IB History Exams Study Guide
P1, P2 & P3

Paper One
Overview: P1 is a documents-based exam. You will have one hour to answer four questions. SEE THE TEMPLATE, know it inside-out, and memorize it for this exam.

Structure:
Question 1a: 3-4 short responses to recognize basic facts of a document. Some analysis will be needed.
Question 1b: analysis of the cartoon or visual document. 2-3 short responses on the “message conveyed”.
Spend 10 minutes here.

Question 2: Compare/Contrast or Support/Contradiction. What are the similarities and differences in the documents? Use 3 paragraphs:
1st Paragraph = one comparison and one contrast. Summarize briefly
2nd Paragraph = one comparison and one contrast. Summarize briefly
3rd Paragraph = one comparison and one contrast. Summarize briefly
Be sure to use quotes from the documents and reference them. Spend 15 minutes here.

Question 3: Values and Limitations for Historians. It will most likely be worded “With reference to their origin and purpose, assess the value and limitations for historians . . . This should sound similar to what you did with your internal assessment.
However, question “value for what or whom?” Is a bias necessarily negative or can it be viewed as a positive assessment of the historical period? How might the document limit the historian? For the origin and purpose, look at the source given. Question the source based on the origin, writer and date of publication. Always, Always, Always write: “The origin is . . .”; “The purpose is . . .”; “The value is . . .”; “The limitation might be . . .”.
Spend 15 minutes here.

Question 4: Personal analysis question. Usually begins with “Using these sources and your own knowledge, explain to what extent you agree with . . .”
You must synthesize all of the documents to your argument and include your own knowledge. This is the question you will use the historiography, historical evidence and interpretations studied in class.
USE your own knowledge right after each use of the document.
Use the Template; the eight short paragraphs tend to work the best.
Spend 20 minutes here.

Strategies for Paper One:
• Start with question 1 and stay in sequence to question 4. The exam is structured in this manner.
• Use quotations from the documents!!! This demonstrates your ability to use the documents. You then must put in quotations the document it came from. (i.e. source B or “According to source B, . . .”).
• For question 4: even though it might ask for a specific document(s), be sure to use all of the other documents and cite them.
• Look at the marks. If it has 3 marks, you best have 3 main points. Sometimes the extra mark is going beyond what is there and giving analysis in some depth.
• If you notice something that could have a different approach, go ahead and give it. Being inquisitive and creative will work to your advantage.
• For visuals, what isn’t there? If it is a picture, was it staged? What is the date of the picture and why was it taken at this time and place? If you have a table or statistics question the facts given.
• Always notice the source. Who wrote it? What date was it written? What kind of source is it?

Prescribed subject 1: Peacemaking, peacekeeping—international relations 1918-36
This prescribed subject addresses international relations from 1918 to 1936 with emphasis on the Paris Peace Settlement—its making, impact and problems of enforcement—and attempts during the period to promote collective security and international cooperation through the League of Nations and multilateral agreements (outside the League mechanism), arms reduction and the pursuit of foreign policy goals without resort to violence. The prescribed subject also requires consideration of the extent to which the aims of peacemakers and peacekeepers were realized and the obstacles to success.
Areas on which the source-based questions will focus are:
• aims of the participants and peacemakers: Wilson and the Fourteen Points
• terms of the Paris Peace Treaties 1919-20: Versailles, St Germain, Trianon, Neuilly, Sèvres/Lausanne 1923
• the geopolitical and economic impact of the treaties on Europe; the establishment and impact of the mandate system
• enforcement of the provisions of the treaties: US isolationism—the retreat from the Anglo–American Guarantee; disarmament—Washington, London, Geneva conferences
• the League of Nations: effects of the absence of major powers; the principle of collective security and early attempts at peacekeeping (1920–5)
• the Ruhr Crisis (1923); Locarno and the “Locarno Spring” (1925)
• Depression and threats to international peace and collective security: Manchuria (1931–3) and Abyssinia (1935–6).

