

# Ib History Paper 2 Examples

## Hitler essays

### Rise to power

**Essay question:** Analyse the methods used and the conditions which helped in the rise of a single party ruler.

**Introduction:** Adolf Hitler was able to consolidate his chancellorship and create the title of 'Führer' for himself in 1933. Hitler's rise to power was due to number of positive factors:

- The economic situation in Germany post-1929 brought out the weaknesses of Weimar democracy and radicalised much of the ordinary German population, turning it against the Weimar regime and thus providing support for the Nazi party.
- The strength and appeal with of the Nazis combined with the conditions created to persuade the masses to support Hitler and his party; the Nazi's propaganda and organisation was efficient, he had a successful strategy and an effective identification of key issues.
- Hitler's own personality and influence is also of key importance.
- In order to understand Hitler's rise to power we must evaluate the conditions of the Weimar regime at the time, the nature of support which helped Hitler obtain power and the importance of the methods the Nazis employed to gain this support.

**Para. 206:** The weaknesses of democracy at the time and the government's inability to deal with the crisis of 1929 created desperate conditions which radicalised the German masses, persuading them to turn to the ideological extremism of the Nazis (**Contextual factors- failure of democracy**) (Could also use this paragraph to explain the political scheming that went on and Franz Von Papen's role in Hitler's rise to power):

- The Weimar constitution operated under a system of proportional representation; one seat in the Reichstag for every 60,000 votes cast. Such democracy meant that multiple coalition governments had to be formed for a party to have majority support in the Reichstag, meaning that the base of the government was broadening all the time, making any concerted decisions very difficult. This became an insurmountable handicap when the great depression struck in 1929.
- The result was the collapse of democracy as, under Brüning and his successors, the government no longer sought the regular mandate of the Reichstag. This led, between 1930 and 1933, to the authoritarian phase of the Weimar Republic, which, in turn provided the opportunity for Hitler to develop his ideas of a totalitarian state in 1932 and 1933.
- Democratic leaders failed to prove that their system was better for Germany than the authoritarian models of the past, creating hostility towards the republic and a demand for change, according to Friedrich the parties of the Republic failed to fulfil 'the functions which devolve upon them in a constitutional pluralistic Parliamentary democracy'.
- The economic crisis in 1929 therefore became a catalyst in the breakdown of the Weimar's parliamentary system; it destabilised the whole social structure, with serious side effects on the political system.

**Para. 260:** The economic turmoil experienced during the Weimar period combined with the impact of the Great Depression to turn people towards supporting the Nazis. (**Contextual factors- economic conditions**)

- One of the most significant aspects of economic turmoil in Germany prior to the Wall Street Crash was inflation; evaluating the impact of this General Morgan of the Weimar government pointed out how inflation has destroyed the equipoise of society. 'It has ruined the middle class and impoverished the workers'.
- The economic crisis of 1929 had equally detrimental effects; farmers went into great debt, since food prices had been falling since 1925 anyway. Factory and industrial workers lost their jobs; 40% of them were unemployed by 1932 and by 1933 over half of young Germans were unemployed. It is therefore evident that the depression had extreme impacts of the entire German population, but particularly the workers and the middle classes.
- The crisis hence radicalised sections of the population which inflation had already rendered unstable. People became desperate for employment and a better food supply, making them willing to ignore the violence and vulgarity of the Nazi party and support them because they promised 'work and bread'.

**Para. 280:** As people turned to either the extreme right or the far left, the Nazis propaganda and address of key issues appealed to the masses, and their methods of using this to their advantage was one of the most significant reasons why Hitler rose to power (**Appeal of Nazism**):

- Hitler consistently reformulated his party's programme in order to appeal to different parts of the population as they became alienated from the republic.
- Hitler even established a section within the Nazi party to identify reasons for different types of public discontent and develop programmes that would appeal to different social groups.
- Heinrich Brüning later explained that the Nazi party 'revealed itself to be perhaps the most tactically flexible and opportunistic political movement in the Republic'.
- Hitler took advantage of the unpopularity of the Versailles Settlement and began to appeal to many using nationalistic terms such as discrediting the man who signed the treaty as the November criminal.

IB HISTORY PAPER 2 EXAMPLES SERVE AS CRITICAL TOOLS FOR STUDENTS PREPARING FOR THEIR EXAMINATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) HISTORY COURSE. THIS PAPER IS DESIGNED TO EVALUATE A STUDENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL EVENTS, THEMES, AND DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS. IT ENCOURAGES CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYTICAL SKILLS, AND A THOROUGH COMPREHENSION OF HISTORICAL NARRATIVES. THIS ARTICLE WILL EXPLORE THE STRUCTURE OF THE IB HISTORY PAPER 2, PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL QUESTIONS, AND DISCUSS EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR ANSWERING THEM.

## UNDERSTANDING IB HISTORY PAPER 2

IB HISTORY PAPER 2 FOCUSES ON WORLD HISTORY TOPICS THAT ARE TYPICALLY COVERED IN THE SYLLABUS. STUDENTS

CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF PRESCRIBED TOPICS AND RESPOND TO ESSAY QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE THEM TO ANALYZE AND EVALUATE HISTORICAL EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS. THE PAPER CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF ESSAY QUESTIONS, AND STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE ONE QUESTION TO ANSWER IN DETAIL.

