



Schindler's List

Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 **a** Oskar Schindler was a German businessman who had a company in Krakow. His initial ambition was to make as much money as he could, but he later realized that saving Jewish lives was more important. The Krakow ghetto was where the Jews in Krakow were divided into 'able workers' and people who would be sent to gas chambers.
- b** Spielberg waited for ten years because he did not feel emotionally able to make a film on such a serious subject.
- 3 **a** colonel, commandant, rabbi
- b** barracks, (gas) chamber, concentration camp, crematorium, ghetto, synagogue
- 4 **a** 1 **b** 2 **c** 1 **d** 1 **e** 2 **f** 1 **g** 2 **h** 2
i 1 **j** 1
- 5 **a** Schindler's father. He disapproves of his son's marriage in 1928. Oskar hates him for abandoning his mother in 1935. They forget their differences when Schindler returns briefly to Zwittau in the spring of 1941.
- b** Schindler's wife. She loves Schindler and is enthusiastic about leaving her family home to live with him. However, dreams of a happy marriage do not last long. Schindler seems to be a selfish husband, treating Emilie thoughtlessly by leaving her alone in the evening and openly having lovers when he moves to Krakow. By 1941 they have a formal respect for each other, but there is no romance or passion.
- c** The manager of a Jewish tool factory and one of Schindler's girlfriends. They are 'clearly in love with one another.'
- d** The chief accountant at another company and an expert on Jewish law and religious texts. Stern does not trust Schindler's friendliness at first, but senses that a professional relationship with him might be important for his own safety. Schindler is impressed by Stern's knowledge of Krakow and how its economy works. In time, Stern realizes that Schindler is honest and sincere, and Schindler genuinely admires Stern's talents and abilities. The two men become friends.
- e** The son of Mina, the best interior decorator in Krakow, and a former officer in the Polish army who now survives by buying and selling on the black market. Leopold sees Schindler as profitable future client, and Schindler sees Leopold as a useful supplier of black market luxuries. In time, their business relationship proves important to them both.
- f** A former office manager at Rekord, who is introduced to Schindler by Itzhak Stern. Bankier arranges for rich Jewish businessmen to invest in Schindler's company. He also finds workers for Oskar's company. Bankier thinks that Schindler is a 'good man'. Schindler is grateful for Bankier's help and obviously trusts him.
- g** A Polish secretary in DEF's front office and Schindler's other lover. Schindler appreciates her for more than just her beauty; she helps Schindler develop his business.
- h** Gebauer persuades Schindler to work for German Intelligence. Toffel is a young policeman at SS headquarters. They seem to like and respect Schindler. Neither of them hates Jews, and Schindler feels a 'sense of relief' in their company. He thinks of them as friends who will help him in the future.
- i** A young Jewish widow. She and the other female night workers at DEF are impressed by Schindler's appearance ('a tall, handsome figure'). More importantly, they are grateful to him for allowing them to work outside the ghetto, and for offering hope of a better future. There is no evidence of Schindler's reaction to Edith.
- j** The SS boss responsible for the Jewish ghetto in Krakow. He is unpopular because life in the ghetto becomes harder under his administration. He obviously respects Schindler for his contribution to the German war effort (and expensive gifts?). Schindler develops a 'close' relationship with him, which proves useful when he is arrested by the SS.
- 6 Possible answers:
 - a** He is adventurous and not afraid of taking risks.
 - b** He is a practical man, not interested in politics. (He wears a swastika only for business purposes.) He is also moral. (He turns away from the party because he is shocked by the rough, unjust treatment of the Czech population.)



