

Teaching and learning about the Holocaust 80 years on: A study of student knowledge and understanding in England: Student Survey

For author details of questions and individual scales within this survey, please see Methodology document on https://holocausteducation.org.uk/research/80-years/

A	few questions about you.
1.	What is the name of your school?
2.	What year group are you in? <i>(Tick one answer)</i> ☐ Year 7
	Year 8
	☐ Year 9
	☐ Year 10
	☐ Year 11
	☐ Year 12
	☐ Year 13
3.	Do you or your family belong to a particular religious group? If so, which one(s)?
	☐ Buddhist
	☐ Christian (all denominations)
	☐ Hindu
	☐ Jewish
	☐ Muslim
	Sikh
	Other – please specify:
	☐ Prefer not to say
	☐ No religion

4. What is your ethnic group? (Tick one answer)		
Asian or Asian British		
 □ Bangladeshi □ Chinese □ Indian □ Pakistani □ Any other Asian background – you can specify here: 		
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African		
☐ African☐ Caribbean☐ Any other Black, Black British or Caribbean background – you can specify here:		
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups		
 ☐ White and Asian ☐ White and Black African ☐ White and Black Caribbean ☐ Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background – you can specify here: 		
White		
 British, English, Welsh, Scottish or Northern Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller Irish Roma Any other White background – you can specify here: 		
Other ethnic group		
☐ Arab☐ Any other ethnic group – you can specify here:☐ Prefer not to say.		

Questions about the Holocaust		
Remember that it doesn't matter if you don't know the answers to any of these questions – this isn't an exam. Just do what you can.		
5.	Please can you describe in one or two sentences what you think the Holocaust was?	
6.	Who were the victims of the Holocaust?	
6a	. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)	
	 ☐ I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. ☐ I am not very confident in this answer. ☐ I am fairly confident in this answer. 	

I am very confident in this answer.

7.	Who was responsible for the Holocaust?	
7a	. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer) I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. I am not very confident in this answer. I am fairly confident in this answer. I am very confident in this answer.	
8.	When did the Holocaust happen? (Tick one answer) In the 1900s In the 1920s In the 1940s In the 1960s In the 1980s	
8a	. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)	
	 ☐ I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. ☐ I am not very confident in this answer. ☐ I am fairly confident in this answer. ☐ I am very confident in this answer. 	

Approximately how many Jews in all of Europe were killed during the Holocaust? (Tick one answer)
 □ 25,000 □ 100,000 □ 1 million □ 2 million □ 6 million □ 20 million
. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)
 ☐ I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. ☐ I am not very confident in this answer. ☐ I am fairly confident in this answer. ☐ I am very confident in this answer.
Approximately what percentage of Jewish children living in Nazi controlled Europe were murdered? (Tick one answer) About 1% About 10% About 50% About 75% About 90%
a. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)
 ☐ I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. ☐ I am not very confident in this answer. ☐ I am fairly confident in this answer. ☐ I am very confident in this answer.

11.The Nazis began to kill millions of Jews (Tick one answer)			
 As soon as Hitler came to power. During the First World War. Immediately after the Second World War began. After Germany invaded the Soviet Union. 			
11a. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)			
 ☐ I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. ☐ I am not very confident in this answer. ☐ I am fairly confident in this answer. ☐ I am very confident in this answer. 			
12.In 1933, what percentage of the German population was Jewish? (Tick one answer)			
☐ Less than 1%☐ Approximately 5%☐ Approximately 15%☐ More than 30%			
12a. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)			
 I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. I am not very confident in this answer. I am fairly confident in this answer. I am very confident in this answer. 			
13. What were Nazi ghettos? (Tick one answer)			
 Places where the Jews of Europe were killed in gas chambers. Places where Jews were forced to live, in order to separate them from the rest of the population. Housing estates built for the Roma ('Gypsies') to stop them from travelling around. Factories where the Nazis forced their political opponents to work as slave labourers. Places where gay men were experimented upon to try to make them 'straight'. 			
13a. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)			
 ☐ I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. ☐ I am not very confident in this answer. ☐ I am fairly confident in this answer. ☐ I am very confident in this answer. 			

16. If a member of the German military or police refused an instruction to kill Jewish people, what do you think would be most likely to happen to them? (Tick one answer)		
 They would be shot for refusing to obey an order. They would be sent to a concentration camp. They would be given another duty instead. They would be sent to the Eastern Front. 		
16a. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)		
 I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. I am not very confident in this answer. I am fairly confident in this answer. I am very confident in this answer. 		
17. When did the British government first know about the mass murder of millions of Jews? (Tick one answer)		
Jews? (Tick one answer) They knew it was happening in the years between 1933 and 1938.		
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18. What was the British government's response when they learned about the mass murder of Jews? They (Tick one answer)
 Declared war on Germany. Thought up rescue plans and tried to do everything possible to save Jewish people. Said they would punish the killers when the war was over. Bombed Auschwitz-Birkenau to destroy the gas chambers. Attacked Jews living in Britain. Ignored it. None of the above, the British knew nothing until the end of the war.
18a. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)
 I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. I am not very confident in this answer. I am fairly confident in this answer. I am very confident in this answer.
19. Why did the Nazi organised mass murder of Jewish people end? (Tick one answer)
 There were no more Jews left to kill. The Nazis realised it was a terrible mistake and stopped killing people. Hitler committed suicide. The Allied armies (e.g. USSR, Britain, USA) liberated the lands controlled by the Nazis where the Holocaust was taking place.
19a. How confident are you of this answer? (Tick one answer)
 ☐ I don't know the answer - this was just a guess. ☐ I am not very confident in this answer. ☐ I am fairly confident in this answer. ☐ I am very confident in this answer.

