Exclusion Becomes Law

Trace how Nazi policies changed Jewish life from 1933 to 1938.

SS24.HOS.7 "Describe how Jewish life deteriorated under the Third Reich in Germany and its annexed territories from 1933 to 1938.* 7a Explain the motivations behind the boycott of Jewish businesses and Nazi book burnings..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that show why the Nazis took action, circle actions that changed Jewish life, and number the circled actions in time order. Use your marks to trace how exclusion grew more severe.

From Boycott to Violence

1. On April 1, 1933, Nazi activists stood outside Jewish-owned shops across Germany and urged customers to stay away. The boycott lasted one day, but it advertised the regime's goal of pushing Jews out of public and economic life. Nazi leaders claimed it answered foreign criticism of attacks on German Jews; their propaganda also blamed Jews for Germany's problems. In May, Nazi-aligned students burned books by Jewish writers and other authors they called "un-German." The burnings sought to control which ideas Germans could read and to make exclusion seem acceptable. Neither event reflected the views of every German.

2. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws stripped German Jews of citizenship and barred marriages and sexual relationships between Jews and people classified as having "German or related blood." Nazi rules defined who counted as Jewish by ancestry, not by personal belief. A Jewish teacher who had thought of Germany as home could no longer claim the legal rights of a citizen. A couple affected by the marriage ban could no longer marry under the law. These measures turned prejudice into enforceable rules. As new restrictions accumulated, Jewish people faced shrinking opportunities in work, school, and everyday community life.

3. In March 1938, Germany annexed Austria, and Nazi persecution spread there. Across the enlarged Reich, authorities intensified the seizure of Jewish property and pressure to leave. During the November 1938 pogrom, often called Kristallnacht, attackers destroyed synagogues and Jewish businesses, and police arrested thousands of Jewish men. Families reacted in different ways: some built support through Jewish organizations, sought visas, and contacted relatives abroad; others asked non-Jewish neighbors for help finding shelter. Leaving was difficult because other countries restricted entry, and many families lacked money or safe contacts. Those who stayed faced growing danger, not a single easy choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Nazis' stated reason for the 1933 boycott differ from the purpose of the book burnings?

2. Why did the Nuremberg Laws change Jewish life more permanently than a one-day boycott?

3. How did Nazi efforts to exclude Jews change from 1933 to 1938? Explain what remained the same.

4. What choices did Jewish families make as danger grew, and what limited those choices?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label for an exhibit titled “From Exclusion to Danger.” Connect two dated events from different years to changing Jewish life, then explain one way Jewish families sought help and one obstacle they faced. Use your own wording.

Exclusion Becomes Law

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that show why the Nazis took action, circle actions that changed Jewish life, and number the circled actions in time order. Use your marks to trace how exclusion grew more severe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Nazis' stated reason for the 1933 boycott differ from the purpose of the book burnings?	**Nazi leaders claimed the boycott answered foreign criticism of attacks on German Jews. The book burnings aimed to control what Germans read and make exclusion seem acceptable.**
2	Why did the Nuremberg Laws change Jewish life more permanently than a one-day boycott?	**The laws made exclusion enforceable by taking away German Jews' citizenship and banning certain marriages and sexual relationships.**
3	How did Nazi efforts to exclude Jews change from 1933 to 1938? Explain what remained the same.	**The Nazis moved from a boycott and book burnings to legal restrictions, property seizures, and widespread violence. Throughout, they sought to push Jews out of German public life.**
4	What choices did Jewish families make as danger grew, and what limited those choices?	**Some sought support from Jewish organizations, visas, relatives abroad, or shelter from non-Jewish neighbors. Entry restrictions in other countries, lack of money, and lack of safe contacts limited their options.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1933, a shopper might have seen Nazi activists outside a Jewish-owned store urging people not to enter. The boycott threatened livelihoods and made exclusion visible. By 1935, the Nuremberg Laws had taken citizenship from German Jews and forbidden certain marriages, making discrimination part of the law. After Nazi violence spread across the enlarged Reich in 1938, some families asked non-Jewish neighbors for shelter and sought visas abroad. Yet strict entry rules in other countries and lack of money kept many people from leaving. Each step narrowed their choices.

Accept other accurate connections between dated events and changes in Jewish life. For the museum label, look for two events from different years, a help-seeking strategy, and a specific obstacle.