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- c He is not interested in military duty. (His work helps him to avoid serving in the army.) He is also too trusting of authority. (He approves of Hitler's plans to seize Poland, if it is done in a civilized way.)
- d He sees people as being basically equal. (He does not hate Jews.)
- e He is too proud of himself and only interested in money and material success (expensive cars and clothes, a big apartment, top designers, beautiful girlfriends). He is competitive. (He is proud of employing more people and making more money than his father ever did.) He is also unimaginative. (When he drives his luxury car to work, he sees Jewish families carrying their few possessions into the ghetto, and assumes that is how Jewish families traditionally live.)
- f He is fair and respects people as human beings.
- g He is a loyal friend. (He warns Itzhak Stern about the *Aktion* and the plans for a ghetto.)
- h He is a practical man. (Although he disapproves of Gestapo methods and German authority in general, he is unashamed of socializing with people to develop and protect his business interests.) He is brave. (He is not afraid to complain about German treatment of his workers.) He is also hard-working. (He works long hours and attends many social gatherings in the interests of his company.)
- i He is sensitive. (He is shocked by the dirt and the crowded conditions.) He wants to help. (He plans the development of land behind his factory so that his workers can live in better conditions.)
- j He is calm and unafraid. (He smiles and talks about friends in high places.)

7–8 Open answers

- 9 a Dresner / Genia
- b arrested / kissing
- c *Blauschein* / teacher
- d Bankier / DEF
- e Bachner / toilet
- f Budapest / Springmann
- g Goeth / shoot (or kill)
- h Goeth / factory
- i Pfefferberg / amusing (or funny)

- 10 a Schindler spends five days in Montelupich prison for kissing a Jewish girl.
- b Schindler rescues Mr Bankier and a dozen DEF workers from a train that is going to take them to a labour camp near Lublin.
- c From a hill, Schindler and Ingrid look down on Wegierska Street and witness SS men with dogs separating old, weak and young Jews from healthy-looking adults.
- d A young chemist called Bachner tells the people in the Krakow ghetto about his experiences at the Belzec death camp.
- e Dr Sedlacek is friendly with Major Franz von Korab because they were students together in Vienna.
- f The old Technical College in Krakow is now used for the SS Economic and Administration Office. In its basement, jewellery taken from the suitcases of Jews who have been sent away to labour camps is weighed and valued.
- g Dr Sedlacek invites Schindler to Budapest to give an eye-witness account of the suffering of Jews in Poland.
- h Plaszów is a new labour camp outside Krakow, where healthy-looking adults from the ghetto are sent to live and work. Amon Goeth is the Commandant of the camp.
- 11 a Genia is not told the truth about her real parents so that she has more chance of survival.
- b Schindler acts calmly but is secretly frightened in prison after he bribes a German guard.
- c Mr Bankier is almost sent to a labour camp because he has forgotten to get himself a blue stamp (*Blauschein*) for his identity card.
- d When he witnesses the *Aktion*, Schindler cannot understand why one SS guard is gentle with Little Redcap (Genia) while none of the other soldiers is showing mercy.
- e Bachner returns from the horrors of the Belzec death camp 'with white hair and madness in his eyes'.
- f Samu Springmann and his colleagues in Budapest are shocked by Schindler's report on the suffering of Polish Jews in Krakow.
- g Diana Reiter is shot in the head because she argues with a German officer.
- h Schindler takes Amon Goeth expensive gifts and pretends to agree with everything he says so that he can keep his factory outside Plaszów.