20. The Nazis planned to kill every last person from this group, wherever they could reach them (tick all that apply)	
□ Disabled people□ Homosexuals□ Jewish people□ Roma and Sinti (Gypsies)	
21. They were the first victims of the Nazis' mass murder programme (tick all that apply)	
□ Disabled people□ Homosexuals□ Jewish people□ Roma and Sinti (Gypsies)	
22. They could avoid Nazi persecution if they gave up their beliefs (tick all that apply)	
☐ Jewish people☐ Jehovah's Witnesses☐ Roma and Sinti (Gypsies)☐ Polish people	
23. They were blamed by Hitler for Germany's defeat in the First World War (tick all that apply)	
 □ Polish people □ Jehovah's Witnesses □ Jewish people □ Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) 	

Below are some statements about the Holocaust. For each statement, please tick

which group (or groups) you think the statement is talking about.

Key terms

The questions below present some words you may have come across while learning about the Holocaust. For each one, select the sentence that best explains what the word means.

24. What does the term 'racism' refer to? (Tick one answer)	
 ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because of their gender. ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because of their ethnicity. ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because of their social class. ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because of their age. ☐ I don't know what this word means. 	
25. What does the term 'antisemitism' refer to? (Tick one answer)	
 □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are poor. □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are Hindu. □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are Jewish. □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are homeless. □ I don't know what this word means. 	
26. What does the term 'Islamophobia' refer to? (Tick one answer)	
 ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are Sikh. ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are Jewish. ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are Muslim. ☐ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are Hindu. ☐ I don't know what this word means. 	
27. What does the term 'homophobia' refer to? (Tick one answer)	
 □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because of their sexual orientation □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are homeless. □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are Jewish. □ When a person or group is treated unfairly because they are disabled. □ I don't know what this word means. 	•
28. What does 'genocide' refer to? (Tick one answer)	
 A violent disturbance of the peace (e.g. a riot). The accidental killing of one human by another. The deliberate attempt to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. The deliberate killing of one human by another. I don't know what this word means. 	

Learning about the Holocaust.

		nat year were you in when you learned about the Holocaust in school, for the stime? <i>(Tick one answer)</i>
]]]		Before year 7 (at primary school) Year 7 Year 8 Year 9
[Year 10
[Year 11
Ĺ	亅	Year 12 or 13
L		Don't know
30.I	n '	which subjects have you learned about the Holocaust? (Tick all that apply) Art & Design
[Citizenship
[Computing
[Design & Technology
[Drama
[English
[Geography
[History
[Maths
[Foreign Languages (e.g. French, German, Spanish etc.)
[Music
[Physical Education (PE)
[Politics
[Psychology
[PSHE or something similar (PSHE = Personal, social, health and economic
_		education)
[Religious Education / Religious Studies
[\Box	Science
اِ	ᆜ	Sociology
L		Other – please specify:

Books and film/television 31. Which books have you read about the Holocaust? (Tick all that apply) ☐ After the War ☐ Once ☐ The Book Thief The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas ☐ The Diary of Anne Frank ☐ School textbook Other books not in this list – please specify: ☐ I haven't read any books about the Holocaust. 32. There are lots of films and programmes about the Holocaust and some are listed below. Please select the ones you have watched. You can use the 'other' option to add the names of films or programmes about the Holocaust that you've watched but aren't on the list. If you can't remember the name, just tell us a bit about the programme or film. (Tick all that apply) ☐ Defiance ☐ Denial My Best Friend Anne Frank My Family, the Holocaust and me (with Robert Rinder and others) ☐ One Life ☐ Schindler's List ☐ The Book Thief The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas ☐ The Pianist ☐ The Zookeeper's Wife Other films/TV not in this list – please specify: _____ ☐ I haven't watched any programmes or films about the Holocaust

The Holocaust on social media

] Facebook
] Instagram
Reddit
] Snapchat
] Spotify
] Telegram
] TikTok
] Tumblr
] Twitch
] Twitter
] WhatsApp
YouTube
Other social media sites/apps not in this list – please specify:

34. Have you seen information about the Holocaust on social media when you haven't-been deliberately searching for it? (Tick one answer)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
34a. If yes, on which platforms did you see this information? (Tick all that apply)
☐ Facebook ☐ Instagram ☐ Reddit ☐ Snapchat ☐ Spotify ☐ Telegram ☐ TikTok ☐ Tumblr ☐ Twitch ☐ Twitter ☐ WhatsApp ☐ YouTube ☐ Other social media sites/apps not in this list – please specify:
☐ I can't remember.
35. Have you ever used ChatGPT (or another Al chatbot) to learn about the Holocaust? (Tick one answer)
☐ Yes☐ No☐ Not sure
35a. If yes, can you describe the sort of thing(s) you asked ChatGPT / Al chatbot to help you with when learning about the Holocaust?

