

Study Questions For Final Exam On Nazi/Holocaust Basics

The questions on the final exam will be drawn almost entirely from this list [no more than 2 points out of 100 will be “new” questions]. Except when noted, 2 or 3 sentences will be adequate to answer the question.

You will not be required to answer all of these questions, and you will have some choice on the final as to which questions to answer (although you will have to do all mini-essays).

For the final exam, you will not be permitted to bring any notes, books, cell phones, etc., with you (obviously, or you could just write down the answers to the questions). You have to learn the answers to these questions in your head! However, you are permitted to bring copies of Gaita and Langmuir for the mini-essays on those authors. I will go around and check these readings to make sure there is nothing funny going on, although I believe that none of you would do that.

The Questions: (You have a handout on History of Germany, Nazism, Anti-Jewish policies that has many of these items, and you may have written the answers on that sheet. Almost all the answers can be found in Landau, and I have indicated other sources occasionally. I have noted when a specific handout is useful to answer the question. These are all on the website, in case you can't find yours.)

What was the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)?

What was the significance of the Versailles Treaty (1919) in the rise of ultranationalism in Germany, that contributed to the ultimate rise of the Nazis?

What was the Weimar Republic?

What month and year did Hitler come to power in Germany?

What was the Enabling Act (March, 1933)?

What was the initial use of the concentration camps in the first years of the Nazi regime?

Who was Heinrich Himmler?

Who was Joseph Goebbels?

What was the Concordat of 1933?

What were 2 anti-Jewish policies in Germany prior to Kristallnacht (1938)?

What was Kristallnacht?

What does the German word “Lebensraum” mean and what role did that idea play in the Nazi philosophy?

What was the “T 4” program?

Why was the “T 4” program discontinued in 1941?

What did Hitler say in his January 30, 1939, speech [Koonz]?

What was so-called “German Christianity?” [NOTE: do not confuse this question with the more general question of what Germans who saw themselves as Christians {Catholics and Protestants} during the Nazi period believed. Some of you were confused on this point in your papers.]

Who was Bishop Preysing [hint: he has something to do with the Pope during the war/Holocaust period]

Who was Martin Niemöller?

What was Zegota?

Rank these countries according to the number of Jews who lived there at the beginning of the war from most to least: Germany, Poland, USSR.

When did Germany invade these countries (year and whether first or 2nd half of the year will be sufficient): France, USSR, Poland

What was the Wannsee Conference and when was it (year, quarter [1st quarter, 2nd quarter, etc.]?)

What were the Einsatzgruppen?

Name 3 death camps other than Auschwitz-Birkenau. In what country were these camps located?

What were three different ways that Jews were killed during the Holocaust?

A prisoner of war is an enemy soldier captured in battle. What was the general fate of Soviet prisoners of war captured by Germany in WWII [Piper, Feig]?

What was the fate of Roma (often called “Gypsies,” although many regard this as a derogatory term) in WWII [Piper, Feig]?

MINI-ESSAYS (c. 1-2 blue book pages)

Mini-essay: Pope Pius XII was Pope from 1939 until 1958. What are 2 actions he might have taken that are plausibly thought to have been likely to reduce the number of Jews who were killed during the Holocaust? What are 2 reasons that have been given to explain why he did not take those actions? Comment briefly on those reasons and on the Pope's responsibility. [HANDOUT]

You will have a *choice* between the following 2 mini-essays [HANDOUT]:

1. Raimond Gaita ("Genocide and the Holocaust") explores the meaning of a "crime against humanity." (The main example he gives of such a crime is genocide.) What does Gaita think the distinctive evil of a crime against humanity is? Briefly comment on his answer to this question.
2. Gaita also thinks that the Holocaust involved a kind of evil that went beyond the evil of genocide itself. (I think he means that this evil has to involve genocide, but to go beyond it. But sometimes he uses expressions that imply that this form of evil could take place without genocide; assume he does not mean this.) Explain Gaita's view on this question. Briefly comment on his answer to this question.

Mini-essay: [HANDOUT] When Wilhelm Marr invented the term "anti-Semitism" in the 1870's, he meant an opposition to Jews that was based on racial principles (Jews as a race), and could be used as a basis for a political party or movement. Langmuir, in his essay "From Anti-Judaism to Antisemitism," draws that distinction in a somewhat different way, one which he thinks captures historical changes in attitudes and actions towards Jews over the centuries better than Marr's does.

Explain Langmuir's distinction between "anti-Judaism" and "antisemitism." It is not enough simply to cite Langmuir's official definition of this, which is not very clear. You have to explain what he means. Please illustrate his view with at least one example of "anti-Judaism" and one of "anti-Semitism" according to his definitions. The examples should help you explain it.