

# Writing essays for Paper 3

# What can you expect on Paper 3?

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- Two essays for each topic (total 36 questions)
- Essays generally demand specific, named content
- You have to answer three questions
- These questions do NOT have to be from different topics
- You have 50 minutes for each question

Remember that this is your 'depth' paper so examiners are expecting:

- Depth of understanding
- Detailed evidence and examples
- Critical analysis

# IB Command Terms

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**What do each of the following command terms require you to do?**

- Analyse.....
- Compare and contrast...
- Discuss...
- Evaluate...
- Examine...
- To what extent...

# IB Command Terms ~ definitions

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**Analyse** the reasons for the outbreak of civil war in Spain.

- Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure
- Find relevant analytical or thematic points you could structure your essay around

**Compare and contrast** the social policies of Germany and Italy in the inter-war period

- Give an account of the similarities and differences between the two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout. Again look for 'themes' that you can focus your answer around

**Discuss** the impact of the Great Depression on one country in the Americas

- You need to give a balanced analysis (e.g. successes vs failures, positives vs negatives, advantages vs disadvantages)

# IB Command Terms ~ definitions continued...

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**Examine** the reasons for the defeat of the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War

- Look at the given issue through different 'lenses'; show the inter-relationship of factors

**Evaluate** the success of Khrushchev's domestic policies

- Identify and develop the strengths and limitations or successes and failures of an assertion made in the question or the focus of the question

**'The Weimar Republic was doomed to fail'** **To what extent** do you agree with this statement ?

- Give two sides...set up arguments both supporting and challenging the factor or concept in the question

# What makes a good a essay?

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In pairs discuss what you would expect to see in the following:

- **Introduction?**
- **Main Body?**
- **Each paragraph?**
- **Conclusion?**

# Introduction

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The introduction is a key part of your essay. In your introduction, you will:

- Show that you understand the question; this could involve referring to the dates or events mentioned in the title and putting them into context; also explaining any concepts
- Indicate the scope of your essay
- Set out your line of argument
- Provide a transition to the first paragraph of your essay

*The reader (teacher or examiner) should feel after reading your introduction that you have a good grasp of the key issues connected to the question and a clear line of argument.*



# Sequence of Paragraphs

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Your sequence of paragraphs should lead the reader through a clear line of argument and also show that you are being analytical rather than just describing or telling a story.

*Make sure you avoid a chronological approach as this will lead you into a narrative approach rather than an analytical approach.*

*Use connective words to help you keep an analytical focus.*

# Main body of your essay: paragraphs

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Your essay will probably contain around 6 paragraphs.  
Each paragraph should include:

- A clear opening sentence which links to the question and states the key point or argument of the paragraph
- Evidence which supports the point given in the first sentence. For Paper 3 essays, you need detailed evidence, e.g. precise dates, statistics, treaties, etc
- A final sentence which sums up the argument of the paragraph and leads on to the next paragraph

# Conclusion

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Make sure this leaves a good impression!

It is important to:

- Restate your main point or argument
- Link back to the title to show that your argument answers the question set

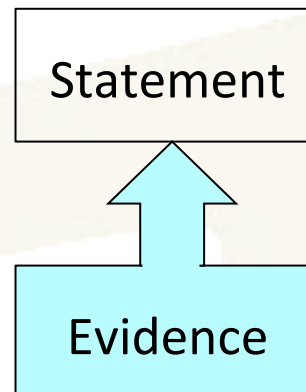
# Using Evidence

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*‘..this is a history examination and not an invitation to unleash a torrent of generalities’*

*Subject report May 2010*

Support all points with appropriate evidence; only include the information that supports your claim and make it clear why that information supports your claim



# Use of historiography

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Part of your evidence may include the view of historians or even direct quotes from historians.

However do not substitute these for your own knowledge and judgment; your aim is to use historical debate as evidence for your own argument.

*‘Historiography should not be a substitute for solid factual knowledge, accurate chronology and sequencing which must form the basis of any effective essay’*

*(Examiners Report, May 2010)*