

Name _____

The Holocaust QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Imagine yourself under the following conditions. Then, using a pen, answer the questions asked by checking either A, B, or filling in the blank for C.

1. Let's suppose that your existing democratic government is suddenly overtaken by a new dictatorship-type of government. The new government in control decrees that from now on the right to speak and worship freely is forbidden. Should you choose not to obey the new regulations, you will be either severely punished, jailed, or put to death.

How would you respond to such harsh regulations?

_____(A) I would obey the new regulations just as the new government decreed.

_____(B) I would not obey them despite the risks involved.

_____(C) I would do the following: _____

2. The new government in control decrees that because of your religious faith you and your family will be deported to another country to help rebuild their war damaged industries. The government promises that the exile will only be temporary and after the war has ended you and your family will be allowed to return home and take possession again of your home and other personal belongings.

In the meantime they have issued a warning that anyone caught attempting to escape or hide will be put to death.

How would you respond to such harsh orders?

_____(A) I would attempt to escape or hide.

_____(B) I would not attempt to escape or hide for fear of being punished.

_____(C) I would do the following: _____

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3. Heavily armed soldiers have arrived and completely encircled your house. Everyone is ordered to get out of the house and told to congregate on the street. Afterwards an order is given to start marching toward the railroad station. On the way to the station you notice that your other neighbors of the same religious faith are also ordered to march to the railroad station, while the neighbors and friends that are of a different religious faith are left safely behind at their homes without any harm being brought upon them.

While the neighbors that are left safely behind do not wish that any harm come upon you or your family, they make no attempt to help or to protest to the authorities regarding the forced deportations.

What should your neighbors have done?

- _____(A) My neighbors had no moral obligation to protest or help me.
 _____(B) My neighbors should have protested and offered help.
 _____(C) They should have done the following: _____

4. You, your family, and all other people of the same religious faith as yours are ordered to get into totally enclosed, cattle-type freight trains. The guards close and lock the doors. You are given no food or water nor told of the journey's destination. After several days of traveling, the train comes to a stop. Armed soldiers unlock and open the doors and you are ordered to get off the train. Without any warning you are forcibly separated from your family and placed with an adult group. You see armed soldiers beating other children who resisted being separated from their parents. You cannot understand why they are so brutal, but you have no time to think about it because your main concern now is how you are going to survive this horrible ordeal.

Seeing what was happening, would you attempt to complain to the authorities about the harsh treatments and risk being punished for it, or would you just remain silent and do what they tell you to do?

- _____(A) I would complain about the harsh treatments, even at the risk of being punished for it.
 _____(B) I would do what I was told to do for fear of being punished.
 _____(C) I would do the following: _____

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5. You are placed in a work group where you march about eight miles to work, work all day building air raid shelters, and then march eight miles back to camp. There are two guards with sub-machine guns for every work group of 12 people. The guards shoot people who pass out from exhaustion.

What would you do if you found yourself in this situation?

____(A) I would try to escape while I was away from camp.

____(B) I would try to hold out hoping for the end of the war and release.

____(C) I would do the following: _____

6. Without any warning you are suddenly pulled out of the work group. Until now you have been able to convince the authorities that you are older than you really are because you know that if they find out about your real age they will end your life in the gas chambers. But now they have somehow found out about your real age and have taken you out of the work group and told you that the following day you will be sent to an extermination camp for certain death.

Would you plead for mercy and ask to be returned to the work group, or accept the reality of the situation you face?

____(A) I would plead for mercy and ask to be returned to the work group.

____(B) I would not ask for mercy or to be returned to a work group.

____(C) I would do the following: _____

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7. You are now standing on the outside on a cold and bitter morning, listening for the sound of a truck that will take you to an extermination camp for certain death because you have not asked for mercy and none has been given. After standing about fifteen minutes you hear the sound of a truck approaching and you know what that means. Suddenly, and without even being aware of it, you begin to concentrate hard on not being sent to an extermination camp because you want to live and someday return home again.

As you are concentrating you become aware that the person in charge of the camp is walking in your direction. He stops right in front of you and, without saying a word, motions his right hand, signaling you to get back to the work group. You cannot understand why he is doing this when he seemed so determined that you should be sent to an extermination camp.

Now your spirits are uplifted again because as long as you can remain in a work group there is hope of surviving this ordeal.

Do you believe that your own mental concentration caused it to happen?

- _____(A) I believe that it was accidental that I was put back into a work group.
 _____(B) I believe that it was due to my own mental concentration.
 _____(C) It was due to the following: _____

8. After staying in a work group for about six weeks, the person in charge of the camp changes his mind and orders that you be shipped out to an extermination camp. This time you begin to accept death as inevitable because you can no longer remain in a work group. You are taken to a railroad station and ordered to enter an open type freight car with about 150 others who are no longer able to perform the heavy physical work. The journey lasts about seven days and during those seven days you are given no food or water. When you arrive at the extermination camp, only three of the 150 are still alive, and you are one of the three.

Why do you suppose you were able to survive?

- _____(A) I survived because of my strong will to live.
 _____(B) I survived because I was stronger than the other people.
 _____(C) I survived because _____

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9. After over fourteen months of imprisonment, you are finally liberated and have returned home. Upon arrival you find out that you are the only one from your family who survived the horrors in captivity. All others perished in the death camps.

What actions would you take?

- ____(A) I would do everything possible to bring the murderers to justice.
- ____(B) I would take justice into my own hands.
- ____(C) I would attempt to make a new beginning.
- ____(D) I would attempt to end my life.
- ____(E) I would do the following: _____
- _____

10. Years later, many books and articles are written stating that ordeals such as you went through in the camps really did not happen.

How would you respond and react to that?

- ____(A) I would remain silent.
- ____(B) I would counteract that by telling what I saw and experienced.
- ____(C) I would do the following: _____
- _____