How to Prepare for this Exam
• Website: documents for Paper One
• Study Guides 1-5 and the chapter readings (skim these chapters again)
• Paper One Practice (final exam for December)
• Classroom Notes
• PowerPoint Slides on the website.
• Know the chronology of events = cause & effect
• Know the history before and after the event. Question Four will want you to give your own knowledge. The final culmination of this exam’s topics is World War II. Know the history from 1936-50 as well.
• Versailles Simulation. Think about the issues concerning peace & collective security.
Paper Two
Overview: this exam is on 20th Century Topics and is 1.5 hours long. You will need to answer two questions each from a different topic area. There will be 30 questions on this exam. SEE THE TEMPLATE; use the five paragraph essay structure.

Topics for the Exam
Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of wars
• First World War (1914-18)
• Second World War (1939-45): European and Pacific Theatres
• Asia: Chinese Civil War (1914-25, 1927-37 and 1946-9)

StudyHints:
• Focus on the causes and effects more so than the practices.
• Use the intellectual reactions to the wars for your analysis in paragraph 4.
• Use the historiography

Topic 2: Democratic states—challenges and responses
• Europe: Weimar Germany 1919-33
• Asia: Japan 1945-52, SCAP’s occupation & reconstruction

Topic 3: Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states
• Asia: China—Mao
• Europe: Germany—Hitler; USSR—Lenin and Stalin

Topics 4 & 5: we did not prepare for these topics.

How to Prepare for this Exam
• Charts
• Classroom Notes
• PowerPoint Slides on each topic
• Know the chronology of events = cause & effect
• Know the history before and after the event.
• Historiography “cheat sheet”
• Sample Exams on website. Note that these exams are from the previous year’s topics and may be different from the new topics.
• Template: make sure you utilize this essay structure. Spend most of your time on paragraphs three and four.
• Watch the clock: only spend 45 minutes on each essay.
• Prepare an outline for your essay. Be sure to write it on your exam.
Paper Two and Three Essay Structure

**Paragraph 1** = thesis statement, challenge the question (if appropriate), state the dominant evidence you will use.

**Paragraph 2** = set the historical context: use evidence with people, places, event, etc. With reference to the question: focus mainly on the causes **before** the actual event and leading up to the event (historical process, cause & effect). Begin to apply critical commentary. **Synthesis of the paragraph as the final sentence.**

**Paragraph 3** = provide the historical evidence for the question: focus on the time period of the question by using people, places, & events. Use compare/contrast. Place emphasis on any of the following concepts that may apply: political, economic, social, religious, military, and diplomacy. **Synthesis of the paragraph as the final sentence.**

**Paragraph 4** = effects/significance of the event, analysis of the question in the historical context, challenge the question, historiography, compare/contrast, conflicting views, conceptual interpretations, critical commentary. Be sure to state WHY historians have differing or conflicting interpretations with your topic. **Synthesis of the paragraph as the final sentence.**

**Paragraph 5** = Synthesis of the essay: restate your thesis, the evidence, critical commentary, concepts applied and the analysis.

**Leave 2 lines between each paragraph**
**Paper Three**

Higher Level Exam for Regional Topics: Asia

This exam is 2.5 hours long. You will have to answer 3 essays and spend 45 minutes on each one. See the TEMPLATE; use the five paragraph essay structure.

Note: there will be 24 questions on this exam. Not all the questions will relate to the material you studied. On the East Asian exam there will be questions on SE & S Asia as well as Oceania. Expect two possible questions from each of the topic areas below.

**East Asia Topics**

**Traditional East Asian societies—late 18th to the mid 19th century**

This section focuses on imperial China and Japan as they responded to the challenges posed by the arrival of the Western powers and their demands for trade, diplomatic representation and the rights of their citizens. Western intrusion coincided with domestic social and economic changes that were challenging the status quo and placing the existing regimes under strain.

- Imperial rule; Confucianism and challenges to traditional society under the Qing (Ch’ing) Dynasty
- The Chinese tribute system and Western trade missions
- Gunboat diplomacy: the First and Second Opium Wars; the unequal treaties
- Tokugawa Shogunate’s rule in Japan and challenges to it
- Tokugawa economic and social structure; social changes and discontent
- Commodore Perry’s expedition and the crisis of the Bakumatsu period, 1853-1868
- Satsuma-Choshu Rebellions; the decline of the samurai as a class

**Early modernization and imperial decline in East Asia—mid 19th to the early 20th century**

This section focuses on developments in China and Japan up to the early 20th century. It examines the largely unsuccessful attempts at modernization and reform in China. The conservative and popular opposition to change was demonstrated by the failures of the Self-Strengthening Movement and the Hundred Days Reform and by the violence of the Boxer Rebellion. In contrast, Japan modernized rapidly and successfully during this period to emerge as country that challenged the power of the Western nations in Asia.

