a) Albert Speer's early background and rise to prominence is rooted in one that is highly relevant to his later life. Much of his early life was spent in Mannheim until the First World War forced his family to relocate to Heidelberg. Despite his father's wishes for Albert to study mathematics, Albert studied architecture at Munich University. After completion of his studies, Speer began work under his mentor Tessenow. Frappell evaluates Tessenow as having been highly influential upon Speer's simplistic architectural preference. It was whilst at university that Speer first encountered the Nazi party, having attend a student rally in a beerhall. Sinyey notes that Speer was intrigued, intrigued by Hitler and "effected" heavily by his words. Speer soon found himself rising the ranks of the Nazi party. Frappell states that his excellence in mathematics at an early age aided his
organisational abilities as armaments minister.
b) History presents us with, to a considerable extent, an unbalanced and inaccurate interpretation of Albert Speer. Through his actions, both as chief architect for the Nazi party and as armaments minister, his writings and writings of others, history presents a contradictory interpretation of Speer.

Speer is often viewed by the public and media as the "penetrant Nazi". To some extent this may be true. His memoirs written during his imprisonment in Spandau prison however support this idea. Frappell states that his attitudes towards slave labour reveal his true nature as a Nazi. His actions as chief architect support this armaments minister support this. For example, he was displeased with the housing for slave labourers as he believed it too good and therefore inefficient.
During his role as chief architect in Berlin, Speer ordered the removal of a large number of Jewish families from Berlin to create room for new building projects. Frappell questions Speer's motives and the necessity of the families' removal. This is harshly contradictory with the general view held of Speer as the "penetant Nazi". In this way history presents an unbalanced interpretation of Albert Speer.