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12–14 Open answers

15 **a** 7 **b** 8 **c** 10 **d** 5 **e** 6 **f** 3 **g** 4 **h** 9
i 1 **j** 2

- 16 **a** They are frightened of him because he shoots people for no reason.
- b** He thinks that Schindler is a 'good fellow who was sick with a form of Jew-love'. He does not mind doing profitable business with him. When Schindler insists on giving water to Jewish prisoners on a train, Goeth is entertained, although he is worried about the new, passionate levels of Schindler's actions.
- c** Compared with Plaszów, it is 'a kind of heaven' for the workers because it is safer; there is more, better food, and there are no beatings. The guards enjoy working there because their job is easier (although boring) and Schindler is 'generous with his whisky'.
- d** Schindler has heard about Goeth's cruel treatment of the Jews, so finds his dinner parties increasingly disgusting.
- e** They are grateful to him because he saves them from hanging.
- f** He hides them and never looks at them because he is afraid of being called a 'Jew-lover' after the war. He is also afraid of being punished by a secret society of former SS men.
- g** He is satisfied because he has received some guarantee that his factory and workers are safe for the moment.
- h** He is angry when he sees the piles of dead bodies and is determined to get Itzhak Stern and his other workers out of there.
- i** He is depressed because Hitler is still alive. If Hitler had been killed in the attempt on his life, there would be no more death camps or SS.
- j** He is satisfied because Goeth is forced to allow Helen Hirsch to go to Schindler's new factory in Zwittau.
- 17 **a** Goeth finds a potato hidden in one of the barracks at the Madritsch Uniform Factory inside Plaszów and has all the men from the barracks publicly whipped.
- b** Amon Goeth tries to shoot Manasha Levartov for not making enough metal hinges. However, his gun does not work, Levartov survives and, on Itzhak Stern's recommendation, Schindler employs him at DEF as a hinge maker.

- c** When Schindler notices the bruises on Helen Hirsch's face, he promises to try and get her away from Amon Goeth.
- d** Schindler gives Amon Goeth expensive wine and Polish sausage in order to help save the Danziger brothers' lives.
- e** Emil Krautwirt cuts his wrists with a hidden razor blade before he is hanged.
- f** Raimund Tisch challenges Amon Goeth to long games of chess in order to take his mind off punishing Jews.
- g** Schindler uses a letter from Colonel Lange to influence a personnel officer in Berlin into not moving his workers after Plaszów and his sub-camp have become concentration camps.
- h** Goeth is asked to provide temporary accommodation at Plaszów for 7,000 Hungarian Jewish prisoners who will be working in a new weapons factory at Auschwitz. 1,402 adults and 68 children are transferred from Plaszów to the gas chambers of Auschwitz in order to make room for them.
- i** One thirteen-year-old boy tries to escape being transferred to Auschwitz by hiding in a toilet pit with ten other children.
- j** Schindler gives Amon Goeth some expensive leather riding equipment because regular gifts are needed to keep Goeth happy.

18–19 Open answers

20 **a** H **b** U **c** U **d** H **e** H **f** U **g** H **h** H
i U

- 21 **a** Lange guarantees DEF's military contracts and recommends to the Army High Command that Schindler be given permission to move his factories and work force to Zwittau. Later, he supports Schindler when he is arrested by the SS.
- b** The governor of Liberec refuses to allow any labour camps with Jewish prisoners in his district.
- c** After his arrest, Goeth tells the SS about Schindler's gifts and his attempts to help the Jews. Later, Schindler is arrested for making illegal payments to Goeth.
- d** Sussmuth helps Schindler by recommending a suitable location for his new factory in Zwittau. He writes to the authorities, recommending that Schindler be allowed to buy an old cloth factory in Brinnlitz.



