



“History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

David McCullough

“History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future.”

Robert Penn Warren

What do we offer?

The IB History course is an intrinsically fascinating course as it not only exposes students to key world events and powerful historical personalities, but also challenges students to look into the past to help them understand the world today. The study of History develops skills like source analysis, critical thinking, empathy and the formulation of persuasive arguments.

What historical topics do we teach?

Authoritarian states (20th century) – HL/SL

This topic focuses on exploring the conditions that facilitated the rise of authoritarian states in the 20th century, as well as the methods used by parties and leaders to take and maintain power. The topic explores the emergence, consolidation and maintenance of power, including the impact of the leaders' policies, both domestic and foreign, upon the maintenance of power. Case-studies include Adolf Hitler's Germany and Mao Zedong's China.

Richard Overy describes individuals like Hitler and Mao as 'constructing utopia'. Yet why did millions have to suffer for this idealistic vision?

The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century) – HL/SL

The Cold War dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. This topic focuses on how superpower rivalries did not remain static but changed according to styles of leadership, strength of ideological beliefs, economic factors and crises involving client states. The topic aims to promote an international perspective on the Cold War by requiring the study of Cold War leaders, countries and crises from more than one region of the world.

Francis Fukuyama claimed that the end of the Cold War marked the end of history. Can History actually end?

The move to global war – HL/SL

This topic focuses on military expansion from 1931 to 1941. Two case studies are prescribed, from different regions of the world. The first case study explores Japanese expansionism from 1931 to 1941, and the second case study explores German and Italian expansionism from 1933 to 1940. The focus is on the causes of expansion, key events, and international responses to that expansion.

History of Asia and Oceania – HL only

Early modernisation and imperial decline in East Asia (1860-1912)

- This section focuses on developments in China and Japan between the mid-19th century and early 20th century. It examines the largely unsuccessful attempts at modernisation and reform in China. The conservative and popular opposition to change was demonstrated by the failures of the Self-Strengthening Movement and the Hundred Day's Reform, and by the violence of the Boxer Rebellion. In contrast, Japan modernised rapidly and successfully during this period to emerge as a country that challenged the power of the western nations in Asia.

China and Korea (1910-1950)

- This section focuses on China and Korea between 1910 and 1950. It examines the rise of nationalism and communism in China after the establishment of the Chinese Republic, the struggle to unite China, as well as the nature of Japanese rule of Korea, formalized with annexation in 1910. The section concludes by examining the reasons for the victory of the communists in the Chinese Civil War and the consequences of this defeat for the nationalists.

The People's Republic of China (1949-2005)

- This section focuses on China under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party, and the great changes as the Communist Party under Chairman Mao Zedong extended its rule and Mao's vision of a socialist state. The focus of this section is on the impact of domestic political, social and economic policies. It also examines modernisation of China's economy since Mao's death.

One century ago, China was the 'sick man of Asia' but it has since become the world's largest economy and a regional power. How did it happen and what will the impact be for the region and the world?

History of Asia and Oceania – HSP only

HSP students will study this topic instead of Early modernisation and imperial decline in East Asia (1860-1912)

Japan (1912–1990)

- This section begins with post-Meiji Japan and the reasons for Japan's failure to successfully establish a lasting democratic system of parliamentary government. It explores the rise of militarism and extreme nationalism that led to expansion in Manchuria and China. It also examines the desire to establish a Japanese empire in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific, known as the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere.

This complicated and diverse society is not a fictional 'Eastern' society struggling with features of 'Westernization', but rather a modern society that is continuously negotiating its identity and role in a world of global capitalism.

Assessment

External Assessment

Paper 1

A source-based paper set on the prescribed subject of 'The move to global war'.

Weighting: 30% SL, 20% HL

Paper 2

An essay paper based on the world history topics of Authoritarian states and the Cold War.

Weighting: 45% SL, 25% HL

Paper 3 (HL only)

An essay paper on the regional option of History of Asia and Oceania.

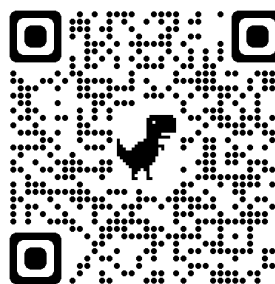
Weighting: HL: 35%

Internal Assessment

A historical investigation requiring students to devise a research question of their choice and take on the role of a historian to conduct research and present an argument.

Weighting: 25% SL, 20% HL

Hear what taking IB History is like



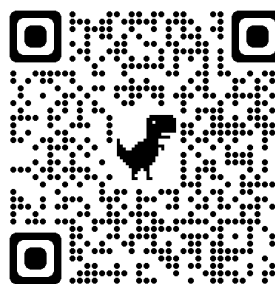
<https://tinyurl.com/takingIBhistory>

viewers will need a Microsoft Teams account to access the video

University Courses and Careers

IB History is a suitable and at times even a necessary preparatory course for a wide range of university courses and careers including: Law, Diplomatic Service, Foreign Service, Politics, International Relations, Administrative Service, Journalism, Business, Teaching, Human Resource.

Hear what our alumni have to say about how taking IB History has helped them



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