- Taiping (Taip’ing) Rebellion: causes and consequences
- Tongzhi (T’ung-chih) Restoration and Self-Strengthening Movement (1861-94)
- Impact of defeat in the Sino–Japanese War (1894-5); Guangxu (Kuang-hsu) and the Hundred Days Reform (1898)
- Boxer Rebellion (1900-01); the late Qing (Ch’ing) reforms
- Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen) and the 1911 “Double Ten” Nationalist Revolution
- Meiji Restoration (1868) in Japan; the 1889 Constitution
- Social, cultural and economic developments in Meiji Japan
- Commitment to military power; victory in the Sino–Japanese War (1894-5) and in the Russo–Japanese War (1904-5)
- Korean isolation: opening (1876); rebellions; annexation (1910)

**Imperial Japan: empire and aftermath 1912–1952**

This section deals with post-Meiji Japan; the failure to establish a democratic system of parliamentary government, the rise of militarism and extreme nationalism leading to aggression in Manchuria and China; and the attempt to establish a Japanese Empire in East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific under the guise of a Japanese dominated Co-Prosperity Sphere. The focus should be on the failure of democracy and the rise of militarism, placed in the context of Japanese cultural traditions, its perception of its economic requirements and the effects of the Great Depression of the 1930s, and the international situation.

- Taisho Democracy: the growth of liberal values and the two-party system
- Rise of militarism and the influence of the army in politics
- Invasions of Manchuria (1931) and China (1937) and impact on relations with the West
- Pearl Harbor and the Pacific war (1941-5)
- Defeat and the US Occupation: political and military changes
- Social, economic and cultural reforms under the Occupation 1945-52
The Republic of China 1912-49 and the rise of Communism

This section deals with the tribulations of the early years of the Chinese Republic from 1912 until the establishment by Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) of his government at Nanjing (Nanking) in 1928; the conflict between the Chinese Communist Party and the Guomindang (Kuomintang) until the Second United Front of 1936; the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, beginning what has become known as the Fifteen-Year War with Japan (1931-45); the Sino-Japanese War of 1937-45; and the civil war between the Guomindang (Kuomintang) and the Communists culminating in the victory of the Communists under Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) in October 1949. Emphasis should be placed on understanding the complexities of governing China, the opposing ideologies of the Nationalists and the Communists and the impact of Japanese aggression upon the domestic struggle for power.

- The 21 Demands (1915); New Culture Movement; the Treaty of Versailles (1919); the May Fourth Movement (1919)
- Yuan Shikai (Yuan Shih-k’ai); warlordism; the Northern Expedition; the Jiangsi (Kiangsi) Soviet; the Long March (1934-5)
- Guomindang, GMD (Kuomintang, KMT): leadership, ideology and policies
- Chinese Communist Party (CCP): leadership, ideology and policies
- The First United Front (1924-7); Second United Front (1936-45)
- The Fifteen-Year War (1931-45) between China and Japan
- Chinese Civil War and the Communist victory (1946-9)

China: the regional superpower from mid 20th century to 2000

This section deals with the emergence of China as a world power under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party. The process involved great upheavals in China itself as the Communist Party under Chairman Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) imposed its rule and Mao’s vision of a socialist state. A more pragmatic regime since Mao’s death has overseen the modernization of China’s economy and its emergence as a growing economic power within the global economy. Given its size, population and military strength, it had become the regional superpower by 2000.

- Establishment of the Communist state 1949-1961; the role of Mao
- Transition to socialism; successes and failures in social and economic developments 1949-61
- Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution: causes and effects, political, social and cultural impact
- Foreign affairs 1949-76: Sino-American relations; establishment and breakdown of Sino-Soviet relations/conflicts; China as a global power
- China after Mao: the struggle for power, “Gang of Four” and leadership of Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-p'ing) 1976-97.

