ST PAULS IB DP HISTORY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2024-2026

History is the second most popular subject in the DP program, behind Mathematics and has the highest number of HL students. In 2023 43,472 took HL History and 7,910 took SL. The average grade for HL was 4.29 and for SL 4.54

The breakdown looks like this:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Standard Level | 0 | 0.0% | 1.9% | 7.6% | 25.6% | 28.4% | 25.8% | 10.7% |
| Higher Level | 0 | 0.2% | 2.7% | 10.1% | 23.8% | 32.3 % | 17.8% | 5.7% |

The Grades have been improving; mainly due to students memorising set points for Paper One. For most US schools it is compulsory for students to do History, you can imagine what our grades would be if everyone at St Paul’s had to do history. There is also potentially a lot to revise and a lot of students don’t do enough. There is also a particular way to write history answers and I marked a lot of papers where the students knew the material, but they had not been taught the correct style to answer.

Really you should take this as an opportunity. Universities know that history has low average scores, so if you get a high score then you will stand out. You would have to be exceptionally lazy to get a four.

WHAT WE WILL STUDY

There is a lot of crossover with what you studied in IGCSE. The depth of content required by DP history is not much higher. What is much harder is the level of historical analysis required and being able to write evaluatively.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prescribed Subject | Standard Level | Higher Level Option  History of Europe | Internal Investigation |
| Paper One  (1 hour)  30% SL  20% HL | Paper Two  (1 hour 30 minutes)  45% SL  25% HL | Paper Three  (2 hours 30 minutes)  35% HL | 25% SL  20% HL |
| **The Move to Global War**  • Japan 1931-1945  • Italy and Germany | **Authoritarian States**  • Hitler’s Germany  • Mao’s China  **Cold War: Superpower Tensions and Rivalries**  • Khrushchev and Mao will be our leaders.  • Congo in 1960 and Berlin in 1961 will be our crises  • The GDR will be one of our societies with the other TBD. | • **Imperial Russia, revolution and the establishment of the Soviet Union (1855–1924)**  • **Diplomacy in Europe (1919–1945)**  • **The Soviet Union and post-Soviet Russia (1924–2000)** | Student chooses any historical topic to investigate.  It is strongly recommended that it is on the time period studied in class. |

HOW WILL WE WORK

All notes and resources will be available on mrspencehistory.com. HL will have their notes in

I will not be checking your note taking, this is for you to manage individually.

Textbooks are available both physically and digitally.

You will not be able to memorise all the content. Much is context. The skill in IB history is filtering the important information to prepare your essay responses in your exam.

PREDICTED GRADES FOR UNIVERSITY

The school policy for predicted grades to University will be followed. Your IA will be due shortly before your teacher has to submit their predicted grade. This may be used to move your score up.

COURSE AND ASSESSMENT

I have set out below, what we will do and our aim for how long it will take. This is aspirational and I have built in 5 weeks in case some units go too long and to build in some classes for doing your IA.

Only IB style questions will count towards your reporting grades. There will be formative assessments to improve your understanding, which will not count for your grade but may inform conversations with your parents

The assessment load is being kept as light as possible to ensure you have plenty of time for your IA’s in your other subjects. The majority of Semester Two will be given over for your IA, but this will mean that your draft will count as a Summative Assessment, but with a lower grade boundary than usual.

HL only has three lessons every ten days. The bulk of the homework will be in HL.

Assessments provide an indication of your mastery of certain skills and are not indicative of what your final grade will be.

THE IA

Your IA should be 2,200 words. This comprises of four parts.

1. Identification and evaluation of sources (500 words)
2. Investigation (1300 words)
3. Reflection (400 words)
4. Bibliography

You may select your own question; it is highly recommended that you pick your topic from material that we have studied in class. Last year the average score for someone who picked material from class was 19.4 and for those who picked a topic outside the course it was 17.2. Suitable questions are in the process of being collated.

To properly complete the first section, it is recommended that you have access to a sizeable primary source. You will have 20 hours of class time to complete the IA and that will include interviews with me. One draft will be read by me.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Semester One 2024 | | Semester One 2025 | |
| SL Content  Move to Global War  Emergence of Nazi Germany | HL Content  Alexander II – The Tsar Liberator?  Alexander III & Nicholas II | SL Content  Aims and Results of Policies  Cold War 1945-1961 | HL Content  International Relations during the Interwar Period (cont’d)  Stalin & Khrushchev |
| SL Assessment  Paper One (Japan) – HW  Paper One (Italy) – Test  Exam  Paper One (Germany) | HL Assessment  Paper One (Japan) – HW  Paper One (Italy) – Test  Exam  One Paper One  One Paper Three | SL Assessment  Final IA (August)  Paper Two (Cold War)  Exam (Full Mock) | HL Assessment  Exam (Full Mock) |
| Semester Two 2025 | | Semester Two 2026 | |
| SL Content  Emergence of the CCP  Hitler and Mao’s Maintenance of Power | HL Content  The Russian Revolutions  Lenin and the USSR  International Relations during the Interwar Period | SL Content  Cold War 1961-1989  Revision | HL Content  Brezhnev, Andropov & Chernenko  Gorbachev and the Fall of the USSR  Post-Soviet Russia up to 2000. |
| SL Assessment  IA – Section 2 Draft (End of April)  IA – Section 1 & 3 (end of May)  Exam  Two Essay Questions  (One known and one unknown) | HL Assessment  IA – Section 2 Draft due (End of April)  Paper 3 timed essay  Exam  Two Essay Questions  (One known and one unknown) | SL Assessment | HL Assessment |