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, this 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. 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 1930’s
— 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 gentiles 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 Reynolds and Flaim, editors-in-chief, Holocaust and Genocide, Anti-Defamation League of B’nai Brith, NY, 1983.