

Overview for teachers

What were Nazi concentration camps?

a safe, authoritative self-guided online study for Year 9 students and above

Rationale:

In the current climate, with most students working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, the attached resource is designed for self-study as part of a KS3 History course for students in Year 9, though it may also be used to supplement GCSE History courses that encompass a study of Nazi Germany, such as;

Edexcel GCSE History Option 31: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

AQA GCSE History Paper 1, section A, period studies: Germany 1890 – 45: *Democracy and Dictatorship*

OCR GCSE History World depth study: Living under Nazi rule 1933 – 45

The lessons on 'Nazi concentration camps' utilise the website 'Nazi concentration camps' devised by Nikolas Wachsmann, Professor of Modern European History at Birkbeck College, University of London. This website is based on his ground-breaking research into the camps, collected in his book *KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps*, and has been specifically designed with KS3 and 4 students in mind. Although the content contains events that may be disturbing, every effort has been made to protect the mental health of students by avoiding the use of atrocity images, or content that is unnecessarily explicit or dramatizes events needlessly.

Following some initial research to find out what teachers and students want in the current crisis, these short lessons have been constructed from teacher feedback which showed a desire, amongst other things, to; keep lessons 'short'; keep lessons relatively clear and easy to follow and comprehend; make lessons as self-directing as possible; Keep a sense of integrity and student wellbeing when confronting difficult and potentially distressing issues in an online course.

Course structure:

- To engage with this series of lessons, students will need access to the website <http://www.bbk.ac.uk>
- The attached '**short lessons**' are broken down into **6 x 30 minute lessons**
- **All 6 flow sequentially**, so students are directed to start with short lesson 1 and end with 6.
- Students can find each short lesson on separate sequences of **Powerpoint slides labelled 1 to 6**.
- Each lesson will end with short a **self-assessment piece**, with answers that follow.
- There is an **Introductory slide** sequence, which students need to read first. It explains to them the rationale behind the course and how the course will 'work'
- Most slides have **icons** to help students identify what it is they are expected to 'do.' These are explained for them in the introduction.

Students can be sent the following attached Powerpoint slides, which are designed to be completed in order;

Overall enquiry question: What were Nazi concentration camps?

Powerpoint files

0 Introduction [5 mins.]

1 What was a Nazi concentration camp? (Part 1) [30 mins.]

2 What was a Nazi concentration camp? (Part 2) [30 mins.]

3 What did ordinary Germans know about the concentration camps? (Part 1) [30 mins.]

4 What did ordinary Germans know about the concentration camps? (Part 2) [30 mins.]

5 What was Dachau? (Part 1) [30 mins.]

6 What was Dachau? (Part 2) [30 mins.]