How to Prepare for this Exam

- Always use the concepts, the rise of Nationalism and the conflict between Modernization and Tradition, for nearly all of the questions.
- Charts
- Classroom Notes
- PowerPoint Slides on each topic
- Know the chronology of events = cause & effect
- Know the history before and after the event.
- Historiography “cheat sheet”
- Sample Exams on website. Find “China Past Qs” and “Japan Past Qs” under IB History Exams.
- Template: make sure you utilize this essay structure. Spend most of your time on paragraphs three and four.
- Watch the clock: only spend 45 minutes on each essay.
- Prepare an outline for your essay. Be sure to write it on your exam.
- Practice Essays
- Projects, posters, trading cards from Junior Year
- Study Guides 1-4 from Junior Year
**Paper Three**

Higher Level Exam for Regional Topics: Europe

This exam is 2.5 hours long. You will have to answer 3 essays and spend 45 minutes on each one. There will be 24 questions on this exam. SEE THE TEMPLATE; use the five paragraph essay structure.

Note: there will be 24 questions on this exam. Not all the questions will relate to the material you studied. On the Europe exam there will be questions on the Middle East. Expect two possible questions from each of the topic areas below.

**European Topics**

The French Revolution and Napoleon—mid 18th century to 1815

This section deals with the origins, outbreak, course and results of the French Revolution. It focuses on the social, economic, political and intellectual challenges confronting the ancien régime and the stages of the revolutionary process during this period, culminating in the rise and rule of Napoleon Bonaparte. The unit requires investigation of the impact of the French Revolution, as well as Napoleon’s domestic and foreign policies, upon France and its European neighbours.

- Crisis of the ancien régime: role of the monarchy especially Louis XVI; intellectual, political, social, financial and economic challenges
- Stages in, and radicalization of, the revolution: urban and rural revolt; Constitution of 1791; the fate of the monarchy; the Terror; Robespierre; Thermidorean Reaction; Directory
- Revolutionary wars to promote and defend revolutionary ideals 1792–96
- Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte
- Napoleon’s domestic and foreign policies pre- and post-1804; Napoleonic wars
- Collapse of the Napoleonic Empire and Bourbon restoration; Congress of Vienna

Unification and consolidation of Germany and Italy 1815-90

This section deals with the emergence and growth of nationalism in the German states and the Italian peninsula, and the foundation and consolidation of power in these newly established nation states. It requires consideration of the social, economic and political factors involved in the unification process, the role of individuals as well as the significance of foreign involvement in that process. The changing balance of power after 1870-71 and relations with existing European Powers should be considered along with the main domestic policies and problems of the new states.

- Revolutions in Italy and the significance of Rome; Austrian Empire and the German states between 1815 and 1848
- Unification of Italy: growth of power of Piedmont-Sardinia; Mazzini, Cavour and Garibaldi; foreign involvement and its effects
- The rise of Prussia 1815–62: political and economic factors including the German Confederation, the Zollverein; Prussian–Austrian relations to 1866
- Decline of Austrian influence: Crimean War; Italy; Austro–Prussian War 1866; Dual Monarchy of Austria Hungary; challenge of nationalism
- Bismarck, Prussia and unification: diplomatic, economic, military reorganization; wars of unification; 1871 Constitution
- Comparison of Italian and German unification
- Bismarck’s Germany: domestic and foreign policy

Western Europe 1848–1914 This section covers France during the Second Empire and Third French Republic. This was a period of change and modernization, as well as war, political turmoil and social upheavals.

