History in the IB Program

Nature and organization of the course

The History course in the International Baccalaureate program, both at the advanced (HL) and (SL) level, is dedicated to all candidates interested in studying law, administration, political science, international relations and all fields of social sciences. With that being said, the skills of critical thinking, research writing and analysis that are an integral part of the course will be extremely useful in any chosen field of study.

Studying history goes far beyond knowing the events of the past. The organization of the course is focused on understanding events in their broad political, social and economic context and understanding the various world-changing processes in order to critically evaluate history from a national, European and global perspective. Comprehensive historical knowledge allows for an in-depth understanding of contemporary conditions, dependencies, conflicts, etc.

The course places a strong emphasis on developing critical thinking and analysis skills, developed by discussing issues from different perspectives and interpretations of historians and a wide range of diverse sources. During the course, students are encouraged to discuss and argue based on solid premises and evidence. As in any field of social science, students are expected to deepen their knowledge through additional reading. During the course there is no one textbook, as is usually the case with history in the Polish curriculum. Students use the list of textbooks, readings and materials prepared by the teacher to ensure that they explore the topics discussed and build a balanced picture of the past.

The course is based on selected, key aspects of contemporary history - the 19th and 20th centuries, taking into account both national, European and world history. Students also have the opportunity to develop their own interests by carrying out research work (Internal Assessment and Extended Essay) and submit suggestions for the subject of classes.

As part of the course, students are prepared to pass the International Baccalaureate which consists of:

Paper 1 (HL & SL) - focuses on the comparative analysis, interpretation and evaluation of various historical sources concerning the history of the 20th century: The move to global war. Two case study focusing on the expansionist policies of Japan, Italy and Germany in relation to the outbreak of the 2nd World War.

Paper 2 (HL & SL) – two analytical essays on 20th-century history:

• Evolution and development of democratic states: 1848-2000

Causes and effects of 20th century wars

Authoritarian states: 20th century

Paper 3 (HL)* - three analytical essays on issues from 19th and 20th century European history:

- Europe and the First World War: 1871-1918
- From Versailles to Berlin: Diplomacy and Foreign Policy 1919-1945 (Versailles to Berlin: Diplomacy in Europe: 1919-45)
- Central and Eastern Europe after World War II (Post-war central and eastern Europe: 1945-2000)
- * Paper 3 for HL level only

Internal assessment (HL & SL): an individual research paper in an academic format on a topic chosen by the student.

The work is focused on critical examination and analysis of a given topic. As part of this assignment, students have the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and research skills acquired during the two-year history course. While working on IA, students have the opportunity to pursue their individual interests.

Recommended literature:

- 1. Davis N. (jak najnowsze wydania, przynajmniej po 2000 r.)
- Serce Europy, 2014 (SL/HL)
- Europa (HL)
- Europa walczy 1939-45 (SL/HL)
- Europe East and West: A Collection of Essays on European History (HL/SL)
- 2. Kennedy P., Mocarstwa świata. Narodziny Rozkwit Upadek. Przemiany gospodarcze i konflikty zbrojne w latach 1500-2000, 1994 (SL/HL)
- 3. Lowe J., The concert of Europe: International relations 1814-1870, Access to history (HL)
- 4. Wandycz P., Pax Europea. Dzieje systemów międzynarodowych w Europie 1815-1914, Kraków 2003 (SL/HL)
- 5. Williamson D.G., War and Peace: International relations 1878-1941, Access to history (SL/HL)
- 6. Arendt H., Korzenie totalitaryzmu, Warszawa 1993
- 7. Bullock A., Hitler i Stalin żywoty równoległe, t. I-II, Warszawa 1994
- 8. Friszke A., Polska. Losy państwa i narodu 1939–1989, Warszawa 2003
- 9. Krasuski J., Europa Zachodnia po II wojnie światowej dzieje polityczne, Poznań 1990
- 10. Mikeln M., Stalin, Warszawa 1990
- 11. Overy R., Trzecia Rzesza Historia Imperium, 2012
- 12. Pajewski J., Pierwsza wojna światowa 1914–1918, Warszawa 1998
- 13. Pipes R., Rosja, komunizm i świat. Wybór esejów, Warszawa 2002
- 14. Roszkowski W., Półwiecze. Historia polityczna świata po 1945 r., Warszawa 1998
- 15. Seria "Access to history"