

Europe in Crisis: Class 8 – The fall of the Thousand Year Reich
Concept Question Solutions

1. What was the result of the Battle of Britain?
 - The British and the Germans fought an air battle for the control of the English Channel. The Germans also bombed British civilians. The British won narrowly, and the Germans were never able to gain control and invade Britain.
2. True/False: The United States declared war on Germany after Germany's ally, Japan, attacked Pearl Harbor.
 - False: Germany declared war on the US after the US declared war on Japan. Hitler suspected that he would have to fight the Americans soon, and wanted to be the one to declare war. Actually, there's a good chance the US would never have gone to war with Germany if Hitler hadn't declared war.
3. True/ False: After suffering brutal losses at Stalingrad, Hitler place more power in the hands of his generals.
 - False: Hitler believed that his generals were cowards, and their weakness was the reason Germany was doing poorly. He began taking a more active role in strategy, and fired many top generals.
4. There were two major resistance groups in Poland during WWII. You don't need to know their names, but please give their political affiliations
 - One group was affiliated with the prewar Polish government, which was currently living in exile in London. The other group was a communist organization.
5. At the beginning of the war, the British and the Americans favored different strategies. What strategy did the Americans favor? Why didn't the British approve?
 - The Americans wanted to invade France. The British were afraid of being stuck in another bloody land war in Northern France. The American plan was eventually pursued, but not until 1944 – three years after American entry.
6. What were some advantages the German Army had over the Anglo-American Army?
 - The Germans had a reasonably good idea of where and when the Americans would attack.
 - The German Army was made up of battle-hardened veterans.
 - The Germans were fighting to protect their homeland
7. When Hitler felt threatened militarily, what was he most likely to do?
 - A. Retreat, and launch a guerilla campaign against the enemy.
 - B. Attack and attempt to encircle the enemy.
 - C. Attack the enemy's supply lines
 - D. Make peace, and then attack again shortly after.
 - The correct answer is B. Hitler wanted to end the war quickly, and fell back on the *blitzkrieg* techniques that had been successful in the past. He kept hoping that one really strong attack would finish of an advancing enemy. His generals could have told

him this technique wouldn't work, but by this point, Hitler wasn't really listening to his generals.

8. Which country's army did *not* enter Poland over the course of the war?
 - A. The Soviet Union
 - B. Britain
 - C. Germany
 - B, Britain: Britain never entered Poland. In fact, Britain is one of the few European countries that has *not* invaded Poland at some point in history.
9. What is the "iron curtain?"
 - An imaginary line between the USSR's sphere of influence in Eastern Europe and the USA's sphere of influence in Western Europe. The boarder region between these two spheres of influence was highly militarized.

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