- France: 1848 Revolution, Empire and Republic
- Napoleon III: domestic and foreign policies
- Collapse of Empire; Paris Commune
- Third French Republic 1875-1914: crises and policies; Boulanger; financial problems; Dreyfus; left-wing movements; establishment of a secular state

Imperial Russia, revolutions, emergence of Soviet State 1853–1924

This section deals with the decline of imperial power in Tsarist Russia and the emergence of the Soviet State. It requires examination and consideration of the social, economic and political factors that inaugurated and accelerated the process of decline. Attempts at domestic reform and the extent to which these hastened or hindered decline should be studied, together with the impact of war and foreign entanglements.
• Alexander II (1855–81): emancipation of the serfs; military, legal, educational, local government reforms; later reaction
• Policies of Alexander III (1881–94) and Nicholas II (1895–1917): backwardness and attempts at modernization; nature of tsardom; growth of opposition movements
• Significance of the Russo-Japanese War; 1905 Revolution; Stolypin and the Duma; the impact of the First World War (1914–18) on Russia
• 1917 Revolutions: February/March Revolution; Provisional Government and Dual Power (Soviets); October/November Bolshevik Revolution; Lenin and Trotsky
• Lenin’s Russia (1917–24): consolidation of new Soviet state; Civil War; War Communism; NEP; terror and coercion; foreign relations

**European diplomacy and the First World War 1870–1923**
This section deals with the longer- and shorter-term origins of the First World War, its course and consequences. The breakdown of European diplomacy pre-1914 and the crises produced in international relations should be examined. It covers how the practice of war affected the military and home fronts. The section also investigates reasons for the Allied victory/Central Powers’ defeat plus a study of the economic, political and territorial effects of the post-war Paris Peace Settlement.
• European diplomacy and the changing balance of power after 1870
• Aims, methods, continuity and change in German foreign policy to 1914; global colonial rivalry
• Relative importance of: the Alliance System; decline of the Ottoman Empire; Austria Hungary and Balkan nationalism; arms race; international and diplomatic crises
• Effects on civilian population; impact of war on women socially and politically
• Factors leading to the defeat of Germany and the other Central Powers (Austria Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria); strategic errors; economic factors; the entry and role of the United States
• Post-war peace treaties and their territorial, political and economic effects on Europe: Versailles (St Germain, Trianon, Neuilly, Sèvres/Lausanne)

**Interwar years: conflict and cooperation 1919–39**
This section deals with the period between the two World Wars and the attempts to promote international cooperation and collective security. Obstacles to cooperation, such as post-war revisionism, economic crises and challenges to democracy and political legitimacy in Italy, Germany and Spain respectively, all require examination and consideration. The policies of the right-wing regimes and the responses of democratic states are also the focus of this section.
• Germany 1919–33: political, constitutional, economic, financial and social problems
• Hitler’s domestic and foreign policy (1933–39)
• Search for collective security; appeasement in the interwar years; the failure of international diplomacy; the outbreak of war in 1939

**The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe 1924–1953**
This section deals with the consolidation of the Soviet state from 1924 and the methods applied to ensure its survival, growth and expansion inside and outside the borders of the Soviet Union. Bolshevik rule under Lenin, the rise and nature of the rule of Stalin
• Stalin (1924–53): power struggle; collectivization and industrialization; Five Year Plans; constitution; cult of personality; purges; impact on society; foreign relations to 1941
• The Great Patriotic War: breakdown of wartime alliance; Cold War; policies towards Germany: Berlin; Eastern European satellite states; Warsaw Pact

**The Second World War and post-war Western Europe 1939–1950s**
This section deals with the Second World War, post-war recovery and the effects of the Cold War in the second half of the 20th century and, in some cases the transition from authoritarian to democratic government. It requires examination of the social, political and economic issues facing states and the methods used to cope with the challenges, either within individual states or in the move towards a system of European integration, in pursuit of mutually acceptable political, economic and foreign policy goals.
• Second World War in Europe; Cold War: impact on Germany, NATO and military cooperation
• Post-war problems and political and economic recovery in Western Europe: devastation; debt 1945–9
**How to Prepare for this Exam**

- Charts
- Classroom Notes
- PowerPoint Slides on each topic
- Know the chronology of events = cause & effect
- Know the history before and after the event.
- Historiography “cheat sheet”
- Sample Exams on website. Note that these exams are from the previous year’s topics and may be different from the new topics.
- Template: make sure you utilize this essay structure. Spend most of your time on paragraphs **three and four**.
- Watch the clock: only spend 45 minutes on each essay.
- Prepare an outline for your essay. Be sure to write it on your exam.
- Practice Essays
- Guiding Questions & Terms Cards for topic units from last year.