

STANDARD QUESTIONS:

1. When did you join the party? Why?
2. What about your family?
3. What was your role in the party in 1956?
4. Describe your daily life like 1956.
5. What newspaper/s did you read?
6. Party life: did you engage fully in Party activities i.e. militate? / belong to any affiliated bodies? did all Party members?
7. Can you remember how regular the cell / section / (and / or federation if mid-level or senior cadre) meetings were? Where did these take place? Can you tell me something about the Secretary of the Party Section at the time?
8. Can you tell me something about Trade Union presence in the shipyard / port / other workplace, and its membership? Did you have much contact with the socialists?
9. Was there local industrial unrest around this time? What type of things did you strike about?
10. What are your strongest memories of 1956?
11. Your recollections of that year on national / international levels?
12. Can you remember your thoughts on XX Congress? 'Cult of Personality'? / de-Stalinisation?
13. Poznan? Did you make links between events that year?
14. What did you make of the Soviet intervention in the Hungarian Revolution in October and November?
15. Did everyone in the Party at the local / regional level react the same way?
16. What is your view of things now?
17. Looking back, how do you think it was handled by the party back then, at local and national level, and what effect did this have on ordinary party members?
18. Do you remember what happened next? – into the spring of 1957?