

Group 3: Individuals and Society

Options: HL History and HL Psychology

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Studying any one of these subjects provides for the development of a critical appreciation of:

- human experience and behaviour
- the varieties of physical, economic and social environments that people inhabit
- the history of social and cultural institutions.

In addition, each subject is designed to foster in students the capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments relating to the nature and activities of individuals and societies.

History: Topics of Study

Prescribed Subject: Rights and Protest

- American Civil Rights Movement and Apartheid

20th Century World History Topics

- Causes and Effects of War
- The Cold War

HL Regional Topic: History of the Americas

- Nation-building and Challenges (c1780–c1870)
- United States' Civil War: Causes, Course and Effects (1840–1877)
- The Cold War and the Americas (1945–1981)
- Civil Rights and Social Movements in the Americas post-1945

History: Assessments

Three papers (80%)

- Paper 1: A Source-based paper on either Civil Rights or Apartheid (20%)
- Paper 2: Essay paper based on the World History topics. Answer two essay questions on two different topics. (25%)
- Paper 3: Essay paper based on the History of the Americas. Answer three essay questions. (35%)

Internal Assessment (20%) - Historical Investigation

- Students develop a research question, assess sources and produce a written analysis and reflection on a topic of their choosing

Psychology: Topics of Study

Core curriculum: Three fundamental approaches to understanding behaviour

- Biological - *The brain, hormones and genetics*
- Cognitive - *Thinking, memory and bias*
- Sociocultural - *Identity, stereotypes and cultural dimensions*

Specific areas of study:

- Developmental psychology - *Childhood development*
- Abnormal psychology - *Depression and PTSD*

Psychology: Assessments

Three papers (80%)

- Paper 1: (40%)
 - Part A - Three short answer questions based on the approaches to psychology
 - Part B - Essay question from a choice of all three approaches
- Paper 2: Two questions on abnormal and developmental psychology (20%)
- Paper 3: Three short answer questions (chosen from six) that focus on qualitative research methodology (20%)

Internal Assessment (20%) - Experimental Study

- Students conduct a simple experimental study of a topic of their choice (replicate a previously completed study) and analyze their results

A student perspective

"HL History forces you to think critically and consider historical sources and historiography from different perspectives and time periods. A major focus is on analysis and implications of actions and less so on memorization. **One of the most interesting parts of the course is the amount of reflection that you do on historical events.** The exam markschemes are very broad and allow you to incorporate your historical knowledge to justify claims and assertions you make."

"IB Psychology is more focused on content and requires that students memorize specific sets of studies to justify their claims. **The course's foundation is centred around the biological, cognitive, and sociocultural factors of explaining human behaviour which allows for application across cultures and social environments.** The internal assessment involves replication of a past psychological study and practicing the experimental method in the social sciences."

All of the information provided is sourced from the IB History and Psychology curriculum documents.