

IB HISTORY

Entry Requirement

A grade 6 in IGCSE/GCSE History or English is required.

Introduction

The IB History course is structured to give pupils an overview of the major European events of the late 19th and 20th Centuries and is unique in the way that papers interact with each other and require pupils to cross-refer and compare themes and countries. Pupils will emerge after two years with an understanding of the key historical events that have shaped the world in which they live. They will be able to compare and contrast the rise and rule of key historical figures of the 20th Century; they will have had the opportunity to study a topic of their choice in the Internal Assessment; and they will have an understanding of the ways in which world wars and civil and guerrilla wars start and are fought.

History is much respected by employers and in higher education and through IB pupils will develop not only subject-specific skills, but also be required to manage their time in such a way as to ideally prepare them for university life. The Department hopes that pupils will take IB History because they have a genuine interest in the subject and because they value the skills it develops. These skills are much in demand in today's changing world and the choice of History is a gateway to a wide range of careers. In recent years, many pupils have decided to study the subject at university, or have used their IB to enter a law course, where the skills are interchangeable.

There is an emphasis on participation in debate, discussion and argument; pupils should be willing to accept differences of opinion, think for themselves and be able to defend their views. The Department also encourages individual research and excellent written and verbal skills. Pupils will be

expected to read widely, research material independently and write with increasing accuracy and fluency. The ability to argue and critically evaluate written source material is also very important. The Department will, of course, aim to foster all these skills and has over recent years produced some extremely gifted historians and prize-winning essay writers. Pupils will acquire both breadth and depth of historical knowledge and develop their skills of communicating this knowledge in a clear and effective manner. They will further their understanding of historical explanations and develop the ability to reach substantiated judgements. In particular, they will continue to advance their skills of handling source material.

Internal Assessment

The independent study enables students to demonstrate the application of their skills and knowledge to a historical topic that interests them and need not be related to the syllabus. They identify and evaluate sources relating to their topic, investigate the issues related to that topic and reflect on what the process has taught them about the methods used by, and the challenges facing historians. In the past pupils have opted to study the Franco-Prussian War, Stalingrad, the French Revolution and we have even been able to facilitate the use of family archives to produce a study of Bismarck and the unification of Germany.

It is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by IBO.

Syllabus Content

Pupils can opt to take Higher or Standard Level. Higher Level consists of three papers, plus an internal assessment; Standard Level consists of two papers and an internal assessment (i.e., omitting Paper Three).

Paper 1 - Prescribed Subject Exam: 1 hour			
Content	Skill Tested	% HL	% SL
The move to global war. Pupils will examine two case studies from the 20 th century, Japanese expansion in East Asia from 1931-1941, and German and Italian expansion, 1933-1940. These options dovetail neatly with the Paper Two topics on single-party states.	This is a skills-based paper testing pupils' ability to analyse and manipulate a variety of primary and secondary source material.	20%	30%

Paper 2 - Century world history topics Exam: 1 hour 30 mins			
Content	Skill Tested	% HL	% SL
<p>Topic one: Causes and effects of 20th Century Wars. This will include a study of the First World War, Second World War and two key civil wars (China and Russia). Pupils will be encouraged to compare and contrast causes, effects, technological developments and the home fronts.</p> <p>Topic two: Origin and development of authoritarian and single party states. Pupils will study left and right-wing states such as Mussolini's Italy and Castro's Cuba. Pupils will be encouraged to compare and contrast the rise to power, social and economic policies, extent and success of opposition and totalitarian nature of these regimes.</p>	<p>Essay. Two extended response questions to be answered, each chosen from a different topic.</p> <p>Each essay is marked out of 20. Total mark for the exam is out of 40.</p>	25%	45%

Internal Assessment			
Content	Skill Tested	HL%	SL%
Pupils are given a choice of topic areas which they study independently with teacher guidance. They will produce a study of approximately 2,200 words.	This is a coursework topic. The final piece of work is marked out of 25.	20%	20%

Syllabus Content Higher

Paper 3 – Regional Option Exam: 2 hours 30 mins			
Students should study three sections of the HL European option			
Content	Skill Tested	HL%	
Topic: Russia 1855-C1990. Pupils study the last tsars of Russia, the Revolutions of 1905 and 1917, the civil war and rise of Stalin. They also look at the USSR after Stalin and the eventual collapse of communism. There is a great deal of overlap with the Paper Two topics in the final paper and they are encouraged to revise Paper Two topics to give them the widest possible choice of questions.	<p>The examination will consist of 24 questions. Two questions will be set on each syllabus section. Students must choose three questions to answer.</p> <p>Each essay is marked out of 20, total marks for the paper 60.</p>	35%	