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- e** Hassebroeck is excited about Schindler's plans to move his company to Brinnlitz.
- f** SS investigators keep Schindler in prison for seven days while they investigate his financial dealings with Amon Goeth.
- g** While Schindler is in prison, the Krakow police chief gives Schindler a few words of encouragement.
- h** One of Schindler's secretaries agrees to go to Auschwitz to try and help bring the female DEF workers away.
- i** An inspector from Gröss-Rosen brings orders that all children from the DEF sub-camp at Brinnlitz must be taken to Auschwitz to be used in medical experiments.
- 22 a** Amon Goeth is arrested for financial irregularities.
- b** Sussmuth refuses to accept gifts.
- c** Helen Hirsch and prisoners from Madritsch's factory are also on the list.
- d** Marcel Goldberg refuses to add Leopold Pfefferberg and his wife to the list because they have no diamonds. He is forced to add their names to the list by Hans Schreiber, an SS officer.
- e** They are made to get off the train at the Gröss-Rosen concentration camp, where they stay for three days.
- f** Schindler has no plans for production or sales at Brinnlitz. His only goal is to save Jewish lives.
- g** Prisoners feel safer with numbers tattooed on their arms because it means that the Nazis do not intend to send them to the gas chambers immediately.
- h** Oskar has not done any business deals with Goeth.
- i** True
- j** They are first reunited briefly at Auschwitz.
- 23 a** He is the personnel clerk at Plaszów and has total power over the names that go on the list.
- b** The new factory is too close to Zwittau for a good Catholic wife to live separately from her husband.
- c** He is helped by the support of Colonel Lange and Sussmuth, and by the fact that he has never done any business deals with Goeth.
- d** The women are sent directly to Auschwitz from Krakow. Their children and fathers are sent to Auschwitz from Brinnlitz because the children are to be used in medical experiments.
- 24** Open answers
- 25 a** 9 **b** 1 **c** 8 **d** 2 **e** 6 **f** 5 **g** 10 **h** 3
i 7 **j** 4
- 26 a** 4 **b** 7 **c** 9 **d** 3 **e** 8 **f** 2 **g** 10 **h** 6
i 1 **j** 5
- 27 a** After they are stopped by Czech soldiers, Schindler's group are told that the town jail is the safest place for them to spend the night. The next morning, they see that everything has been stolen from their cars.
- b** Schindler and his group are treated as special guests of the American rabbi and the military commander.
- c** Schindler and his group report to the American authorities.
- d** Schindler and his group are put in jail. Later, they are moved to a fine hotel, paid for by the French military government.
- e** Schindler and Emilie often stay with Schindler Jews in Munich between the end of the war and 1949.
- f** Schindler and Emilie go to Argentina with the help of an international Jewish organization. They settle on a farm for ten years, but go bankrupt. Schindler returns to Europe, leaving his wife in Argentina.
- g** On his fifty-third birthday, Schindler is honoured in Tel Aviv in the Park of Heroes.
- h** Schindler is declared an Honourable Person and invited to plant a tree. His body is later buried in Jerusalem.
- i** For the rest of his life, Schindler spends half of every year in a small apartment near the railway station, where he dies in 1974.
- 28–37** Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–29 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a** sociable **b** passion **c** sweetest, innocent
d thrilling **e** happy
- 2** Suggested answers:
Schindler is friendly and polite, he asks for advice on business, he says Christianity had its roots in Judaism, he says human life has little value and thinks this is wrong.
- 3 a** 4 December 1939
b He was shot.
c Aktion is a military operation to steal from and frighten Jews, the Einsatz soldiers murdered Jews.
d To spit on the holy Jewish texts.
e They could not kill a lot of Jews quickly.



