

IA PART B GUIDE - PRE SUMMER CHECKLIST

- ☐ Do you know what is expected of you?

- ☐ Do you have a firm topic?

- ☐ Do you have an idea what your research question is going to be?

- ☐ How many sources do you have?

- ☐ Are they all credible and appropriate?

- ☐ Do you have a plan for the summer

- ☐ Do you know HOW to write this paper?

- ☐ By Checking this box I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I DO NOT COMPLETE PART B BY THE DEADLINE I WILL NO LONGER BE ENROLLED IN THIS CLASS.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE MARKING CRITERION: HOW TO ACHIEVE 13-15

- Writing is CLEAR (language must be tight) and COHERENT (well-reasoned)
- You have used LOGICAL, TIGHT structure that advances the investigation toward your conclusion
- You have conducted ON-GOING CRITICAL ANALYSIS of the topic (investigation) and your sources
- The investigation (essay) is FOCUSED on the RESEARCH QUESTION (not a wandering undisciplined discussion)
- Evidence from a RANGE of sources has been USED [this requires more than name dropping, or the insertion of convenient quotes, you need to CRITICALLY ANALYSE all sources, demonstrating HOW they support the argument you are making.]
- You have included varying PERSPECTIVES - ie. different schools of historical thought, different time periods/contexts.
- Your essay has built toward a reasoned and well-argued, well-evidenced CONCLUSION.

STEPS IN WRITING THE INVESTIGATION

STRUCTURING THE ESSAY

- Objective:
 - Critically analyze the research question using evidence and perspectives.
 - Introduction:
 - Provide a couple of sentences of context that introduce the reader to the content of the investigation.
 - Itemize the main issues that will be addressed in each of the main body paragraphs to follow. Introduce areas of contestation that the essay will address.
 - Give a sense of the main argument or the thesis that you will develop throughout the essay.
- Main body paragraphs:
 - Each aspect of the response should be developed in a paragraph. Conventionally there will be three or four aspects/main body paragraphs
 - Each aspect should be introduced through a topic sentence.
 - It should be explained using historical evidence. The more specific the detail the better.
 - Sophisticated responses will refer to perspectives and show developed understandings of schools of thought that are relevant to the research question.
- Conclusion
 - Approximate word count for a conclusion: There is no clear rule about this, but try to get between 50-150 words, to ensure a few things:
 - That your conclusion is not a huge paragraph of new material that should have been in your body paragraphs.
 - That you allow yourself enough scope to weigh the arguments you posed and evaluated in your investigation and reach a reasoned conclusion.
 - Here you draw the ideas and information together. Many essay topics offer a quote to ask you to make a judgment, so this is where you do that (as long as it flows from the body of your essay.
 - The question often uses phrases like: "How far do you agree that...", "To what extent is it true/accurate....", "evaluate the accuracy of..."
 - This means that you are deliberately re-stating the contention of your investigation (your 'answer' to the research question you made), and re-summarising the arguments you made in each body paragraph to discuss the question. You must do this in your conclusion just like you did in your introduction.
 - A good way to ensure that you remain relevant to the ends is to make your final statement a further reworking of the question:

- e.g. "While economic factors definitely influenced the crisis, it was clearly the political considerations which were at the base of the events which unfolded in."
- You need to ensure that you are using a 'concluding tone', which means that you are using words and phrases like:
- E.g: "Therefore there were many factors that contributed to the making of a revolutionary situation in Russia by February 1917..."
- The writing will be in past tense, and talk about the rest of the essay's content as though it has already been discussed (which it should be :))