

# 's Guide to Global Essays

## The Basics

### How many essays?

- Two. *Thematic Essay* & *Document Based Question* (DBQ) Essay

### What are the highest and lowest scores you can get on both?

- **5** is the highest (pretty rare) and **0** is the lowest (if you don't write **or** you write nothing that makes sense **or** you only copy things from the prompt/DBQs)

### What should I aim for?

- At least a 3! If you can get 30 multiple choice questions right, all your DBQ short answers, and 3s on BOTH essays, you will pass!

## How do I get a 3 on the Thematic and DBQ?

- **RESPOND to all parts of the task** (the bullet points). You could write the best essay in the world about the topic, but if what you write does not respond to the bullet points you will not get a high Regents score!
- Always make sure to read the task and directions carefully.
- **Analysis!!!** We will talk more about this, but basically analysis is when you show your reader that you've done more than just MEMORIZE facts and can also THINK DEEPLY about those facts. Here are some sentence starters...
  - *Because of...we now have...*
  - *If this had never happened, the world would look different because...*
  - *This connects to...because...*
  - *This is similar to another event in history...because...*
  - *This impacts us today because...*
  - *This impacted history because....*

### **To get a 3 on a DBQ Essay....**

- **Outside information!** ANYTHING that is not in the documents is *outside information*.
- Outside information should be **relevant** (connect to what you're writing about). If you're writing a DBQ essay about Gandhi and Mandela and your outside information is that the San Antonio Spurs won the NBA Championship in 2014, it will not help you get to a 3...
- Let your reader know you are using outside information with sentence starters like:
  - *Information not found in the documents is...*
  - *Some outside information is...*

## “Historical Circumstances”

The phrase **historical circumstances** is used on a LOT of Regents essays... It comes up pretty much at least once on every exam

- Historical circumstances is just a fancy way of saying “*What was going on at the time?*”. It's when you let the reader know what was happening in history during the time you're writing about. It's often when you should explain what **caused** an event.
- Don't let the phrase “Historical circumstances” trip you up! Just remember, it is a fancy way of asking “What was going on at the time?”

## Thematic Study Guide

New York State has identified twenty-four themes of Global History. Of those twenty-four, only twelve have ever been used for a thematic essay on the Global History and Geography Regents exam, and only **seven** (listed below) have been repeated **more than once!** Topics have been suggested so that you have less to prepare for on the exam. (For example, it is suggested that you be prepared to write about Nelson Mandela and the end of Apartheid because that topic can be used for thematic essays for BOTH Change and Human Rights.)

Theme	# of Times used	Suggested Review Topics -- For ALL review topics, make sure you know the <u>historical circumstances</u>
<b>1a. Change: Individuals who have caused change</b>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mohandas Gandhi</li> <li>● Nelson Mandela</li> </ul> <p><i>Why did they need to cause change? How did they cause change? Were they effective?</i></p>
<b>1b. Change: Revolutions and turning points</b>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Neolithic Revolution</li> <li>● Industrial Revolution</li> <li>● French Revolution</li> <li>● Russian Revolution</li> </ul> <p><i>What were the causes of these events (why did they happen?) What was the effect/impact of these events? Why are they important?</i></p>
<b>2. Human and Physical Geography</b>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rivers</li> <li>● Mountains</li> </ul> <p><i>How did these geographic factors influence the development of an area of the world? How do they affect cultural diffusion?</i></p>
<b>3. Human Rights</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Indian Independence Movement</li> <li>● Apartheid in South Africa</li> </ul> <p><i>What human rights were being violated during these events/time periods? What attempts were made to fix the problem? Was it successful?</i></p>
<b>4. Science and Technology</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Printing Press</li> <li>● Steam Engine</li> </ul> <p><i>How did these inventions change the world? Was the impact positive or negative?</i></p>
<b>5. Conflict</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● French Revolution</li> <li>● Russian Revolution</li> </ul> <p><i>Why did these conflicts happen? What was the effect/impact of these conflicts?</i></p>
<b>6. Belief Systems</b>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hinduism</li> <li>● Islam</li> </ul> <p><i>What are the key beliefs of these belief systems? How do these belief systems affect followers' lives?</i></p>
<b>7. Environment</b>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deforestation</li> <li>● Desertification</li> </ul>

**and Society**

*What causes these problems? What is the effect/impact of these problems?  
How are humans involved in the cause and/or the effect?*