how following the Wall Street Crash Hitler started to appeal to the unemployed and young people. He did this by appealing to their fears of the future and a possible return to hyperinflation. People across Germany struggled economically and Hitler capitalised on this by writing speeches that appealed to different groups depending who he was talking to. Without the economic and social policies of the Nazi party Hitler’s personal skills would be insignificant and therefore I believe this interpretation is the most convincing.