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- 4** a True
b False, 150 out of 250 are Jewish.
c True
d False, he prefers the jazz club.
e True
f False, they want to go into a ghetto.
g False, he likes their noise and energy.
h True
- 5** Suggested answers:
Schindler is older; he sees his father is old and ill; he realizes he is unfaithful to his wife, too; they both believe the German government is evil.
- 6** a Genia, she is talking to strangers and has learned that she must not tell the truth about her Jewish background.
b Rolf Czurda, head of the Special Duty Group. Schindler has kissed a Jewish girl and been imprisoned. No one must treat Jews like friends and Czurda is warning Schindler to be careful.
c A policeman in the ghetto to Leopold Pfefferberg. Leopold has no labour card and the policeman is telling him to stand in line for deportation since he is of no use.
d A Jew at the railyard to Schindler. He is searching for Amraham Bankier and his friends who are about to be deported to a death camp, because they do not have blue stamps on their identity cards. Schindler bribes one of the guards to let the men off the train.
- 7** Open answers
- 8** a To write an accurate report after the war.
b Because they were so calm.
c Because he knows about other firms building camps and crematoria.
d So they will not be deported to camps in an Aktion.
e The Jews in Palestine know he is an honourable person.
f So he can report to Samu Springmann in Budapest with accurate information.
g Because there was so much property from thousands of dead Jews.
h So that he can speak to Samu Springmann and he can get information to Jews in Istanbul and Palestine.
- 9** a ... and taken directly to the ghetto.
b ... how much money he could make from the work that would go on in his camp.
c ... an insult to him.
d ... have already made very valuable contributions to the war effort.
e ... in the German Empire, the young would ask him about this day.
f ... find out if the pipes are still safe.
g ... near the Labour Office and watched the SS push people along.
h ... who could amuse him and threw back his head and laughed.
- 10** Suggested answers
a Goeth supplies Schindler with Jewish workers for his factory. The two men both make money from this. Goeth thinks Schindler is a useful friend and businessman, but Schindler hates Goeth.
b Julian Madritsch is another factory owner who gets workers from Goeth. He is annoyed that Goeth's cruelty interferes with his workforce, but Goeth does not care about this.
c Stern and Levartov are both educated Jews with a great knowledge of history and religion. Stern is worried that Levartov, a rabbi, will become a target for Goeth and wants to get him into Schindler's factory.
d Schindler is Levartov's boss. He makes jokes about religion and at first Levartov thinks he is cruel, but then understands that Schindler is in fact a kind man.
e Helen is Goeth's housekeeper. Goeth beats her and she is very frightened, but knows there is little she can do.
- 11** a 5 b 3 c 7 d 1 e 8 f 4 g 2 h 6
- 12** a Schindler – because the war news was not good.
b Mietek Pemper – because he saw letters from Goeth saying he could take more prisoners only if he killed some of the ones he already had.
c Goeth – to make room for more prisoners in the camp.
d The thirteen-year-old orphan – because he did not want to go to Auschwitz.
e Adam Garde and Schindler – because news that someone had tried to kill Hitler was on.
f The SS police chief in Krakow – because he did not like all the new orders coming from Berlin.
g The Chilowicz family – to give themselves a better life in the labour camp.
h Goeth and Schindler – Schindler wants to save Helen from Goeth who will probably kill her.



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13 Suggested answers

- a This is the area around Zwittau. The governor did not want Schindler to take Jews there.
- b The place where Goeth kept all his black market goods.
- c A small town near Schindler's home of Zwittau in Czechoslovakia where he can keep his Jews safe.
- d An empty factory in Brinnlitz that Schindler wants to buy.
- e The place where Schindler's male Jews are taken by mistake on their way to Brinnlitz.

14 Open answer

- 15 a The number of people on Schindler's list.
- b The number of women on Schindler's list.
- c The total number of prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- d The people who could be gassed in one day at Auschwitz.
- e The total number of prisoners on four trains one day at Auschwitz, and the number who went immediately to the gas chambers.

16–17 Open answers

18 Possible answers:

- a When did Schindler hear of the German surrender?
- b Where were Schindler's diamonds hidden?
- c What would the SS do if they accepted Schindler's praise in his speech?
- d Why did Schindler want to leave quickly?
- e Who came to the camp and asked for petrol?
- f What was it like for the prisoners when they first left the camp?
- g Why did the Americans want the Schindlers to go to Switzerland?
- h What was going to be the pattern for the rest of Schindler's life?

- 19 a Schindler had a farm with some of the Schindler Jews.

- b Schindler was honoured in the Park of Heroes.

- c Schindler lived there for half of the year in a small flat.

- d Schindler was declared an Honourable Person, and in 1974 he was buried there.

20 Open answers

Progress test key

1 a 3 b 1 c 5 d 2 e 4

2 a 2 b 2 c 1

3 a 4 b 6 c 2 d 1 e 3 f 5

4

	^a G	H	^b E	T	T	O		^c Z	
			N					W	
		^d C	A	T	H	O	L	I	C
			M					T	
			E					T	
	^e T	A	L	^f M	U	D		A	
				O				U	
				N					
^g B	R	I	B	E					
				^h Y	E	L	L	O	W

5 a F b T c F d T e F f F