Laws and Lives

Trace how legal restrictions changed daily life in Nazi Germany.

SS24.HOS.7b "Evaluate the effects of the Nuremberg Laws on Jewish life in Germany.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two direct legal restrictions, circle two effects on daily life, and draw an arrow from each restriction to an effect it helped cause.

When the Law Drew a Line

1 In September 1935, Nazi leaders announced two laws at a party rally in Nuremberg. The Reich Citizenship Law reserved full citizenship for people of "German or related blood" who met the state's conditions. Later rules classified people as Jewish largely by their grandparents' ancestry, regardless of their own beliefs. Jews were left without the political rights of citizens, including voting and holding public office. A Jewish resident might still live in Germany, yet the state now marked that person as outside its political community. The change made unequal treatment part of the legal system.

2 The second law, the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, banned marriage between Jews and people classified as having "German or related blood." It also banned sexual relations outside marriage between them and barred Jewish households from employing women of "German or related blood" under age 45 as domestic workers. Imagine a Jewish woman and her non-Jewish fiancé planning a wedding in 1935. The law could block their marriage, regardless of what either person wanted. Families also had to worry that a relationship or a household job could bring official punishment.

3 The laws did more than change documents or wedding plans. They gave officials legal categories for separating neighbors and encouraged others to treat Jews as outsiders. A Jewish teenager could see that even future choices about whom to marry were restricted, while classmates saw the state declare that teenager unequal. Yet the laws alone did not order every later attack or restriction. Other Nazi measures had already pushed Jews out of some jobs, and later policies brought further losses. To judge these laws' effects, distinguish what they directly prohibited from the fear and exclusion they helped create.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Reich Citizenship Law change a Jewish resident's place in Germany's political community? Name one practical effect.

2. How could the second law change the plans of the couple described in the passage, and why did their wishes not decide the outcome?

3. How did the rule about domestic workers reach into decisions made inside a Jewish household?

4. Why should a historian avoid blaming every job loss mentioned in the passage on the Nuremberg Laws, even though these laws deepened exclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph for a museum label titled “When Law Changed Daily Life.” Judge which effect of the Nuremberg Laws reached furthest into daily life and explain why, using two different details from the passage. Distinguish a direct legal restriction from a wider social effect.

Laws and Lives

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two direct legal restrictions, circle two effects on daily life, and draw an arrow from each restriction to an effect it helped cause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Reich Citizenship Law change a Jewish resident's place in Germany's political community? Name one practical effect.	**It excluded Jews from full citizenship. They lost political rights such as voting or holding public office.**
2	How could the second law change the plans of the couple described in the passage, and why did their wishes not decide the outcome?	**It could prevent their marriage because it banned marriage between Jews and people classified as having German or related blood, regardless of the couple's wishes.**
3	How did the rule about domestic workers reach into decisions made inside a Jewish household?	**It barred a Jewish household from employing a woman of German or related blood under age 45, limiting whom the household could hire.**
4	Why should a historian avoid blaming every job loss mentioned in the passage on the Nuremberg Laws, even though these laws deepened exclusion?	**Other Nazi measures had already pushed Jews out of some jobs. The Nuremberg Laws deepened exclusion by denying full citizenship and restricting relationships and household employment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When Law Changed Daily Life: The laws' effect on personal relationships may have reached furthest into daily life because it shaped both plans and trust between neighbors. The ban on marriage between Jews and people classified as having German or related blood was a direct legal restriction. It could stop a couple's wedding even if both people wanted to marry. The laws also encouraged others to treat Jews as outsiders. That wider social effect could make ordinary relationships feel uncertain, even when no one was planning a wedding.

Accept other supported judgments in Part 3 if students cite two distinct passage details and clearly separate a direct restriction from a wider effect. Do not credit claims that the Nuremberg Laws alone caused every later Nazi restriction.