

Research Essay

You are to choose one of the following topics and compose an **8 – 10 page essay that is typed, double spaced, and single sided**. Anything hand written will not be marked. Your essay will have an introduction with clearly defined thesis sentence listing the 3 specific areas you will focus on to prove yourself, well developed body paragraphs (3, except in the case of comparative essays where you will have 6) with documented support (this means parenthetical references and a works cited page), and conclusion. You should have between 4 – 6 sources that **MUST BE** referenced in your essay. This essay will assess your communication and application skills, be marked out of 60, and graded using the following rubric, which must be submitted with your final copy. I also expect to see an edited rough draft attached. Please ensure that your good copy is single sided and that you use MLA format. You must also include a cover page.

Also, you will need to submit one copy electronically to Turn-it-in, but I will mark your paper copy.

- 1) Listen to the song and read the lyrics, “A League of Nations” by Al Stewart. Explain how this song illustrates how Europe was responsible for the mess it found itself in, not only by 1939, but also in the post war period of the 50’s and 60’s. Remember that your thesis must have 3 clearly identified areas that you’ll argue to prove it.
- 2) Discuss the importance of sea power in maintaining and building colonial empires.
- 3) Listen to the song, “The Great Nations of Europe” by Randy Newman. Comment on the effects the Portuguese, and explorers such as Christopher Columbus, and Vasco Nunez de Balboa had in the development of Western Europe.
- 4) Explain how Christianity was responsible for its own demise in the Renaissance.
- 5) Comment on the importance of women to the Enlightenment and French Revolution.
- 6) Explain how important the Medici family was to the Italian Renaissance.
- 7) Looking at politics and economics in the 17 and 1800’s, which view was the more accurate one? That held by mercantilists or physiocrats?

- 8) In a comparative essay, argue the idea that modern day social liberal and progressive governments are another incarnation of the Enlightened Despots of the 18th Century?
- 9) Examine the notion that the abhorrent practice of slavery was not a North American or European institution. As Europeans travelled the globe they encountered many other civilizations who engaged in the enslavement of others.
- 10) Listen to the song “Revolution” by the Beatles and read the lyrics. Explain how this song was not an anthem for the socialist/communist revolution that the Marxists in the West envisioned in the later part of the 20th Century.
- 11) Some in Russia long for a return to the days of Stalin. Should they?
- 12) Explain, in your opinion, 3 reasons why Marxism fails.
- 13) Explain what led to Napoleon’s downfall.
- 14) Examine what Pol Pot’s policies did to Cambodia once he seized power, and whether or not the green policies of European countries risk creating a society similar to it.
- 15) Of all the Germanic states, why was Prussia the one to rise to prominence and unite Germany?
- 16) Choose one political ideology that began in Europe in the industrial revolution and discuss its impact on the rest of the world. Was it for the better or worse?
- 17) Has big government and the Welfare State been good for Europe?
- 18) Choosing either the American or French Revolution, find an example of a 20th Century revolution that found its inspiration in either one of them. You must be able to identify 3 specific connections.
- 19) Why does anti-Semitism still exist in Europe today?
- 20) Read the following passage:

“We know that we cannot count on Soviet promises. Thirty-six years of experience have taught us that Communists never respect a treaty if they consider it in their interest to break it. They are not restrained by any moral scruple, humanitarian principle, or religious sanction. They have dedicated themselves to the employment of any means, even the foulest, to achieve their conquest of the world. The Soviet Union will not stop of its own volition. It must be stopped... The way to survival for the free peoples of the world is not the way of wishfully hoping for peace when there is no peace; not by trusting that somehow the Soviet Government may be persuaded to abandon its monstrous effort to conquer the world; not by appeasing the forces of evil; but by swinging the world balance of power so strongly against the Communists that, even when they possess the weapons of annihilation, they will not dare to use them. There is little time. Within a few years the Soviet Union will possess the means to vanquish the United States. We must act now. Where can we act.”

From: “General Elections. - New Prime Minister and Cabinet. - President Rhee's Visit to U.S.A. - Speech to Congress. - Call for Attack on Communist China with U.S. Air and Naval Support. - Warning against Rearmament of Japan.”

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Substitute China for Soviet Union and argue if there is any validity to this idea.

- 21) While many today decry nationalism, discuss the impact it had in EITHER Africa or Asia during the Cold War period. Was this impact positive or negative? And if it was positive then, why (all of a sudden) is it negative today?
- 22) With the collapse of communism in the 20th Century, some say that the Marxist movements of Western Europe have simply incorporated themselves into the Green Movement of the late 20th and early 21st Centuries. Is this correct?
- 23) Identify the characteristics of a totalitarian state and agree or disagree with the notion that Canada is becoming one.
- 24) In the 20's and 30's The Progressive movements in Europe and North America believed in social engineering (eugenics for example). In fact, the Nazi party borrowed their ideas on eugenics when devising their policies on handling those they felt were “unfit” for society. Some have likened Canada's current MAID program to the T-4 Euthanasia Program of Nazi Germany. Discuss the notion of what it means to be progressive in today's political landscape and if modern progressives are just as extreme as their predecessors from the 20's and 30's.