

Anglo European Sixth Form

Summer Transition Work

Subject: History

Exam Board: IB

Qualification: IB Higher and Standard

Compulsory tasks:

*These tasks must be completed by students before their first lesson in September.
These tasks will be reviewed by the class teacher.*

Stalin/Mao

Make a diagram of Mao/Stalin's life following the pattern of a timeline, adding notes on important events and issues. Focus particularly on their path to power and how far you could describe their policies as successful bearing in mind that many people see them as two of the biggest killers in world history.

Cold War

It would also be very useful to read a general overview of the Cold War such as: **The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction** by Robert J. McMahon (ISBN – 139780192801784); this will help you to get a feel for the different periods, key events and flashpoints and the reasons for changes in policy and superpower relations. Look into why views about the Cold War have changed. Did historians in the 1950s have the same views about the origins of the Cold War as those in the 1990s? What explanations can you give for the differences? What does this show about the discipline of history?

Higher

Research nationalism: what is it? What explains its growth in the nineteenth century? Who was Napoleon and what was his impact/legacy outside of France? Why was 1848 such a crucial year? What were its consequences?

Advisory tasks:

These tasks will support you to excel in the course. They may not be explicitly reviewed by your teachers, but they will allow students to demonstrate a genuine passion for going "above and beyond" in this subject

Stalin/Mao

Read a biography of Stalin/Mao, at least the entries on reputable websites (following the embedded links to associated topics) or a full biography such as Service, R., *Stalin: A Biography* or parts of it. Also, Mao Phillip Short (Read the intelligent 'customer review' comments on the Amazon website about this biography before buying).

You could read a biography of either Cavour (e.g. by Denis Mack Smith) or Bismarck (e.g. by Jonathan Steinberg). Make a diagram of his life following the pattern of a timeline, adding notes on important events and issues. The two men were famous for their leadership of Piedmont (Cavour) and Prussia (Bismarck) in taking over surrounding states to create new large modern states – Italy and Germany (though Cavour was dead before Italy was fully unified). Research nationalism: what is it? What explains its growth in the nineteenth century? You could also read some short stories by Guy de Maupassant and Chekhov, and poetry by Schiller and Heine to get a feel for the period.