36. Thinking about your experience of learning about the Holocaust, what have been the most useful sources of information about the Holocaust? You can include the names of specific websites, books, films or TV programmes.	
Other genocides	
37.In school, have you learned about any of the other genocides or mass killings listed below? (Tick all that apply.)	
☐ Armenians (in the former Ottoman Empire)	
☐ Bosnia (in the former Yugoslavia)☐ Cambodia	
☐ Darfur (in Sudan)	
☐ Democratic Republic of Congo☐ Rwanda	
Other – please specify:	
☐ No I haven't learnt about any other genocide(s) or mass killing(s)	

Learning experiences

Holocaust? (Tick one answer) Yes No Not sure
39. Have you ever heard a survivor on the television or online talk about their experience of the Holocaust? (Tick one answer) Yes No Not sure
 40. Have you ever visited a site of a former concentration or death camp? (Tick one answer) Yes No Not sure
41. Have you ever visited a museum to learn about the Holocaust? (Tick one answer) Yes No Not sure

Attitudes towards learning about the Holocaust.
 42. Do you think it's important for all young people to learn about the Holocaust? (Tick one answer)
Holocaust?
42b <u>. If no,</u> why do you think it's not important for young people to learn about the Holocaust?

Attitude questions

You're now approaching the end of the survey, and the questions will move away from the topic of the Holocaust. Instead, the last few sets of questions are about your opinions and use of online content such as social media.

44. To begin with, please tell us how much you trust the groups or organisations listed below. (*Tick one box for each statement*)

	Not at all	Only a little bit	Quite a lot	A lot	Not sure
In general, how much do you trust your classmates?					
In general, how much do you trust people in your neighbourhood?					
In general, how much do you trust teachers?					
In general, how much do you trust the police?					
In general, how much do you trust the government?					
In general, how much do you trust journalists?					
In general, how much do you trust science?					
In general, how much do you trust social media?					
In general, how much do you trust Al chatbots like ChatGPT?					

45. Now we're interested in your use of sites and apps for social media. This means doing things like 'following' friends, people or organisations, reading, liking or sharing things, (like photos, videos, opinions, comments, news stories, links to other content etc.).

Now, thinking about your use of social media, please indicate how much you use each of the sites and apps listed below. (Tick one box for each website/app)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Facebook				
Instagram				
Reddit				
Snapchat				
Spotify				
Telegram				
TikTok				
Tumblr				
Twitch				
WhatsApp				
YouTube				
45b. Are there any other s missed from the list above				nt we've

46. The next few sets of questions are about the news. The word 'news' can refer to many things. In this survey, please think of 'news' as information about important current events in the world, the country and/or your local area. News can be accessed through different media and platforms.

Now, thinking about the different ways you can find out about the news - please tell us how much you trust each source listed below. (*Tick one box for each statement*)

	Not at all	Only a little bit	Quite a lot	A lot	Not sure
In general, how much do you trust news that you see on social media platforms?					
In general, how much do you trust news that is broadcast on TV channels?					
In general, how much do you trust news you hear on the radio?					
In general, how much do you trust news you get from tabloid media (e.g. the Sun, Daily Mail, Daily express, The Mirror)?					
In general, how much do you trust news you get from broadsheet media (e.g. the Guardian, the Times, The Telegraph, The Independent)?					

	Guardian, the Times, The Telegraph, The Independent)?
47.	In general, how often do you read, watch or listen to news? (This can include news you see online, in newspapers or on the television.) (<i>Tick one answer</i>)
	 Never Very rarely Once or twice a month Once or twice a week Everyday

48. As before, when answering these questions, think about the news as information about important current events in the world, the country and your local area. News can be accessed through different media and platforms.

For each statement below, please indicate how much you agree or disagree it.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
When I come across news, I move on to read, watch or listen to something else.					
Usually, the news is not interesting enough to read, watch or listen to.					
If the news annoys or bothers me, I immediately move on to do something else.					
Usually, the news is too upsetting or saddening to read, watch or listen to.					
It is important to me to follow the news and be aware of current affairs.					
I actively follow the news through newspapers, TV or radio.					
I actively follow the news through social media.					
I do not have to deliberately find out about the news because important news stories will get to me via social media.					
I do not have to deliberately find out about the news because important news stories will get to me via friends or family.					
I can be well informed about the news even when I don't actively follow it.					

49. You've reached the end of the survey, but before you finish, we'd like to ask you a final, general question.					
Our world is currently facing many different challenges and problems. Out of all the problems the world faces today, which is most worrying to you?					