

What is Antisemitism?

Episode 7 • Analytical Viewing & Discussion Guide | Grades 9–12

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

PART 1 — WARM-UP: Before You Watch

Write for 3 minutes without stopping. Do not worry about a 'right' answer.

Throughout history, certain minority groups have been blamed for the problems of entire societies. Why do you think this happens? What conditions — political, economic, cultural — make scapegoating effective? Use a specific historical or current example if you can.

PART 2 — ANALYTICAL VIEWING GUIDE: While You Watch

As you watch, track both CONTENT (what Noa says) and RHETORIC (how she says it). Annotate both columns.

Origin of the word 'antisemitism' (Wilhelm Marr): <hr/> <hr/>	Rhetorical strategy Marr used to disguise prejudice: <hr/> <hr/>
Ancient / Greco-Roman period — what accusation was made: <hr/> <hr/>	What made this accusation persuasive at the time: <hr/> <hr/>
The blood libel (1144, Norwich) — what was claimed: <hr/> <hr/>	Why is a false claim that old still dangerous today: <hr/> <hr/>
How the Enlightenment changed antisemitism: <hr/> <hr/>	What propaganda technique does 'scientific racism' use: <hr/> <hr/>
The Holocaust as Noa describes it: <hr/>	How does she connect the Holocaust to what came before: <hr/>

_____	_____
The 'canary in the coal mine' argument:	Is this argument persuasive? Evidence for or against:
_____	_____
_____	_____

PART 3 — CRITICAL VIEWING: After the Video

Noa Tishby says: 'Throughout history, Jews have been blamed for everything: being too rich and too poor, too religious and too secular, too progressive and too conservative, too capitalist and too communist.'

What does this logical impossibility (you can't be all of these things at once) reveal about the nature of antisemitism as an ideology?

Noa argues that today's antisemitism targets Israel and Zionism the same way earlier antisemitism targeted Jews for their religion or race. Do you find this argument logically valid? What questions would you need answered to evaluate it fully?

PART 4 — MAP ANALYSIS: Diaspora, Geography & Vulnerability

Use the map provided by your teacher. Complete all tasks:

- ① Mark: ancient Israel/Judea and the site of the Second Temple destruction (Jerusalem, 70 AD).
- ② Trace: Babylonian exile route (~586 BC) | Roman diaspora routes after 70 AD | Expulsion from Spain/Portugal (1492) | Major Eastern European Jewish communities (Poland, Russia, Ukraine) | 20th-century migrations (US, Israel, Latin America).
- ③ Label: 3 regions with the largest pre-WWII Jewish populations.
- ④ Mark: 3 sites of major historical Jewish persecution (your choice — pogrom, expulsion, or massacre).

Analysis: What is the relationship between minority status, geographic displacement, and vulnerability to persecution? Use the Jewish diaspora as your primary case study. Can you identify a parallel pattern in the history of any other group?

PART 5 — ERA ANALYSIS: Group Work

Your group is assigned one era. Complete the analytical framework below.

My Group's Era: ■ Ancient/Greco-Roman ■ Medieval Christian ■ Enlightenment/Racial Pseudo-science ■ Modern/Political

What ideological justification was used to target Jews in this era?

Identify ONE specific propaganda technique used (scapegoating, dehumanization, false attribution, pseudo-science, conspiracy thinking). Explain with an example.

Connect this era's strategy to a contemporary parallel — targeting ANY group, not just Jews. What is similar? What is different?

Our group's 3-sentence synthesis to share with the class:

PART 6 — SOCRATIC SEMINAR PREP

Choose ONE of the following questions and prepare a 2–3 sentence position statement with at least one piece of evidence from the video or your prior knowledge.

- Why is it significant to call antisemitism a 'conspiracy theory' rather than simply a 'prejudice'?
- Is the 'canary in the coal mine' argument persuasive? What evidence supports or challenges it?
- Noa argues that every era pins its worst accusation on Jews. Is this an observation, a theory, or an argument? What would it take to prove or disprove it?

My position statement:

Evidence I will use:

EXIT TICKET

In 3–4 sentences, argue why antisemitism should be understood as a systemic ideology, not just individual prejudice. Use at least TWO vocabulary terms.

Is the "canary in the coal mine" argument persuasive? Write ONE piece of evidence from the video or your own knowledge that supports OR challenges Noa's claim. Then state your conclusion.