

## Overview for teachers

### *'Six things you should know about the Holocaust'*

a safe, authoritative self-guided online study for Year 8 and 9 students

#### Rationale:

In the current climate, with most students working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, the attached resource is designed for self-study as part of a KS3 History course for students in Year 8 or 9.

It is based on the free teacher CPD course available on our website, called *6 things all students should know about the Holocaust by the end of Year 9*. The course highlights six common misconceptions students have about the Holocaust. These misconceptions were identified in the UCL CfHE's 2016 ground-breaking research into what students know and understand about the Holocaust. Although the content contains events that may be disturbing, every effort has been made to protect the mental health of students by avoiding the use of atrocity images, or content that is unnecessarily explicit or dramatizes events needlessly.

Following some initial research to find out what teachers and students want in the current crisis, these short lessons have been constructed from teacher feedback which showed a desire, amongst other things, to; keep lessons 'short'; keep lessons relatively clear and easy to follow and comprehend; make lessons as self-directing as possible; keep a sense of integrity and student wellbeing when confronting difficult and potentially distressing issues in an online course.

For these lessons, it is presumed that students require some basic prior knowledge of the Holocaust, though this may not necessarily be in any great depth.

#### Course structure:

- To engage with this series of lessons, students will need access to the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education's (CfHE) website <https://www.holocausteducation.org.uk/>
- The '**short lessons**' are broken down into **6 x 20 minute lessons**
- It is suggested that students work through these lessons in sequential order to get the most out of them. The first lesson, for instance, deals with how the Holocaust is defined, knowledge of which will underpin students' understanding in the subsequent five lessons.
- Each lesson will end with short a **self-assessment piece**, with answers that follow.
- There is an **Introduction** slide sequence, which students need to read first. It explains to them the rationale behind the course and how it will 'work'
- Most slides have **icons** to help students identify what it is they are expected to 'do.' These are explained for them in the introduction.

Students can access or be sent by their teacher the Powerpoint slides which cover the following six misconceptions;

### **Powerpoint files**

0. Introduction [5 mins.]

1. Responsibility for the crime of the Holocaust was much broader than just Hitler's. [20 mins.]

2. The Holocaust was the attempt to murder every single Jewish person. While others groups were also deliberately murdered, the intent and reasons differed. [20 mins.]

3. The largest numbers of Jews murdered came from German-occupied Poland. [20 mins.]

4. The British government decided the best way to help the Jews was to win the war as quickly as possible, but it did not declare war explicitly to save them. [20 mins.]

5. Most Nazi camps were not death camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau: they were diverse and often changed over time. [20 mins.]

6. Jews resisted the unfolding genocide in a variety of ways, despite the horrors they faced. [20 mins.]