

## History: sources and the prescribed subject

IB DP History SL Paper 1 and the prescribed subjects full package (shared with HL)

# 1. Paper 1 at a glance

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IB History SL Paper 1 (shared with HL): five sources, four questions, 60 minutes - Q1 comprehension, Q2 value and limitation, Q3 purpose, Q4 the mini-essay - on ONE prescribed subject chosen from five.

Must-know: OPVL with value and limitation relative to the enquiry; bias is evidence; timing a mark a minute; the five prescribed subjects - military leaders, conquest, the move to global war (German 1933-38, Japanese 1931-41), 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, no evaluation.

Q2: value and limitation of the CONTENT for the stated enquiry - a memo written at the time records real intentions; one court painter records one flattering view. Q3: purpose as intended effect on an audience (persuade, warn, legitimise), inferred from form and moment - never confused with content.

Q4 [16]: a thesis, three 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: rise, campaigns and impact through two cases (a modern commander beside an early-modern conqueror). Conquest and its impact: the Spanish Americas 1492-1600 beside the Mongol expansion 1200-1300 - administration, culture, resistance, demography. Rights and protest: the US civil-rights movement beside apartheid South Africa - law, strategy, turning points.

The move to global war (the worked subject): German expansion 1933-38 (rearmament, Rhineland 1936, Anschluss and Munich 1938) and Japanese expansion 1931-41 (Manchuria 1931, China 1937, Pearl Harbor). Conflict and intervention: Rwanda 1994 beside Kosovo 1999 - the humanitarian-intervention versus sovereignty debate.

## Check yourself

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Q1 quoting; Q2 content-based value and limitation; Q3 purpose as effect; Q4 the five-part mini-essay.

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

The five prescribed subjects with one classic pairing each.

The move-to-global-war timeline: Manchuria 1931, Rhineland 1936, Munich 1938, Pearl Harbor 1941.