Old IB History Exam Test Questions

1999 Paper II

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

1. To what extent can it be said that the First World War was caused by the alliance system?
2. Evaluate the role of ideological differences in two civil wars each chosen from a different region.
3. In what ways and for what reasons have tactics changed in twentieth century warfare?
4. How valid is the claim that treaties are not necessary to end wars? Support your answer with evidence from at least two regions.
5. Explain with specific examples from their work, how artists have reacted to two of the following: Mexican Revolution, Spanish Civil War, Vietnam War.

**Topic 3: The Rise and the rule of single party states**

1. “Single party states use education as propaganda to obtain support rather than to instill (increase) knowledge.” How far do you agree with this judgment?
2. In what ways and for what reasons did China develop its own brand of Marxism/Communism under Mao Zedong?
3. To what extent was Spain under Franco (1939 to 1975) a Fascist state?
4. How far is it true to say that a successful foreign policy is the most important factor for a single party ruler to remain in power? Examples should be given from two countries each chosen from a different region.
5. “In the twentieth century right-wing single party states have often been the result of a conservative reaction to change whilst the left-wing single party states have achieved power as the outcome of a revolutionary process against tradition.” Using examples from at least two regions explain how far you agree with this quotation.

**Topic 5: The Cold War**

1. “Ideological differences played only a minor role in the origin and development of the Cold War.” How far do you agree with this statement?
2. In what ways and for what reasons did the Cold War affect the Middle East?
3. Analyze the importance of spheres of interest for one of the superpowers in the Cold War.
4. Assess the importance in the development of the Cold War of two of the following: the Yalta Conference; Berlin; the arms race; non-alignment; South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).
5. Examine the impact of the Cold War on the social life and culture of two countries each chosen from a different region.
1998 Test—Paper II

Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of war

1. To what extent should Germany be held responsible for causing both the First and Second World Wars?
2. Why was there so much civil strife and civil war in China during the first half of the twentieth century?
3. Compare and contrast the outcome and effects of two revolutionary wars, each chosen from a different region.
4. How and why has guerilla warfare been used in the twentieth century? Examples should be given from at least two different regions.
5. Explain the impact of war on two of the following: women, the arts, the media.

Topic 3: The Rise and rule of single party states

1. Account for the rise to power of either Juan Peron or Francisco Franco, and assess the impact upon either Argentina or Spain of your chosen ruler.
2. To what extent is it true to say that a successful economic policy is the most important factor for a single party ruler to remain in power? Examples should be given from two countries each chosen from a different region.
3. Compare and contrast the foreign policies of two rulers of single party states, each chosen from a different region.
4. To what extent was Hitler a) responsible for, and b) driven by ideological beliefs of Nazism?
5. How far would you agree that single party states have been more interested in controlling the minds of young people than in providing genuine education?

Topic 5: The Cold War

1. Examine the conflicting aims and policies of rival powers which caused the Cold War.
2. Assess the importance of two of the following in influencing the development of the Cold War: Marshall Aid, Warsaw Pact, arms control, détente.
3. Examine the impact of the Cold War on two countries (excluding the superpowers), each chosen from a different region.
4. “The build up of missiles in Cuba in 1962 was a deliberate, provocative and unjustified action.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
5. What were the main social and cultural consequences of the Cold War?
2000 Test: Paper II

Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of war

1. Assess the importance of nationalism and selfish ambition as causes of twentieth century wars. Reference must be made to at least two wars.
2. Examine critically two treaties and evaluate their success in resolving the armed conflicts which necessitated the treaties.
3. Compare and contrast the effects for the country concerned of two of the following: the Chinese Civil War, the Nigerian Civil War, the Spanish Civil War.
4. Assess the significance of either the Mexican Revolution (1910-1940) or the Vietnam War (1964-1975).
5. In what ways have wars a) causes suffering and hardship to women and b) helped promote women’s equality? Specific evidence must be given from at least two regions.

Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states

1. In what ways and for what reasons did rulers of single party states play an important role in world affairs between 1917 and 1945?
2. Identify the main principles of Communism and assess how far these principles were put into practice by one Communist rule between 1900 and 1990.
3. Account for the rise to power and longevity of the rule of either Fidel Castro in Cuba or Julius Nyerere in Tanzania.
4. Assess the contributions of organizational and leadership qualities in maintaining power two single party rulers, each chosen from a different region.
5. Analyze the role and status of women in two of the following: Maoist China, Nazi Germany, Peronist Argentina.

