

SUPERVISOR NOTES FOR ICCE COURSEWORK TITLES | MAY 2022

General Certificate (1,000 words)

A discursive or argumentative essay is required.

You are being required to give reasons and provide evidence for your argument, not simply recount the story.

Key words / instructions

The key words for the General Certificate are:

Assess: - Decide to what extent something is true – using relevant research that considers different sides of the argument. State how far you agree with the proposition in your conclusion. Examine closely, with a view to ‘weighing up’ a particular situation. Consider in a balanced way the strengths and weaknesses or points for and against a proposition. In conclusion, state your judgement clearly.

Explain: - Clarify, interpret, and spell out the material you present, giving reasons for important features or developments.

Compare: - Describe the main points of similarity and difference between two or more things.

Contrast: - Describe the main points of difference between two or more things.

Do you agree? Take a position on the statement and defend it.

To what extent is? - Give a thorough assessment of the evidence in presenting an argument. Explore alternative explanations if present. You are expected to argue your case, offering evidence to support your view(s). It also gives you the opportunity to discuss both weaknesses and strengths for a case.

The Social Studies Essay topics (General) with pointers start on the following page. The pointers for Supervisors are in **red** text. Students must not have access to these additional pointers.

1. Explain the importance of Magna Carta.

- Note the key word
- Understand the position of a Plantagenet King before Magna Carta
- Examine clauses of Magna Carta
- What changed for the King?
- What changed for the barons?
- What were the immediate outcomes (king not above the law, limited taxation, re-established parliament)?
- What were the long-term effects to the present day and across the world (development of human rights, development of other constitutions)?
- What is its legacy?

2. Assess the significance of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

- France before Napoleon
- The effects of Napoleon's reign on France, Russia, and Europe
- The effects of outcome of the Battle of Waterloo on France
- How it affected the balance of power
- How it influenced the development of Europe as we know it today
- The development of nation states and world superpowers
- Brought Napoleonic wars to a conclusive end (weakened France so lost to United Germany later)
- Had a role in destabilizing the balance of power
- Nation state vs European state
- Gave room for the development of nation states
- Caused radical changes in France (loss of support for 'La Gloire')
- Creation of generation of peace
- Further development of the British Empire/It paved the way for the UK to become a global power
- And laid the foundations for the eventual emergence of the US as the world's superpower
- The battle heralded an age of German nationalism, eventually leading to World War 2
- It has implications for the future of the European Union
- Waterloo laid the groundwork for NATO and the United Nations

3. In the twentieth century, to what extent was the 2nd World War caused by the outcome of the 1st World War?

- Look at the Treaty of Versailles and the effects of its clauses
- Look at the effect of its clauses on Germany
- What solutions did Germany seek?
- Look at the actions and responses of other countries post WW1.
- Consider other factors not caused by the outcome of WW1
- Treaty of Versailles (which was unfair on Germany in terms of reparations)
- Poverty and rampant inflation
- Destabilized society
- Looking for solutions, someone to blame, law and order – led to rise of Hitler as he promised this
- Consider other factors not caused by outcome of WW1
- Eugenics (pre-WW1)
- New states in Eastern Europe who were weak and ripe for the taking by Hitler
- A devastated Germany and France appeased Hitler to prevent another war
- US Policy of isolationism to avoid being drawn into another European conflict
- In Asia, Japan turned to militarism and began taking over European holdings
- Ineffectual League of Nations
 - During World War 2, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin created a new international security agency, the United Nations, with hope of preventing WW3.

4. Is it better for countries to have a Welfare State or a model that requires private health and social care? Choose two countries with contrasting models to illustrate your answer.

- Identify the services provided by the Welfare State
- Consider the benefits that a Welfare State brings
- Consider the argument against, including its effects temporally and spiritually on individuals and society
- Don't forget to illustrate with two contrasting example countries
- For: Easy access to health care, less death; More care for the poor; Improved education, health, social services for all (closed class gap; improved equality); Designed to get people back on their feet; Focus on support to children; Reduce risk of societal collapse?
- Against: Take advantage of the system (health and social) – fraud; Lazier – don't work (less incentive to work); Attitude of entitlement; Dependency on state for survival; Self-sufficiency (don't realize need for God); State can be too intrusive; Higher taxes to sustain economy; Doesn't address core problem of poverty

5. Explain the impact of the Dutch East India Company as it relates to a country of your choice.

- Choose your country (e.g. Japan, Taiwan, South Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Netherlands, etc.)
- Consider the state of the country before the Dutch East India Company
- What benefits did it bring (age of discovery; brought back items; art; economic)?
- What negative impact did it have on the country (slave trade; wars)?
- Long-term effects (establishment and rule of nations; settlements in your country of choice; infrastructure)

6. Explain the impact of climate change on food security.

- Define climate change
- What is a Biblical perspective on climate change? (CMI, AiG)
- Define food security
- Consider the range of impacts (growth of Sahara, flooding, droughts, fires) and how this relates to food security
- Decide whether or not it does have an impact on food security and to what extent?