

Teaching about the Holocaust

Assessing and Defining Responsibility

If you were a judge, how would you assess the “responsibility” of these people for what happened in the world between 1933 and 1945? Indicate one of the following:

1. Not responsible
2. Minimally responsible
3. Responsible
4. Very responsible

- _____ 1. One of Hitler’s direct subordinates, such as Heinrich Himmler or Joseph Goebbels
- _____ 2. A German who voluntarily joined Hitler’s special elite, the SS
- _____ 3. A German industrialist who financially supported Hitler’s rise to power and continued to support him verbally
- _____ 4. A judge who carried out Hitler’s decrees for sterilization of the “mentally incompetent” and internment of “traitors”
- _____ 5. A doctor who participated in sterilization of Jews
- _____ 6. A worker in a plant making Zyklon B gas
- _____ 7. The Pope, who made no public statement against Nazi policy
- _____ 8. An industrialist who made enormous profits by producing Zyklon B gas
- _____ 9. A manufacturer who used concentration camp inmates as slave labor in his plants
- _____ 10. An American industrialist who helped arm Hitler in the 1930s
- _____ 11. A person who voluntarily joined the Nazis in the 1930s
- _____ 12. A person who agreed to publicly take the Civil Servant Loyalty Oath (swearing eternal allegiance to Adolf Hitler in 1934)

- _____ 13. A person who complied with the law excluding Jews from economic and social life
- _____ 14. A person who regularly, enthusiastically attended Hitler rallies
- _____ 15. A person who always respectfully gave the “Heil Hitler” salute
- _____ 16. A person who served as a concentration camp guard
- _____ 17. A person who turned the lever to allow the gas into the chambers
- _____ 18. A driver of the trains that went to the concentration camps
- _____ 19. A diplomat for the Nazi government
- _____ 20. The American Government, which limited emigration of Jews to the U.S. in the 1930s
- _____ 21. The “little guy” who claimed “he doesn’t get involved in politics” and thus went about his business as quietly as he could in the Hitler regime
- _____ 22. The soldier who carried out orders to roust Jews from their homes for “evacuation and resettlement”
- _____ 23. The German couple who took up residence in a home evacuated by Jews
- _____ 24. The non-Jews who took over a store just abandoned by Jews
- _____ 25. The German who refused all pleas to participate in hiding and smuggling of Jews
- _____ 26. The policeman who helped round up escaping Jews
- _____ 27. A teacher who taught Nazi propaganda
- _____ 28. Children who joined the Hitler Youth
- _____ 29. Parents who sent or allowed their children to attend Hitler Youth meetings
- _____ 30. The Protestant clergyman who gave to the Nazis lists of members of his congregation who were “non-Aryan.”

Adapted from Flaim, Richard F., and Edwin W. Reynolds Jr., eds., *The Holocaust and Genocide* (New York: Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith, 1983).