



**IB HL History Course
Description**

+ General



- International Baccalaureate Contemporary World History is the second part of a **two year course** of study and will culminate in the IB Examination in History in November 2011.



History Aims



- The aims of the **HISTORY** course are to:
 - **Promote** an understanding of history as a discipline, including the nature and diversity of its sources, methods and interpretations
 - **Encourage** an understanding of the present through critical reflection upon the past
 - **Encourage** an understanding of the impact of historical developments at national, regional and international levels
 - **Develop** an awareness of one's own historical identity through the study of the historical experiences of different cultures.

+ General



- Students receive scores from the International Baccalaureate on a **scale of 1-7** for all examinations.

A score of **"4"** for IB should be considered as a **passing grade**.



Components of the Final Mark



Paper 1	Document Based Question	20%
Paper 2	World History Topics	25%
Paper 3	Regional History	35%
Internal Assessment		20%

+ Paper 01 (One Hour)



■ A Document Based Question (DBQ):

Students must answer four questions for one prescribed subject.



Prescribed Subjects



- **1: Peacemaking, peacekeeping – international relations 1918-36**

- 2: The Arab-Israeli conflict 1945-79

- 3: Communism in crisis 1976-89

You have to answer questions for **topic #1**

+ Paper 02 (One Hour Thirty Minutes)

■ World History Questions:

- Written immediately after **Paper 1**.
- The paper consists of 5 sections (topics).
 - There are **six questions** on each topic.
You will see the questions separated by the topics.
- Students must write **TWO** essays, each from a different topic.

20th Century World History Topics



are:

- **Topic 1.** Causes, Practices, and Effects of War.
- Topic 2. Democratic states- challenges and responses.
- Topic 3. Origins and Development of authoritarian and single party states.
- Topic 4. Nationalist and independence movements in Africa and Asia.
- **Topic 5.** The Cold War

NOTE: YOU should **only** choose **topics 1 & 5**, **ONE** essay question from each topic.

+ Example

■ **Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of war**

- Select two causes of the Second World War and show (a) how, and (b) why, they led to the outbreak of war in 1939.
- What do you understand by the term “limited war”? Explain in what ways one twentieth century war could be called a limited war.
- Assess the importance of air power in two wars, each chosen from a different region.
- “Those who can win a war well can rarely make a good peace.” Select one peace treaty and by examining its clauses, explain how the winners treated the losers and if you agree with the quote.
- What were the main results of two of the following: Iran-Iraq war, Falklands/Malvinas war, Nigerian Civil War, Spanish Civil war?
- In what ways, and with what results, did the status of women change during, and in the decade [ten years] following, one twentieth century war?

+ Example

■ Topic 5: The Cold War

- “It is evident that the conflict after 1947 between the United States and the Soviet Union was not simply a clash of ideologies but a struggle of competing interests... the forces bringing the two countries into collision as world powers would have operated in much the same way if the Bolshevik revolution had never occurred.”

How far do you agree with this claim? (1985)

- Analyze the successes and failures in the attempts to control the arms race since the end of the Second World War.
- How true is to claim that the emergence of communist China has strengthened rather than weakened the position of the West in its confrontation with the Soviet bloc?
- Show in what ways, and for what reasons, the Cuban crisis of 1962 may be regarded as a turning point in relations between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union.
- How was East/West rivalry illustrated and affected by:
 - (A) the division of Germany (B) the founding of NATO (C) the Korean War?

+ Paper 03 (Two Hours Thirty Minutes)

■ History of the Americas:

This is the Regional History examination.

- It is taken **the day after** Papers 1 & 2.
- Students must write **THREE** essays.
The Questions are not separated by topics.

You will only see 24 questions.

+ Paper 03 (Two Hours Thirty Minutes)

- **Nuevo Mundo** chose the following **three** syllabus sections:
- **9. Political Developments in the Americas after the Second World War 1945-79**
- **10. The Cold War and the Americas 1945-1981**
- **11. Civil Rights and social movements in the America**

Each topic has two questions.

You have to pick **THREE questions** from questions **17 to 22.**

If you are not able to pick three out of these, then you could read the rest of the questions, remember there will be 24 questions in the exam.



The Internal Assessment



- **20%** of the final mark given by IB in History is based on the **Internal Assessment**.

This is a research paper. The Internal Assessment is, therefore, **an integral part of the IB program**.

+ Example

■ Internal Assessment:

The Topics listed here have been used by IB students from various schools or presented by the International Baccalaureate Organization as examples.

- To what extent did the successes of the Berlin Blockade and Airlift overshadow the negative outcomes for the Western Powers?
- An oral history study on the role of women living in post-World War II Britain.
- The German Occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II.
- Was Hitler's "euthanasia" policy distinctively Nazi?
- How far were Republican divisions responsible for their loss in the Spanish Civil War?
- What were the reasons for the Allies bombing of Dresden in the Second World War and were they justified in destroying this city?

+ Example



■ Internal Assessment:

The Topics listed here have been used by IB students from various schools or presented by the International Baccalaureate Organization as examples.

- How and why did the reports of the American newspaper *The New York Times* and the British newspaper *The Times* differ in their reports of the Soviet and American administrations during the Cuban Missile Crisis?
- How useful is the art of George Grosz to the historian of Weimar Germany?
- Does oral testimony substantiate the view that life in East Germany got worse following the fall of Nazism?
- How significant was Fidel Castro's role in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962?
- What were the real motives for the different views held by Churchill and Chamberlain during the years previous to World War II?

+ Example

■ **Internal Assessment: Requirements**

- **You** will be required to:
 - Undertake a **historical investigation**
 - Provide a **title for the historical investigation** which, in order to give focus and direction, may be framed as a question
 - Produce a **written account**, of between 1500-200 words, which must consist of:
 - **An outline plan of the historical investigation**
 - **A summary of evidence**
 - **An evaluation of sources**
 - **An analysis**
 - **A conclusion**

The historical investigation will be **internally assessed by the teacher** and **externally moderated by the IBO**

+ Example

■ **Internal Assessment: Choice of Topic**

- Candidates should **choose their own topic**, with the *teacher's guidance*. The topic should be one that seems **interesting and worthwhile to the candidate**.
- The teacher must approve the investigating before work is started, and must ensure that it **complies with the regulations** and is able to be assessed by the criteria for internal assessment.
- Candidates must be aware of **ethical considerations** when undertaking any investigation. They must show tact and sensibility, respect confidentiality and acknowledge all sources used.

+ Example

■ Internal Assessment Criteria:

The historical investigation is assessed against six criteria which are related to the objectives for the history course.

Examiner Comments

CRITERION		TOTAL MARKS	MARKS ACHIEVED	EXAMINER COMMENTS
Criterion A	Plan of investigation	2 marks	2 marks	A clearly focused question plus aims and methods to be used in the investigation.
Criterion B	Summary of Evidence	5 marks	5 marks	All the material/findings refer directly to the question posed and have been considered in order to answer it; referencing is good.
Criterion C	Evaluation of Sources	4 marks	4 marks	The two sources evaluated are stated fully and correctly and their value and limitations are assessed.
Criterion D	Analysis	5 marks	5 marks	The analysis is exactly focused on the question posed in the investigation.
Criterion E	Conclusion	2 marks	2 marks	The conclusion is clearly stated and is consistent with the evidence.
Criterion F	Sources word limit	2 marks	2 marks	The bibliography is correctly listed and the investigation was within the word limit.
		20 marks	20 marks	