

IB Diploma Programme course outlines: History SL/HL

Course description

	Standard and Higher		Higher Only
20 th Century world History chosen topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cold War Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states - <i>Germany (Adolf Hitler), USSR (Joseph Stalin), China (Mao), Cuba (Castro), Argentina (Peron)</i> <p>90 hours between both</p>	History of the Americas Chosen topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mexican Revolution - 1910-40 The Cold War and the Americas Civil Rights and social movements in the Americas <p>90 hours</p>
Prescribed Subject: Choice 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communism in Crisis <p>40 hours</p>		
Historical Investigation	20 hours		

Assessment:

Paper 1 SL/HL: a document-based paper set on the prescribed subjects,

Paper 2 SL/HL: an essay paper based on topics, chosen

Historical investigation: SL/HL

Paper 3 HL: an essay paper based on topics chosen

Standard and Higher Level Topics

1. Prescribed Topic for paper 1

Communism in Crisis

This prescribed subject addresses the major challenges—social, political and economic—facing the regimes in the leading socialist (Communist) states from 1976 to 1989 and the nature of the response of these regimes. In some cases challenges, whether internal or external in origin, produced responses that inaugurated a reform process contributing significantly to the end of the USSR and the satellite states in Central and Eastern Europe. In other cases repressive measures managed to contain the challenge and the regime maintained power in the period.

Areas on which the source-based questions will focus are:

- the struggle for power following the death of Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung), Hua Guofeng (Hua Kuo-feng), the re-emergence of Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-p'ing) and the defeat of the Gang of Four
- China under Deng Xiaoping: economic policies and the Four Modernizations
- China under Deng Xiaoping: political changes, and their limits, culminating in Tiananmen Square (1989)
- domestic and foreign problems of the Brezhnev era: economic and political stagnation; Afghanistan
- Gorbachev and his aims/policies (glasnost and perestroika) and consequences for the Soviet state
- consequences of Gorbachev's policies for Eastern European; reform movements: Poland—the role of Solidarity; Czechoslovakia—the Velvet Revolution; fall of the Berlin Wall.

Standard and Higher Level chosen topics for Paper 2

Topic 3: Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states

The 20th century produced many authoritarian and single-party states. The origins, ideology, form of government, organization, nature and impact of these regimes should be studied.

Major themes

Origins and nature of authoritarian and single-party states	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conditions that produced authoritarian and single party states• Emergence of leaders: aims, ideology, support• Totalitarianism: the aim and the extent to which it was achieved
Establishment of authoritarian and single party states	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methods: force, legal• Form of government, (left- and right-wing) ideology• Nature, extent and treatment of opposition
Domestic policies and impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure and organization of government and administration• Political, economic, social and religious policies• Role of education, the arts, the media, propaganda• Status of women, treatment of religious groups and minorities

Material for detailed study

- Africa: Kenya—Kenyatta; Tanzania—Nyerere
- Americas: Argentina—Perón; Cuba—Castro
- Asia and Oceania: China—Mao; Indonesia—Sukarno
- Europe and the Middle East: Germany—Hitler; USSR—Stalin; Egypt—Nasser

Topic 5: The Cold War

This topic addresses East–West relations from 1945. It aims to promote an international perspective and understanding of the origins, course and effects of the Cold War—a conflict that dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. It includes superpower rivalry and events in all areas affected by Cold War politics such as spheres of interest, wars (proxy), alliances and interference in developing countries.

Major themes

Origins of the Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideological differences• Mutual suspicion and fear• From wartime allies to post-war enemies
Nature of the Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideological opposition• Superpowers and spheres of influence• Alliances and diplomacy in the Cold War
Development and impact of the Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global spread of the Cold War from its European origins• Cold War policies of containment, brinkmanship, peaceful coexistence, détente• Role of the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement• Role and significance of leaders• Arms race, proliferation and limitation• Social, cultural and economic impact
End of the Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break-up of Soviet Union: internal problems and external pressures• Breakdown of Soviet control over Central and Eastern Europe

Material for detailed study

- Wartime conferences: Yalta and Potsdam
- US policies and developments in Europe: Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO

- Soviet policies, Sovietization of Eastern and Central Europe, COMECON, Warsaw Pact
- Sino–Soviet relations
- US–Chinese relations
- Germany (especially Berlin (1945-61)), Congo (1960-64), Afghanistan (1979-88), Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Middle East
- Castro, Gorbachev, Kennedy, Mao, Reagan, Stalin, Truman

Higher Level History of the Americas – 3 topics chosen

6 The Mexican Revolution 1910-40

This section focuses on the causes, course and impact of the Mexican Revolution that occurred in a country that had experienced a lengthy period of political stability and economic growth. The socioeconomic composition of revolutionary leadership was varied, as were the aims. The revolution was prolonged and costly. The Constitution of 1917 has been described as the most progressive constitution created at this time in the region. It had significant influence on the political developments of the country and the area. The revolution impacted greatly on the arts, arguably representing the earliest and most enduring attempt to overcome racial divisions and incorporate the Indian heritage into the national identity.

- Causes of the Mexican Revolution: social, economic and political; the role of the Porfiriato regime
- The revolution and its leaders (1910-17): ideologies, aims and methods of Madero, Villa, Zapata, Carranza; achievements and failures; Constitution of 1917: nature and application
- Construction of the post-revolutionary state (1920-38): Obregón, Calles and the Maximato; challenges; assessment of their impact in the post-revolutionary state
- Lázaro Cárdenas and the renewal of the revolution (1939-40): aims, methods and achievements
- The role of foreign powers (especially the United States) in the outbreak and development of the Mexican Revolution; motivations, methods of intervention and contributions
- Impact of the revolution on the arts, education and music (suitable examples could be Siqueiros, Rivera, Orozco); the impact of Vasconcelos' educational reforms; the development of popular music; literary works on the revolution

The Cold War and the Americas

- The Cold War and the Americas 1945-1981 (HL) [16 periods over 8 weeks; about 2 periods each for the topics below; will be pragmatic about the time allocated to each area]
- Truman: containment and its implications for the Americas; the rise of McCarthyism and its effects on domestic and foreign policies of the United States; the Cold War and its impact on society and culture
- Korean War and the United States and the Americas: reasons for participation; military developments; diplomatic and political outcomes
- Eisenhower and Dulles: New Look and its application; characteristics and reasons for the policy; repercussions for the region
- United States' involvement in Vietnam: the reasons for, and nature of, the involvement at different stages; domestic effects and the end of the war
- United States' foreign policies from Kennedy to Carter: the characteristics of, and reasons for, policies; implications for the region: Kennedy's Alliance for Progress; Nixon's covert operations and Chile; Carter's quest for human rights and the Panama Canal Treaty
- Cold War in either Canada or one Latin American country: reasons for foreign and domestic policies and their implementation

11 Civil rights and social movements in the Americas

This section focuses on the origins, nature, challenges and achievements of civil rights movements after 1945. Movements represented the attempts to achieve equality for groups that were not recognized or accepted as full members of society. The groups challenged established authority and entrenched attitudes.

- Native Americans and civil rights: Latin America, the United States and Canada

- African Americans and the Civil Rights Movement: origins, tactics and organizations; the US Supreme court and legal challenges to segregation in education; ending of the segregation in the South (1955-65)
- Role of Dr Martin Luther King in the Civil Rights Movement; the rise of radical African American activism (1965-8): Black Panthers; Black Muslims; Black Power and Malcolm X
- Role of governments in civil rights movements in the Americas
- Youth culture and protests of the 1960s and 1970s: characteristics and manifestation of a counterculture
- Feminist movements in the Americas