

History: sources and the prescribed subject

IB DP History HL Paper 1 and the prescribed subjects full package

1. Paper 1 at a glance

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IB History HL Paper 1: four sources, four questions, one hour, 24 marks - Q1 comprehension [3 + 2], Q2 value and limitations [4], Q3 compare and contrast [6], Q4 sources plus own knowledge [9] - on one prescribed subject chosen from five.

Must-know: OPVL with value and limitation relative to the enquiry; bias is evidence; give Q4 the most time; the five prescribed subjects - military leaders, conquest, the move to global war (Japanese 1931-41, German and Italian 1933-40), rights and protest, conflict and intervention.

2. The Paper 1 craft

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Q1: what the source says, quoting its wording - no outside knowledge. Q2: value and limitations with reference to origin, purpose and content, for the stated enquiry - a memo written at the time records real intentions; one court painter records one flattering view. Q3: compare and contrast two sources, linked point by point.

Q4 [9]: a thesis, the sources, outside knowledge, a counter-case and a judgement. OPVL is the toolkit for all of it: origin and purpose are handles, and value and limitation are relative to the question - a propaganda poster is worthless on living standards and excellent on what a regime wanted believed.

3. The five prescribed subjects

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Military leaders: Genghis Khan (c1200-1227) and Richard I (1173-1199). Conquest and its impact: the final stages of Muslim rule in Spain (1482-1492) and the conquest of Mexico and Peru (1519-1551). Rights and protest: the US civil rights movement (1954-1965) and apartheid South Africa (1948-1964).

The move to global war (the worked subject): Japanese expansion in East Asia (1931-1941) and German and Italian expansion (1933-1940) - Manchuria 1931, Abyssinia 1935, Rhineland 1936, Munich 1938. Conflict and intervention: Rwanda (1990-1998) and Kosovo (1989-2002).

Check yourself

Check yourself

Q1 quoting; Q2 value and limitations from origin, purpose and content; Q3 compare and contrast; Q4 the mini-essay.

OPVL relative to the enquiry; the bias-is-evidence rule.

The five prescribed subjects with their two case studies each.

The move-to-global-war timeline: Manchuria 1931, Abyssinia 1935, Rhineland 1936, Munich 1938.