**Primary Sources: Race Hygiene & the Nazi ‘Euthanasia’ program: Read each excerpt carefully. Match it with the correct author, date, & description. Write on a separate sheet of paper [10 points].**

1. It concerned a father of a deformed child who wrote to the Fuhrer and asked for this child, or this creature, to be put down. Hitler assigned this case to me… The child had been born blind, appeared to be an idiot and was also lacking a leg and part of an arm. He ordered me to speak with the doctors who were dealing with this child in order to find out whether the father’s statements were correct. In the event of their being correct, I was to inform the doctors in his name that they could carry out euthanasia…
2. I went to the asylum in the first half of January 1940. Additional building work had been carried out especially for the purpose. There was a room similar to a shower room… there were benches round the room and a water pipe about 1” in diameter ran along the wall… there were small holes in this pipe from which the carbon monoxide gas poured out…. For this first gassing about 18-20 people were led into this ‘shower room’ by the nursing staff. These men had to undress in an anteroom until they were completely naked. The doors were shut behind them.
3. [If] one thinks of a battlefield covered with thousands of young corpses, or of a mine in which hundreds of hard-working miners have been buried, and if one compares them with our institutions for idiots, with the care which is devoted to their inmates—one is deeply shocked by the discrepancy between, on the one hand, the sacrifice of man’s most precious resource and, on the other, the tremendous care devoted to creatures which are not only completely worthless but are of negative value.
4. Buses arrive in Hadamar several times a week with a large number of these victims. School children in the neighborhood know these vehicles and say: ‘Here comes the murder wagon’. After the arrival of such vehicles the citizens of Hadamar then see the smoke coming from the chimney and are upset by constant thoughts about the poor victims especially when, depending on the direction of the wind, they have to put up with the revolting smell.
5. To keep a mentally ill person costs approx. 4 RM per day, a cripple 5.50 RM, a criminal 3.50 RM. Many civil servants receive only 4 RM per day, white collar employees barely 3.50 RM, unskilled workers not even 2 RM per head for their families. (a) Illustrate these figures with a diagram. According to conservative estimates there are 300,000 mentally ill, epileptics, etc. in care. (b) How much do these people cost to keep in total, at a cost of 4 RM per head? (c) How many marriage loans at 1000 RM each … could be granted from this money?
6. If Germany was to get a million children a year and was to remove 700-800,000 of the weakest people then the final result might even be an increase in strength. The most dangerous thing is for us to cut off the natural process of selection and thereby gradually rob ourselves of the possibility of acquiring able people…. As a result of our modern sentimental humanitarianism we are trying to maintain the weak at the expense of the healthy… And in this way we are gradually breeding the weak and killing off the strong.
7. After some brief introductory remarks Dr. Pfannmüller approached one of the fifteen cots which flanked the central passage to right and left: ‘We have here children aged from one to five’, he pontificated. ‘All these creatures represent for me as a National Socialist “living burdens”… a burden for our nation… In this sense, the Fuhrer’s action to free the national community from this overburdening is quite simply a national deed…
8. I have a relative, the mother of five children. Four of them are completely healthy as are the parents… The fifth child, now two years old, is an idiot… The parents pay 100 RM per month. The child has cost thousands already. This money is not only lost to the four healthy children, the heavy burden must also prevent the parents from having any more children. The family and the national community not only have to bring up an idiot, they must also lose further births because it is allegedly a humane duty to keep the idiot alive artificially…
9. The transfer of patients from the asylums…to other areas could not be concealed from the public. It appears the commission involved have worked too fast, have not always been skillful and that some mistakes have been made. It cannot be avoided that individual instances become known and talked about: 1. A family received two urns by mistake. 2. A death notice gave the cause of death as appendicitis. But the appendix had been removed ten years before… 4. A family received a death notice when the woman is still living in the asylum and is in the best of health.
10. The commission did not examine a single one of the 1,800 patients. The majority of patients are not in Neuendettelsau but in branch asylums distributed all over northern Bavaria. Thus, the commission was incapable of forming its own judgment of the situation…. As the doctor responsible for the asylums I protest against this unprofessional method of working by the commission which goes against all the traditions of the medical profession…

**Match the correct primary source quotations above with the descriptions and writers below.**

1. Long before the Nazis rise to power, these authors argue that those housed in mental institutions are not only useless, but actually cost society. [Professors **Karl Binding** & **Alfred Hoche**, *Permission for the Destruction of Worthless Life* (1920)]
2. Describes a visit to a “child clinic” in an asylum; the author recalls a Nazi doctor’s speech about the costs these young ‘living burdens’ posed to the national community. [**post-war description of visit to the asylum of Egelfing-Haar**, Munich (February 16, 1940)]
3. This report from Ansbach/Bavaria describes the embarrassing errors that occurred in administering the T-4 program too fast. [**Nazi Party district leader**, report sent to Gau headquarters in Nuremberg (June 12, 1940)]
4. Appearing in an SS journal, this letter illustrates how a family was drained economically by one mentally-defective child. The larger German community loses as well because the family cannot afford any more children. [***Das Schwarze Korps*** (March 18, 1937)
5. A doctor protests against the way in which mental patients are being evaluated without ever being physically examined for the T-4 program. [**Dr. Rudolf Boeckh**, letter to the Reich Interior Ministry (November 7, 1940)]
6. The speaker argued that natural selection is being bypassed and that the weakest people in German society are prospering at the expense of the superior, healthy, & strong people. [**Adolf Hitler**, speech at the Nuremberg Party Rally, August 5, 1929]
7. This mathematics problem is from a textbook for use in German schools, it clearly illustrates the use of Nazi eugenic propaganda. [**German mathematics textbook**, ca. 1935]
8. A doctor explains in post-war testimony how the T-4 program ‘euthanized’ asylum inmates after unsuccessful tests with injections proved to be too slow. [**Dr. August Becker**, chemist in the Criminal Technical Institute [KTI], report after the war]
9. A Catholic bishop complains to Nazi officials about the murdering of asylum patients; illustrates that efforts to keep the T-4 program secret were a failure [**Roman Catholic Bishop of Limburg**, letter to Reich Minister of Justice (August 13, 1941)]
10. Hitler’s personal physician recalls a case of a severely deformed baby; the child’s father, Knauer, wrote directly to Hitler asking for permission to kill it which was eventually granted. [**Dr. Karl Brandt**, recalling events of the winter of 1938-39 at the Nuremberg war crimes trials after the war, 1946]