

IB HISTORY

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GROUP 3: HISTORY

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

For both Standard and Higher Level normally a grade B at GCSE, although candidates with no previous examination experience in History will be considered.

COURSE AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

The focus of both the Higher and Standard Level courses is 20th century world history. The purpose is to develop a love of historical study for its own sake and also to provide a context for the development of transferable skills; more specifically, the courses aim to develop a rigorous, analytical and critical mode of thinking through the detailed study of historical material. The courses also aim to promote greater cultural awareness and empathetic understanding through studying a variety of perspectives in time and place in order to nurture and inform an international-minded perspective.

Both the Standard and Higher Level courses will focus on conflict and conflict resolution and the rise and rule of single-party states. The scope of both studies will incorporate material from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East.

COURSE CONTENT

The main themes at Standard & Higher Level are:

Peacemaking, peacekeeping – international relations 1918-36. This study will focus on the Paris Peace Settlement at the end of the First World War. It will also investigate the experiment in collective security and international cooperation represented by the League of Nations and other attempts to achieve the same goals outside the mechanism of the League.

Causes, practices & effects of war. This study will investigate the nature of wars in the twentieth century, focusing in particular on the First and Second World Wars, the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, the Chinese Civil War 1927-37 and 1946-49, the Falklands/Malvinas war of 1982 and the Gulf War of 1991.



Origins & development of authoritarian and single-party states. This study will analyse the rise, consolidation and development of authoritarian states as well as opposition to them. It will concentrate on the governments of Stalin in Russia, Hitler in Germany and Mao in China.

All students will also undertake an independent historical investigation. As long as this is a legitimate and viable historical investigation it can be chosen from any time period and on any topic that interests the student.

Higher Level students (only) will additionally study Europe from 1870-2000. They will look in more detail than the Standard Level course at the following aspects:

European diplomacy and the First World War 1870-1923. This will involve a more thorough analysis of the long-term causes of the breakdown of pre-1914 diplomacy and the wider consequences of that breakdown after the First World War.

Interwar years: conflict and cooperation 1919-39. This study enriches themes explored in the core content through the inclusion of Mussolini's Italy alongside Spain and Germany.

The Second World War and post-war Western Europe 1939-2000. This will complete the analysis of Europe's twentieth century development by investigating the rebuilding of the continent after the devastation of the Second World War and the process of European integration. It will also give the students a firm grounding in the United Kingdom's recent history by looking at political developments from Atlee's government of 1945 to Blair's government of 1997.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT:

Assessment will concentrate on the following objectives: historical research skills, the interpretation of historical sources, the construction of cogent explanations of the past, the systematic analysis of human experience and the critical evaluation of historical evidence and theories about the past.