Topic 5: The Cold War

1. “Ideological differences played little part in the origin of the Cold War.” How far do you agree with this judgment?
2. To what extent was Germany the cause of East/West disagreements between 1943 and 1963?
3. Define “superpower rivalry” and assess its importance in international politics since 1945.
4. Analyze the role of either Cuba or Vietnam in the development of the Cold War.
5. Compare and contrast the economic and social impact of the Cold War on two countries, each chosen from a different region.

2001 Test: Paper II

Topic 1: Causes, Practices and Effects of War

1. Analyze the reasons for the outbreak of war either in Algeria in 1954, or in Korea in 1950.
2. In what ways and for what reasons did foreign intervention play an important role in two civil war, each chosen from a different region?
3. Evaluate the successes and failures of one twentieth century treaty in addressing the causes of conflict, and restoring peace and normality.
4. Assess the results of both the Arab-Israeli War of 1956 (Sinai Campaign) and the 1967 Six Day War.
5. Using specific examples explain the popularity of war themes in a) films and b) novels and/or plays.

Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states
1. “Promises of improved social and economic conditions win more support for would-be single party rulers than ideological pronouncements.” How far do you agree with this claim?

2. Compare and contrast the organization of one Communist state with one Fascist state.

3. Analyze the methods by which either Castro or Stalin maintained his position as ruler of a single party state.

4. Assess the successes and failures of two of the following: Nasser’s rule of Egypt; Nyerere’s rule of Tanzania; Tito’s rule of Yugoslavia.

5. Evaluate the attempts of two rulers of single party states, each chosen from a different region, to control and use the media.

**Topic 5: The Cold War**

1. “The Cold War was caused by fear, not aggression.” To what extent does this view explain how the Cold War developed between 1945 and 1949?

2. Examine the impact of the Cold War on educational developments in two countries, each chosen from a different region.

3. Compare and contrast the aims and policies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact up to 1970.

4. For what reasons, and with what results, up to 1963, did the United States adopt the policy known as “containment”?

5. Excluding the superpowers, assess the role of two countries in the development of the Cold War after 1950.

**2002 Test Paper 2**

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

1. Compare and Contrast the causes of the First and Second War.

2. Analyze the changes in the nature of warfare during the 20th century.

3. Why were there so many civil wars in the 20th century?

4. Examine the effects of war and the fear of war on the civilian populations of two countries, each chosen from a different region.

5. “The Korean War was a limited war, a civil war, and an episode of the Cold War.” To what extent do you agree with each part of this assertion?

**Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states**

1. Analyze conditions that led to single party states during the 20th century.

2. Compare and contrast the domestic policies of Hitler and Stalin.

3. In what ways, and for what reasons, did two rulers of single party states, each chosen from a different region, fail to achieve their objective?

4. Explain and examine the methods used by one of the following rulers of single party states, to obtain and keep power: Lenin, Mao, Peron.

5. Assess the treatment of women and religious groups in two single party states.

**Topic 5: The Cold War**

1. In what ways, and for what reasons, did super-power rivalry dominate international politics between 1945 and 1961?

2. Analyze the role of Germany in the origins and developments of the Cold War.

3. Explain and evaluate the impact of the Cold War on developing countries.
4. “A product of the Cold War, and a reason for the prolonging of Cold War tension.” To what extent do you agree with this statement about Vietnam War?
5. For what reasons, and with what effects, did social and cultural differences affect the origin and development of the Cold War?

2003 Test: Paper II

Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of war

1. What were the most frequent causes of twentieth century wars? Specific evidence from at least three wars should be used.
2. In what ways, and to what extent, was the Second World War “total war”?
3. How and why did technological developments play an important part in twentieth century wars?
4. Analyze the causes and the results of one of the following: Chinese Civil War (1945-1949); Mexican Revolution (1910-1940); Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).
5. War causes more suffering to women than to men.”
   “War liberates women.”
   Using evidence from at least two wars explain which statement you consider is more appropriate.

Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states

1. “In order to achieve and retain power a leader of a single-party state needed to be ruthless, blind to human suffering, and yet charismatic.” To what extent do you agree with this assertion?
2. Account for the rise to power of one of the following: Castro; Mussolini; Nasser.
3. Compare and contrast the economic and social policies of Mao and Stalin.
4. In what ways, and for what reasons, did the aims and policies of two or more right wing rulers of single party states differ?
5. Examine the role of education and/or the arts in two single party states, each chosen from a different region.

Topic 5: The Cold War

1. How, and to what extent, did the conferences at Yalta and Potsdam (1945) contributed to the origin of the Cold War?
2. “Although it began in Europe the spread of the Cold War to other regions was a much more dangerous development.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?
3. How and why did the policies of either the USA or the USSR affect superpower rivalry between 1950 and 1970?
4. In what ways were gender and social issues affected by the Cold War?
5. Assess the importance of détente and internal opposition to Communist rule in Communist countries, in ending the Cold War.