## STRUCTURE OF THE PAPER

THE STRUCTURE OF IB HISTORY PAPER 2 IS STRAIGHTFORWARD:

1. DURATION: THE EXAM LASTS FOR 1 HOUR AND 30 MINUTES.
2. QUESTIONS: STUDENTS ARE PRESENTED WITH A CHOICE OF QUESTIONS GROUPED BY HISTORICAL TOPICS.
3. ESSAY FORMAT: STUDENTS MUST WRITE A STRUCTURED ESSAY, TYPICALLY CONSISTING OF AN INTRODUCTION, BODY PARAGRAPHS, AND A CONCLUSION.

## TOPICS COVERED

THE TOPICS FOR PAPER 2 OFTEN INCLUDE KEY THEMES THAT SPAN VARIOUS TIME PERIODS AND REGIONS. SOME OF THE COMMON TOPICS INCLUDE:

- THE COLD WAR
- NATIONALISM IN EUROPE
- THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR I AND II
- DECOLONIZATION
- THE RISE AND FALL OF EMPIRES

EACH TOPIC ALLOWS STUDENTS TO EXPLORE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND FIGURES, ANALYZE THEIR IMPACT, AND UNDERSTAND THE BROADER HISTORICAL CONTEXT.

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR IB HISTORY PAPER 2

TO ILLUSTRATE THE TYPE OF QUESTIONS STUDENTS MAY ENCOUNTER, HERE ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES:

### 1. THE COLD WAR

- QUESTION: TO WHAT EXTENT DID IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE USA AND THE USSR SHAPE THE COURSE OF THE COLD WAR?
- QUESTION: ANALYZE THE IMPACT OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

### 2. NATIONALISM IN EUROPE

- QUESTION: EVALUATE THE ROLE OF NATIONALISM IN THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY AND ITALY IN THE 19TH CENTURY.
- QUESTION: HOW DID THE CONCEPTS OF NATIONALISM AND IMPERIALISM CONTRIBUTE TO THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I?

### 3. DECOLONIZATION

- QUESTION: DISCUSS THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECOLONIZATION OF AFRICA IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY.
- QUESTION: TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE COLD WAR INFLUENCE THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION IN ASIA?

# STRATEGIES FOR ANSWERING PAPER 2 QUESTIONS

A SUCCESSFUL RESPONSE TO IB HISTORY PAPER 2 REQUIRES A COMBINATION OF CONTENT KNOWLEDGE, ANALYTICAL SKILLS, AND EFFECTIVE WRITING TECHNIQUES. HERE ARE SOME STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER:

## 1. UNDERSTANDING THE QUESTION

BEFORE DIVING INTO YOUR RESPONSE, TAKE A MOMENT TO CAREFULLY READ THE QUESTION. IDENTIFY KEY TERMS AND DIRECTIVES SUCH AS "ANALYZE," "EVALUATE," OR "DISCUSS." THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL DETERMINE THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF YOUR ESSAY.

## 2. PLANNING YOUR ESSAY

CREATE A BRIEF OUTLINE BEFORE WRITING. THIS CAN HELP ORGANIZE YOUR THOUGHTS AND ENSURE THAT YOUR ESSAY HAS A CLEAR FLOW. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING STRUCTURE:

- INTRODUCTION: PRESENT YOUR THESIS STATEMENT AND BRIEFLY OUTLINE YOUR MAIN ARGUMENTS.
- BODY PARAGRAPHS: EACH PARAGRAPH SHOULD FOCUS ON A SPECIFIC POINT THAT SUPPORTS YOUR THESIS. INCLUDE EVIDENCE, EXAMPLES, AND ANALYSIS.
- CONCLUSION: SUMMARIZE YOUR ARGUMENTS AND RESTATE YOUR THESIS IN LIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED.

## 3. USING EVIDENCE EFFECTIVELY

IN HISTORY ESSAYS, EVIDENCE IS CRUCIAL. USE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR ARGUMENTS. THIS MAY INCLUDE:

- HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
- STATISTICS
- QUOTES FROM HISTORIANS
- CASE STUDIES

ENSURE THAT YOU EXPLAIN HOW EACH PIECE OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTS YOUR ARGUMENT AND CONNECTS TO THE QUESTION.

## 4. CRITICAL ANALYSIS

DON'T JUST PRESENT FACTS; ANALYZE THEM. DISCUSS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EVENTS, EXPLORE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, AND CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR ARGUMENTS. THIS CRITICAL ANALYSIS IS WHAT DIFFERENTIATES A GOOD ESSAY FROM A GREAT ONE.

