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Activity: Media

The Stephen Lawrence case

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- analyse the evidence from interviews of the suspects in the Stephen Lawrence case.

Note: This activity uses three clips to highlight different aspects of the Stephen Lawrence case.

A. The first clip shows the police interview of Gary Dobson. Dobson is asked to account for the facts that had been determined by the re-examination of forensic evidence in the case. Using the link below, complete 1 and 2 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VriaUfJdv0M>

1. How does Dobson account for the presence of the following on his clothing?
 - a. Stephen Lawrence's blood
 - b. Fibres from Stephen Lawrence's top.
2. How does Dobson's response indicate his guilt?

B. The second clip is from a video of the gang filmed covertly by the police.

Note: the clip contains offensive language.

Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 3 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4yHm3AfziE>

1. What are Norris and Dobson recorded saying in the secret video?
2. What does the video indicate about their view of black people?
3. Does the video suggest the suspects are guilty?

C. The final clip shows interview with the suspects in the case.

Note: the clip contains offensive language.

Using the link below, complete 1 to 24 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvZuX9hq-ls>

1. Why does Trevor McDonald suggest the suspects have agreed to an interview?
2. What was the aim of the programme?
3. What were the conditions in which the suspects were interviewed?
4. What did Stephen Lawrence's murder lead to?

5. According to Neil Acourt, how are the group seen in the public eye?
 6. Describe the behaviour of the group as they left the public enquiry.
 7. How do the suspects justify their behaviour when leaving the enquiry?
 8. How is Eltham (the area where Stephen Lawrence was killed) described in the clip?
 9. What does Gary Dobson admit about himself and his friends?
 10. How does he describe the group?
 11. How does Luke Knight describe himself?
 12. What was known about David Norris' family?
 13. What happened to Norris at school? why was he expelled?
 14. Why were the Acourt brothers feared?
 15. What does Acourt say about his behaviour?
 16. What happened as they got older?
 17. Why was Jamie Acourt suspended from school?
 18. What did fellow pupils accuse Jamie Acourt of doing?
 19. What does Jamie Acourt claim about the police caution he received for threatening a woman with a piece of wood?
 20. Where did the suspects run after the attack?
 21. How do the interviews of the Acourt brothers differ in relation to the night of the attack?
 22. How does Dobson's version of events differ from that of the Acourt brothers?
 23. Why does Dobson claim the stories are different?
 24. Why does Acourt say the stories are different?
- D. Does the evidence from the clips and the accounts of the night by the suspects suggest the gang would commit a racist killing? Justify your answer with examples.