2004 Test: Paper II

Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of war

1. In what ways did the causes of the Second World War differ from the causes of the First World War?
2. Evaluate the importance of naval warfare in twentieth century wars. Specific examples must be given from at least two wars.
3. Why were there so many Arab-Israeli wars between 1948 and 1978?
4. Analyze the results of two wars, each chosen from a different region.
5. Assess the social and economic effects of one war on two of the countries involved, in the ten years following the end of the war.

**Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states**

1. Analyze the methods used by one single party state ruler in his successful bid for power.
2. Evaluate the importance of ideology in the policies of two of the following rulers of single party states: Castro; Hitler; Lenin; Nyerere.
3. Compare and contrast the foreign policies of two rulers of single party states, each chosen from a different region.
4. In what ways, and to what extent, did either Nasser or Peron improve social and economic conditions?
5. Examine the global impact of one ruler of a single party state.

**Topic 5: The Cold War**

1. To what extent did events in the final year of the Second World War turn wartime allies into Cold War enemies?
2. Compare and contrast the policies of the USA and the USSR towards Korea between 1945 and 1955.
4. In what ways, and to what extent, did the Cold War become less confrontational after 1970?
5. Assess the importance of social and economic issues in causing opposition to communist regimes.

**2005 Test: Paper II**

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

1. Analyse the results of either the First World War or the Second World War.
2. Examine the impact of foreign intervention on either the Chinese Civil War or the Spanish Civil War.
3. Assess the social and economic causes of one twentieth century war.
4. Compare and contrast the use of naval warfare in two wars, each chosen from a different region.
5. For what reasons, and with what results, was “limited warfare a feature of the second half of the twentieth century.

**Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states**

1. Analyse the method used and the conditions which helped in the rise to power of one ruler of a single party state.
2. Evaluate the success and failures of one ruler of a single party state.
3. Assess the methods used by either Lenin or Peron to maintain his regime.
4. Compare and contrast the influence outside their own countries of Hitler and Mao.
5. Examine the status of women in two single party states, each chosen from a different region.

**Topic 5: The Cold War**

1. Assess the part played by differing ideologies in the origin of the Cold War.
2. In what ways, and with what results, was Germany the key focus of the early stages of the Cold War?
3. Analyse the part played by Cuba in the development of the Cold War.
4. Evaluate the role of one superpower in the Cold War after 1970.
5. To what extent did economic problems in the Communist bloc bring about the end of the Cold War?
2006 Test: Paper 2

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

1. Compare and contrast the results of the First World War and Second World War.
2. To what extent did technological developments ensure victory in the 20th century?
3. “No 20th century war could be called a limited war.” To what extent do you agree with this assertion?
4. Analyse the causes of either the Spanish Civil War or Korean War.
5. Assess the social results of two wars, each chosen from a different region.

**Topic 3: The rise and rule of single-party states**

1. To what extent was the rise to power of either Hitler or Mao due to personal appeal and ability?
2. Compare and Contrast the domestic policies of two rulers of single-party states each chosen from a different region.
3. Assess the methods used by either Nasser or Peron to remain in power.
4. In what ways, and with what results, was propaganda used by one ruler of a single party state?
5. Assess the importance of ideology for rulers of 20th century single party states.

**Topic 5: Cold War**

1. “An unnatural alliance that was bound to fall apart after the defeat of a common enemy.” To what extent does this statement explain the origin of the Cold War?
2. In what ways, and with what results, did the United States’ Cold War policy of containment affect Cuba after 1959?
3. Compare and contrast the roles of China and Germany in the Cold War.
4. Analyse the importance of détente in ending the Cold War.
5. Examine the part played by economic issues in the development of the Cold War.

2007 Test: Paper 2

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

1. Analyse the results of either the First World War or the Second World War.
2. Examine the impact of foreign intervention on either the Chinese Civil War or Spanish Civil War.
3. Assess the social and economic causes of one 20th century war.
4. Compare and contrast the use of naval warfare in two wars, each chosen from a different region.
5. For what reasons, and with what results, was limited warfare a feature of the second half of the 20th century?

**Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states**

1. Analyse the methods used and the conditions which helped in the rise to power of one ruler of a single party state.
2. Evaluate the success and failures of one ruler of a single party state.
3. Assess the method used by either Lenin or Peron to maintain his interest.
4. Compare and contrast the influence outside their own countries of Hitler and Mao.
5. Examine the status of women in two single party states, each chosen from a different region.

