

Racism: The Stephen Lawrence Case

Read the information sheet and answer the questions.

1) Give a brief overview of what happened to Stephen Lawrence.

2) Why do you think the police investigation was described as 'institutionally racist'?

3) What were the effects of this attack?

4) What happened to the men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence?

5) Why do you think this case was so controversial?



Suggested Answers

1. Expect students to outline the story found in the information sheet covering the main events of the stabbing.
2. Students will likely focus on the poor investigation and some officers' failure to see it as a racist attack. The implication is that Stephen's killing was not investigated the way it should have been.
3. Students could talk about the effects of the stabbing on Stephen and his family. They could also talk about the way this changed the police.
4. As detailed in the information sheet, two were later jailed for his murder but some suspects have never been brought the trial.
5. Students will likely focus on the inequality Stephen's case suggested existed in British society.