

The History Extended Essay

Group 3

Individuals & Societies

Student Training
Penny Harris, EE Coordinator
Rockwall-Heath High School

Overview of the History EE

- In-depth research in an area of history of genuine interest
- Creation of a coherent and structured essay that address a particular issue expressed as a research question.
- Evaluates/interprets various views of historical events.

History EE

History EE benefits

- Wide-ranging knowledge of a particular topic (extensive bibliography)
- Familiarity of Chicago-style, which aids university-level history study (if you and your supervisor decide on this style)

History EE challenges

- Requires stamina and in the area of research. Students lacking great enthusiasm of their selected topic will not do well.
- Topic may not be in current course of study, making supervisor selection even more important.
- Strong evaluative and analytical skills required!

Choice of Topic

The topic MUST:

- focus on the human past
- lend itself to systematic investigation in line with the assessment criteria
- have scholars weighing in on both/multiple sides of the issue
- focus on events earlier than the last 10 years

The Topic

- Primary and Secondary sources required
- Interviews and other unique sources are also recommended
- Provide an opportunity for critical analysis (**your voice**) of source material and not depend on summarizing general secondary sources-avoiding merely the narrative or descriptive
- **Be worthy of study (no “pop” history/conspiracies)**

The topic MUST...

- Be acceptable to the supervisor
- Have a clear focus (Region, Time Period, Qualifiers)
- allow students to demonstrate detailed and specific historical knowledge, understanding and critical analysis
- Topics outside of history (music, dance, and sport) must be from a historical perspective
- Those that cover many aspects of history, and/or a long time period are unlikely to produce successful essays

Topic Ideas

Junior Topics That Might Help With Your IB Examinations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independence movements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Great Depression and the Americas 1929-39 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nation-building and challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Second World War and the Americas 1933-45 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States Civil War: causes, course and effects 1840-77 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political developments in the Americas after the Second World War 1945-79 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The development of modern nations 1865-1929 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Cold War and the Americas 1945-1981 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergence of the Americas in global affairs 1880-1929 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil rights and social movements in the Americas |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mexican Revolution 1910-40 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Into the 21st century—from the 1980s to 2000 |

20th Century Topic Ideas

Senior Topics That Might Help With Your IB Examinations

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peacemaking, peacekeeping—international relations 1918–36 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Arab–Israeli conflict 1945–79 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communism in crisis 1976–89 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Causes, practices and effects of wars |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democratic states—challenges and responses |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Cold War | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nationalist and independence movements in Africa and Asia and post-1945 Central and Eastern European states |

Appropriate topics receiving A's last year (9)

Curriculum-based	Outside of the curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent did the treaties of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and Trianon cause complications in Central Europe from 1918 to 1945.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the social and political policies of Belgian colonial rule contribute to the fragmentation of the early Democratic Republic of Congo?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent did the anti-Vietnam war movement affect the policies of the Nixon administration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent did the National Pact of 1943 cause the Lebanese Civil War?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent were the arguments of the Federalists in favor of the U.S. Constitution and against the Articles of Confederation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the causes of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent was President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830 a racially motivated legislative document?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent did Winston Churchill's radio speeches affect the morale of the British people during World War II?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent did Operation Mincemeat and its subsidiary operations affect Hitler's ability to rule and Germany's loss of WWII?	

Treatment of the Topic

- **Title:** **Varying interpretations** of the Salem witch trials
- **Research Question:** **Which theory** best explains the Salem witch trials?
- **Approach:** Background reading is undertaken to enable identification and explanation of **two dominant theories** as to why the trials took place. The merits of the two theories are appraised using data obtained about the accused and accusers.

- **Title:** **Changing views** of the Cuban Missile Crisis
- **Research Question:** How and **why have explanations of the Cuban missile crisis changed** since 1962?
- **Approach:** General reading is undertaken for a historical introduction and note taking. The views of **a number of historians** are summarized in order to understand categorize and evaluate selected explanations of the 1962 missile crisis in the 60s, 70s and 80s.