

Topic	Knowledge
<p>Persecution and the Holocaust</p>	<p>* Persecution is hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs. It can also be known as oppression and is usually acted towards a group or individual over a sustained amount of time. The Jews were persecuted by the Nazis and their sympathisers during the years of 1933–1945. This is known as The Holocaust (from the Greek <i>holókaustos</i>: <i>hólos</i>, "whole" and <i>kaustós</i>, "burnt offering") however the Jews refer to their Hebrew word Shoah (meaning destruction) to highlight the evil which was cast upon them during this time.</p> <p>* As well as being treated as second-class citizens, Jews were relocated from their homes, their businesses were boycotted, they were forced to carry ID passes and wear armbands to identify themselves. Eventually they were kept in ‘Ghettos’ (areas in cities for Jews only), transported to work camps, concentration or death camps and in, the worst case, tortured, starved and killed (most often by gas chamber or mass shooting). This was part of Hitler’s ‘Final Solution to the Jewish problem’, which saw, in total, 6 million European Jews killed during the Holocaust. Other groups, including in particular the Roma and "incurably sick", as well as ethnic Poles and other Slavs, Soviet citizens, Soviet prisoners of war, political opponents, gay men and Jehovah's Witnesses, resulting in up to 17 million deaths overall.</p>
<p>Memorials</p>	<p>* The Jews that lost their lives in the Holocaust are remembered across the world in many ways. These memorials seek to recognise the pain and suffering the persecuted people felt as well as remembering their contribution to society and the world as a whole. Holocaust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Day is held annually on the 27th January and this normally comprises of events and activities including trips and speeches from holocaust survivors. • Charities such as the Holocaust Educational Trust seek to educate young people about the Holocaust. • Physical memorials exist throughout the world to stand as a reminder of the event. Statues such as those found in Budapest, Miami, Berlin and Yad Vashem (World Holocaust remembrance centre – Jerusalem) are places people can visit and reflect on the event. Many concentration camps are open to the public as museums including Auschwitz in Poland where 1 million died.
<p>Antisemitism and Islamophobia</p>	<p>* Anti-Semitism is hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jewish people. This is a concept that has been seen throughout history. Since ancient times, Jews have been singled out. Jesus was betrayed by Judas – who kissed him on the cheek as a sign to the Romans of who to arrest. Jews have since been blamed by Christians for the betrayal and murder of Jesus. They have been stereotyped as treacherous and untrustworthy. In the middle ages, Jews were thought to be devil worshipers, they were blamed for the black death and poisoning wells. They were forbidden to marry Christians and were prohibited from holding positions in government and were prevented from appearing as witnesses against Christians in court. Bizarre rumours spread about Jews, that they had horns and tails and engaged in ritual murder of Christians.</p> <p>* During the 18th Century, Edouard Drumont founded the Antisemitic League of France in 1889, and was the founder and editor of the newspaper <i>La Libre Parole</i>. He suggested that Jewish people were ‘Christ Killers’, only interested in money and taking over the world and that they had ‘undesirable characteristics’ that should not be passed on genetically.</p> <p>* During the 1920’s, after defeat in WW1 Germany was unstable, there were political, economic and social troubles. Jews were blamed for Germany’s defeat, they were accused of stabbing Germany in the back and planning the failure of the army. Even though 100,000 Jewish people served as officers and soldiers in the German army – and 12,000 were killed fighting for their country.</p> <p>* Before the Holocaust, the Nazis aimed to spread propaganda by marginalising Jewish communities and narrowing the freedoms on Jewish individuals and businesses. This included the Nuremberg laws which preceded the movement of Jews to Ghettos and camps.</p> <p>* Islamophobia has similarities to anti-Semitism. Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against Islam and Muslims. Muslims are stereotyped due to the actions of some extremists and are thus treated with hatred and are focussed on in the media.</p>

Holocaust Fiction	<p>* Many films, books and documentaries have been made about the Holocaust. Some, like Schindler’s list and Defiance, have a non-fiction element to them and tell real life stories of the Holocaust. However, many films showcase the holocaust through fictional means.</p> <p>* This is controversial as it potentially undermines the terrible events that took place by reducing it to a film. It also enables film studios to earn money from the pain and suffering of the Jews during the holocaust (e.g. Marvel and Fox for X-men apocalypse when it featured Auschwitz). It can also be dangerous when writers have creative license. Sometimes stories can be interpreted such that the truth is changed. This happens in ‘<i>The boy in the striped pyjamas</i>’ in the final scene.</p>
Anne Frank	<p>* The story of Anne Frank is both tragic and mesmerising. Anne Frank was a Jewish teenager who went into hiding during the Holocaust, journaling her experiences in the renowned work 'The Diary of Anne Frank.' Fleeing Nazi persecution of Jews, the family moved to Amsterdam and later went into hiding for two years. During this time, Frank wrote about her experiences and wishes.</p> <p>* She was 15 when the family was found and sent to concentration camps, where she died. <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i>, as the diary is typically called in English, has since been published in 67 languages. Countless editions, as well as screen and stage adaptations, of the work have been created around the world. <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> remains one of the most moving and widely read first-hand accounts of the Jewish experience during the Holocaust.</p>
Neo-Nazis	<p>* Neo-Nazism is a political movement which follows Nazi ideas of: Racism, Xenophobia (discrimination against anyone not from your country), Ableism (discrimination against people with disabilities), Homophobia and Antisemitism. Many neo-Nazis admire Adolf Hitler and believe that the Holocaust is a lie and did not happen.</p> <p>* Neo Nazis often express their opinions through tattoos and banners and use swastikas and arm gestures to show their support for the movement. The Neo Nazi movement is illegal in many countries. In Germany it is illegal to say ‘Heil Hitler’. Holocaust Deniers like David Irving seek to deny the holocaust ever happened. He has support from people such as Neo Nazis and has sold books and held talks (some of which have been illegal).</p>
Survivors	<p>* Although many memorials are physical structures like statues and places (like concentrations camps and Yad Vashem) there are other ways to remember the Holocaust. Holocaust Survivors are a unique insight in the holocaust and are a good way to counter those who try and deny the Holocaust. Over time, holocaust survivors have written books and given interviews/testimonies which shed light on the terrible events of the Holocaust. * The difference is that these people were the victims of these events and so there is a very personal account given by these survivors. Some of the strongest and most moving accounts are from the children of the Holocaust whose formative years were spent in captivity and witnessing torture, starvation and death of friends and family. This would have affected the life of so many, so as the last remaining holocaust survivors give their accounts this is a fantastic opportunity to see living memorials of the events of the Holocaust.</p>

Key Word	Meaning
The Holocaust	The systematic persecution and genocide of the Jewish people by the Nazi’s during WW2.
Memorials	Objects, events and days dedicated to reminding people of a particular thing (such as the Holocaust).
Anti-Semitism	Hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jewish people.
Islamophobia	Fear, hatred or prejudice against Islam and Muslims.
Neo-Nazi	Modern day Nazis. People who hold extreme views about white supremacy and/or are anti-semitic or islamophobic.
Holocaust Denial	Where someone or a group deny that the events of the Holocaust took place. Specifically, the sustained murdering of Jewish people during the Holocaust.

Quotes	Topic
‘What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander’ Elie Weisel (Holocaust survivor)	Persecution and Survivors
‘I want to go on living after my death. And therefore I am grateful to God for giving me this gift of expressing all that is in me.’	Anne Frank
"The world will keep on turning without me, and I can't do anything to change events anyway."	Anne Frank
"I deny that millions died in the gas chambers because of the logistical problems for a start." David Irving	Holocaust Deniers