**Topic 5: Cold War**

1. Assess the part played by differing ideologies in the origin of the Cold War.
2. In what ways, and with what results, was Germany the key focus of the early stages of the Cold War?
3. Analyse the party played by Cuba in the development of the Cold War.
4. Evaluate the role of one superpower in Cold War after 1970.
5. To what extent did economic problems in the communist block bring about the end of the Cold War.

2008 Exam

Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of war

1. Compare and contrast the causes of the First World War and the Second World War.
2. To what extent did the changes in the military tactics and strategies determine the outcome of 20th century wars.
3. “Even in the 20th century the term total war could not be applied to any war.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?
4. Analyse the results of either the Mexican Revolution or the Russian Civil War.
5. In what ways and with what results did the two wars, each chosen from a different region, affect the role and status of women?

Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states

1. Compare and contrast the rise to power of two rulers of single party states, each chosen from a different region.
2. To what extent was either Mussolini, between 1922 and 1945, or Nasser, between 1954 and 1970, successful in achieving their aims?
3. In what ways did one ruler of a single party state try to use education to support their regime?
4. Analyse the successes and failures the political career of either Lenin or Nyerere.
5. Assess the importance of foreign policy for rulers of single party states.

Topic 5: Cold War

1. Analyse the origin of East-West rivalry and explain why it developed into the Cold War.
2. For what reasons, and with what results, did the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan effect Cold War development?
3. Compare and contrast the role of Korea and Vietnam in the Cold War.
4. Explaining the meaning of two of the following and show how each affected the development of the cold war: containment, brinkmanship, non-alignment, détente.
5. When and why did the Cold War end?

2009 Exam

Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of war

1. Compare and contrast causes of two 20th century civil wars?
2. Define guerrilla warfare, and discuss its significance in two wars, each chosen from different region.
3. Analyse (a) the short term results, and (b) the long term results up to 1935, of the First World War.
4. In what ways, and with what results, did either the Korean War or the Vietnam War bring about social and cultural changes in the countries involved?
5. In what ways, and for what reasons, did the nature of war in the air change between 1939 and 1990?

Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states

1. Analyse the methods used by either Castro or Peron to obtain power.
2. “The aims and policies of single party state rulers rarely followed their declared ideology.” To what extent do you agree with this assertion?
3. Evaluate the domestic policies of either Hitler or Nasser.
4. For what reasons, and with what success, did rulers of single party states use foreign policy to maintain their power? At least two rulers should be considered.
5. In what ways did two rulers of single party states, each chosen from a different region, (a) use, and (b) misuse, the arts and education?

**Topic 5: Cold War**

1. For what reasons, and with what results, were there disagreements between participants at the conferences of Yalta and Potsdam in 1945?
2. Define and analyse the importance of two of the following:
   (a) formation of NATO
   (b) the Warsaw Pact
   (c) non-alignment
   (d) détente
3. Examine the role and importance of fear and suspicion in the development of the Cold War between 1953 and 1975.
4. In what ways were social and gender issues affected by the Cold War in two countries, each chosen from a different region?
5. Thy did the Cold War spread from Europe to other parts of the world after 1950?

**2010 Exam**

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

1. Discuss the part played in the outbreak of the First World War in two states (excluding Germany).
2. Analyse the reasons for, and the results of, either the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) or the Chinese Civil War (1946-1949).
3. Assess the significance of naval warfare in determining the outcome of one twentieth century war.
4. “Many twentieth century wars had characteristics of both limited and total war.” With reference to two wars explain to what extent you agree with this statement.
5. For what reasons, and with what results, did Iran and Iraq fight a war between 1980 and 1988?
6. For what reasons, and with what results, did 20th century wars influence the status of women?

**Topic 3: The rise and rule of single party states**

1. Analyse the conditions that enabled one left wing leader to become the ruler of a single party state.
2. Discuss (a) the ideology of, and (b) the support for, one right wing ruler of a single party state.
3. Compare and contrast the domestic policies of two of the following: Castro; Kenyatta; Stalin.
4. Evaluate the methods used by either Peron or Nasser to maintain power.
5. Examine the role of education in one single party or authoritarian state.
6. In what ways, and to what extent, was propaganda important in the rise and rule of Hitler?

**Topic 5: Cold War**

1. Evaluate the role of the policies of the United States in the origins of the Cold War between 1945 and 1949.
2. Compare and contrast the role of two leaders, each chosen from a different region, in development of the Cold War between 1953 and 1964.
3. Why did détente develop between 1969 and 1979?
5. “The Cold War came to an end primarily because of Gorbachev’s changes in Soviet policies.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
6. Evaluate the impact of the Cold War on the culture of two countries, each chosen from a different region.