

## Subject test

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You have found a theme that you'd like to research for the history competition. But how can you be sure this subject really is suited for an historical project?

The following questions can help you check your subject before you finally decide on it. If you can answer most of the questions with "yes," then nothing more stands in the way of your investigation.

### Interest

- Does the subject interest us?
- Is there something we want to find out?

### The subject's topicality

- What makes the subject relevant today?
- Is there a topical interest in the subject or the possibility of doing historical research on the basis of a topical event?

### The subject's range

- Is the subject limited to
  - a person/a clearly defined group of people/an association/a company, or
  - a concrete event, or
  - a concrete object/building/place?
- Does it take place within a reasonable amount of time?

### Source location

- Is the source material manageable and the source inventory organised?
- Are there different types of sources? (see Work Sheets on "Searching for material")
- Is personal or family access possible?
- Are contacts to archives guaranteed?

### Eyewitnesses

- Are (numbers of) eyewitnesses available?
- Are the witnesses willing to talk with us?

Checking  
the subject



## **Literature**

- Is background literature on our specific theme available?
- Where can I get background information?

## **Social milieu**

- Do we have a personal connection to the subject – for example, through our own family?
- Is it possible to find visible traces in our region (memorials, street names ...) that are connected to our theme?

## **Help**

- What expert could offer us assistance?

By the way: A theme can lend itself to an historical research project even if all questions were not answered positively. If, however, you think that you had to answer “no” too often and that your subject thus failed the test, don’t be disappointed! Maybe the theme only has to be changed a little in order for it to work. In such a case, it would be best to confer with your teacher.