

© International Baccalaureate Organization 2026

All rights reserved. No part of this product may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without the prior written permission from the IB. Additionally, the license tied with this product prohibits use of any selected files or extracts from this product. Use by third parties, including but not limited to publishers, private teachers, tutoring or study services, preparatory schools, vendors operating curriculum mapping services or teacher resource digital platforms and app developers, whether fee-covered or not, is prohibited and is a criminal offense.

More information on how to request written permission in the form of a license can be obtained from <https://ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/ib-publishing/licensing/applying-for-a-license/>.

© Organisation du Baccalauréat International 2026

Tous droits réservés. Aucune partie de ce produit ne peut être reproduite sous quelque forme ni par quelque moyen que ce soit, électronique ou mécanique, y compris des systèmes de stockage et de récupération d'informations, sans l'autorisation écrite préalable de l'IB. De plus, la licence associée à ce produit interdit toute utilisation de tout fichier ou extrait sélectionné dans ce produit. L'utilisation par des tiers, y compris, sans toutefois s'y limiter, des éditeurs, des professeurs particuliers, des services de tutorat ou d'aide aux études, des établissements de préparation à l'enseignement supérieur, des fournisseurs de services de planification des programmes d'études, des gestionnaires de plateformes pédagogiques en ligne, et des développeurs d'applications, moyennant paiement ou non, est interdite et constitue une infraction pénale.

Pour plus d'informations sur la procédure à suivre pour obtenir une autorisation écrite sous la forme d'une licence, rendez-vous à l'adresse <https://ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/ib-publishing/licensing/applying-for-a-license/>.

© Organización del Bachillerato Internacional, 2026

Todos los derechos reservados. No se podrá reproducir ninguna parte de este producto de ninguna forma ni por ningún medio electrónico o mecánico, incluidos los sistemas de almacenamiento y recuperación de información, sin la previa autorización por escrito del IB. Además, la licencia vinculada a este producto prohíbe el uso de todo archivo o fragmento seleccionado de este producto. El uso por parte de terceros —lo que incluye, a título enunciativo, editoriales, profesores particulares, servicios de apoyo académico o ayuda para el estudio, colegios preparatorios, desarrolladores de aplicaciones y entidades que presten servicios de planificación curricular u ofrezcan recursos para docentes mediante plataformas digitales—, ya sea incluido en tasas o no, está prohibido y constituye un delito.

En este enlace encontrará más información sobre cómo solicitar una autorización por escrito en forma de licencia: <https://ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/ib-publishing/licensing/applying-for-a-license/>.

History

Higher level and standard level

Paper 2

4 May 2026

Zone A afternoon | **Zone B** afternoon | **Zone C** afternoon

1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each chosen from a different topic.
- Each question is worth **[15 marks]**.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.
- Where the word “region” is used, it refers to the following four regions: Africa and the Middle East, the Americas, Asia and Oceania, and Europe.

Topic 1: Society and economy (750–1400)

1. Evaluate the impact of change in social structures and systems on **two** societies, each chosen from a different region, in the period 750–1400.
2. “There was limited development in science and technology.” With reference to **two** societies in the period 750–1400, each chosen from a different region, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Topic 2: Causes and effects of wars (750–1500)

3. With reference to **two** wars in the period 750–1500, each chosen from a different region, discuss the view that the most important causes of wars were political.
4. Discuss the political impact of **two** wars in the period 750–1500, each chosen from a different region.

Topic 3: Dynasties and rulers (750–1500)

5. Evaluate the effectiveness of methods used to consolidate and maintain rule in **two** dynasties/kingdoms in the period 750–1500.
6. Examine the methods of government and administration of **two** rulers in the period 750–1500, each chosen from a different region.

Topic 4: Societies in transition (1400–1700)

7. Compare and contrast the treatment of minority or indigenous peoples in **two** societies in transition in the period 1400–1700, each chosen from a different region.
8. With reference to **two** societies in transition in the period 1400–1700, examine the significance of **two** key figures in cultural and intellectual change.

Topic 5: Early Modern states (1450–1789)

9. Compare and contrast the achievements of the rulers of **two** Early Modern states in the period 1450–1789, each chosen from a different region.
10. With reference to **two** Early Modern states in the period 1450–1789, discuss the view that internal challenges to power were usually overcome.

Topic 6: Causes and effects of Early Modern wars (1500–1750)

11. “The most important causes of war were political.” With reference to **two** Early Modern wars in the period 1500–1750, to what extent do you agree with this statement?
12. “Peacemaking that followed war was usually successful.” With reference to **two** wars in the period 1500–1750, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Topic 7: Origins, development and impact of industrialization (1750–2005)

13. Evaluate the social and economic impact of the mass production of goods in **two** industrialized countries, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1750–2005.
14. To what extent was political change the main impact of the growth of cities and factories in **two** industrialized countries, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1750–2005?

Topic 8: Independence movements (1800–2000)

15. “The rise of independence movements in the period 1800–2000 was due to internal rather than external factors.” With reference to **two** countries, to what extent do you agree with this statement?
16. “In the first 10 years of independence, the main challenges to the state were political.” With reference to **two** states in the period 1800–2000, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Topic 9: Emergence and development of democratic states (1848–2000)

17. Evaluate the significance of constitutions and electoral systems to the emergence of democracy in **two** states, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1848–2000.
18. With reference to **two** states, each chosen from a different region, discuss the view that economic forces had the most influence on the development of democratic states in the period 1848–2000.

Topic 10: Authoritarian states (20th century)

19. “Propaganda was the main factor in the emergence of authoritarian states.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century authoritarian states, each chosen from a different region.
20. “Economic policies of authoritarian rulers rarely achieved their aims.” With reference to **two** 20th-century states, each chosen from a different region, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Topic 11: Causes and effects of 20th-century wars

21. “The mobilization of human and economic resources was the key factor in deciding the outcome of wars.” With reference to **two** 20th-century wars, to what extent do you agree with this statement?
22. “The most significant consequence of war was political.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century wars.

Topic 12: The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)

23. “The US was more responsible than the USSR for the emergence of superpower rivalry between 1943 and 1949.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
 24. “The most important impact of the Cold War was economic.” Discuss with reference to **two** countries, each chosen from a different region.
-

Disclaimer:

Content used in IB assessments is often taken from authentic, third-party sources. The views expressed within them belong to their individual authors and/or publishers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the IB. Sometimes fictitious companies, products or individuals are included in assessments; any similarities with actual entities are purely coincidental. Any trademarks™ or registered® trademarks included are used for illustrative purposes only, and use does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement by the International Baccalaureate.