

# Oral Topic List and Instructions

## Oral Exam Topic List

**Topic One: Soldiers and Civilians in WW1**

**Topic Two: Totalitarianism – Nazi Germany**

**Topic Three: World War Two**

**Topic Four: Crisis of the Cold War (Berlin, Vietnam, Cuba)**

**Topic Five: Global Urbanization + Urban Areas in France**

### **STEP ONE: Randomly selecting your Oral Exam Topic**

At the time of the exam you will pull two of the five possible topics identified above out of an envelope (each topic has several guiding questions to help you develop your presentation and select one for the exam).

### **STEP TWO: Preparing your Oral Exam Presentation**

You will have **15 minutes** to prepare your presentation using the guiding questions for each of the above topic to help you organize a 5-10 minute presentation. Answer each question in order. You will notice that the guide questions become more challenging. The first one or two ask you to **describe** (show your knowledge) the next ones to **explain (analyze)**, and the last one requires your **evaluation** (give your judgment and support it with evidence or examples).

### **STEP THREE: Passing the Oral Exam**

The exam lasts **15 minutes**. The first part of the exam is your **5 to 10-minute presentation**. The rest of the time will be spent discussing your presentation and then moving on to discuss some of the other topics you have studied in History and Geography during the year.

### **Grading Criteria**

The examiners will take into consideration your level of knowledge, understanding and your oral presentation skills including level of English fluency in determining your grade.

# Topic One: Soldiers and Civilians in WW1

## GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR 10m PRESENTATION:

1. Describe the main opposing powers and the phases of WW1.
2. What were conditions like in the trenches?
3. Explain the importance of the Battle of Verdun and/or the Battle of the Somme.
4. Why is the mass violence that was used against the Armenians considered to be a genocide?
5. Explain how the fighting stopped in 1918.
6. **Discuss** how the outcome of WW1 made a future war inevitable.

# Topic Two: Totalitarianism – Nazi Germany

## GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR 10m MINUTE PRESENTATION:

1. Define totalitarianism.
2. How did Hitler and the Nazi Party come to power?
3. Identify the main features / ideas of the Nazi Regime?
4. How was propaganda used by this regime?
5. **Discuss** how Nazi policies resulted in the Shoah/Holocaust.

# Topic Three: World War Two

## GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR 10m MINUTE PRESENTATION:

1. Identify the Allies and the Axis Powers.
2. What were some of the key events during the war?
3. Explain what the 'Final Solution' was and how this led to the Shoah.
4. Do you agree with the decision to use the Atomic bombs?
5. **Discuss** how the world became divided between two ideologies and a Cold War developed after 1945.

# Topic Four: Crisis of the Cold War (Berlin, Vietnam, Cuba)

## GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR 10m MINUTE PRESENTATION:

1. Define the term 'Cold War' and when it took place
2. Explain the opposing ideologies.
3. Discuss US and Soviet policies and actions in Europe in the Cold War
4. Using an example, explain how the superpowers confronted each other in one or more crisis you have studied.
5. **Discuss** which side you think was most to blame for the Cold War and why?

# Topic Five: Global Urbanisation + Urban Areas in France

1. Define urbanization and identify major cities around the world.
2. What are the characteristics of and functions of urban areas?
3. Locate the main urban areas in France.
4. Describe the organization of urban space in France.
5. Explain the importance and influence of Paris
6. **Discuss** why urban areas are vital to French, European and World economy in the 21<sup>st</sup>