## 5. TIME MANAGEMENT

WITH ONLY 1 HOUR AND 30 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM, MANAGING YOUR TIME EFFECTIVELY IS ESSENTIAL. ALLOCATE TIME FOR PLANNING, WRITING, AND REVIEWING YOUR ESSAY. A SUGGESTED BREAKDOWN MIGHT BE:

- 10-15 MINUTES FOR PLANNING
- 60-70 MINUTES FOR WRITING
- 10-15 MINUTES FOR REVISION

# EXAMPLES OF STRONG THESIS STATEMENTS

A ROBUST THESIS STATEMENT CAN SET THE TONE FOR A COMPELLING ESSAY. HERE ARE EXAMPLES FOR SOME OF THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED QUESTIONS:

## COLD WAR EXAMPLE

- "WHILE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SHAPING THE COLD WAR, THE INFLUENCE OF GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGIES AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS WERE EQUALLY CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING THE COURSE OF THIS HISTORICAL CONFLICT."

## NATIONALISM EXAMPLE

- "NATIONALISM WAS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD IN THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY AND ITALY; IT FOSTERED A SENSE OF IDENTITY AND PURPOSE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY INCITING TENSIONS THAT WOULD LEAD TO FUTURE CONFLICTS."

## DECOLONIZATION EXAMPLE

- "THE DECOLONIZATION OF AFRICA WAS LARGELY DRIVEN BY A COMBINATION OF INTERNAL NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES FROM THE COLD WAR, REFLECTING THE COMPLEX INTERPLAY OF LOCAL AND GLOBAL FORCES IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY."

## CONCLUSION

THE IB HISTORY PAPER 2 IS A VITAL COMPONENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE HISTORY COURSE, TESTING STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL THEMES AND EVENTS. BY FAMILIARIZING THEMSELVES WITH THE STRUCTURE OF THE PAPER, PRACTICING WITH SAMPLE QUESTIONS, AND EMPLOYING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES, STUDENTS CAN ENHANCE THEIR PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOP A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR HISTORY. WITH CAREFUL PREPARATION AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS, STUDENTS CAN EXCEL IN THEIR EXAMINATIONS AND GAIN VALUABLE SKILLS THAT WILL SERVE THEM WELL BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS IB HISTORY PAPER 2 FOCUSED ON?

IB HISTORY PAPER 2 FOCUSES ON WORLD HISTORY TOPICS STUDIED IN THE COURSE, SPECIFICALLY EXAMINING SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, THEMES, AND ISSUES FROM 20TH-CENTURY HISTORY.

### WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS CAN BE EXPECTED IN IB HISTORY PAPER 2?

IB HISTORY PAPER 2 TYPICALLY INCLUDES ESSAY QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE STUDENTS TO ANALYZE AND EVALUATE HISTORICAL EVENTS, COMPARE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, AND DISCUSS THEMES SUCH AS CONFLICT, GOVERNANCE, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS.

### HOW CAN STUDENTS PREPARE EFFECTIVELY FOR IB HISTORY PAPER 2?

STUDENTS CAN PREPARE FOR IB HISTORY PAPER 2 BY REVIEWING PAST PAPER QUESTIONS, UNDERSTANDING KEY THEMES AND EVENTS, PRACTICING ESSAY WRITING SKILLS, AND USING TIMELINES TO CONNECT HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

## WHAT ARE SOME COMMON TOPICS COVERED IN IB HISTORY PAPER 2?

COMMON TOPICS INCLUDE THE COLD WAR, THE RISE AND FALL OF EMPIRES, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, AND THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION, AMONG OTHERS.

## HOW IS THE IB HISTORY PAPER 2 STRUCTURED?

IB HISTORY PAPER 2 IS STRUCTURED INTO SECTIONS WHERE STUDENTS CHOOSE FROM A SELECTION OF QUESTIONS TO ANSWER, TYPICALLY REQUIRING DETAILED ARGUMENTS AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE.

## WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM PAST IB HISTORY PAPER 2 EXAMS?

EXAMPLES INCLUDE QUESTIONS LIKE 'TO WHAT EXTENT WAS THE COLD WAR A RESULT OF IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES?' AND 'EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF DECOLONIZATION ON GLOBAL POLITICS.'

## WHAT SKILLS ARE ASSESSED IN IB HISTORY PAPER 2?

THE PAPER ASSESSES SKILLS SUCH AS CRITICAL THINKING, HISTORICAL ANALYSIS, ARGUMENT FORMULATION, AND THE ABILITY TO EVALUATE DIFFERENT SOURCES AND INTERPRETATIONS.

## CAN STUDENTS USE OUTSIDE SOURCES IN THEIR RESPONSES FOR IB HISTORY PAPER 2?

YES, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THEIR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND OUTSIDE SOURCES TO SUPPORT THEIR ARGUMENTS, BUT THEY MUST ENSURE THAT THEIR REFERENCES ARE RELEVANT AND ACCURATELY INTEGRATED.

## WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATION FOR EACH QUESTION IN IB HISTORY PAPER 2?

STUDENTS ARE TYPICALLY ADVISED TO SPEND ABOUT 45 MINUTES ON EACH ESSAY QUESTION TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PLANNING, WRITING, AND REVISING THEIR ANSWERS.

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