

# History

## The subject

History is a dynamic and evidence-based discipline that involves an exciting engagement with the past. It is a discipline focused around key historical concepts such as change, causation and significance. History is an exploratory subject that fosters a sense of inquiry. It is also an interpretive discipline, allowing opportunity for engagement with multiple perspectives and a plurality of opinions. Studying history develops an understanding of the past, which leads to a deeper understanding of the nature of humans and of the world today.

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) history course is a world history course based on a comparative and multiperspective approach to history. It involves the study of a variety of types of history, including political, economic, social and cultural. The course emphasizes the importance of encouraging students to think historically and to develop historical skills as well as gaining factual knowledge. It puts a premium on developing the skills of critical thinking, and on developing an understanding of multiple interpretations of history. In this way, the course involves a challenging and demanding critical exploration of the past.

## The Teachers



Martin Fog-Nielsen (FN)



Rasmus Juul (RI)



Allan Sortkær Pedersen (ASP)

## History and Theory of Knowledge

History is one of the eight areas of knowledge that are at the centre of the TOK course. It is an interesting area of knowledge because it raises questions such as how far we can speak with certainty about anything in the past, and whether historians' accounts are necessarily subjective. All of the elements of the history course provide excellent scope for making links to TOK. However, the most explicit link to TOK comes in the internal assessment task. Students are required to reflect on what completing their historical investigation taught them about the role of methods used by, and challenges facing, the historian. This provides excellent links to TOK, where students will, for example, compare the methods used to gain knowledge in history with the methods used to gain knowledge in other areas of knowledge.

## History and International-mindedness

The DP history course is designed in such a way as to explicitly reinforce the emphasis on the development of international-mindedness. For example, one of the key concepts that weaves throughout the course is perspectives, and, more specifically, an emphasis on encouraging students to appreciate multiple perspectives. In addition, all students are required to study case studies and examples from different regions of the world, with comparison of such examples helping to ensure that the course adopts a transnational perspective. Teachers also have a great deal of freedom to choose relevant examples to explore with their students, helping to ensure that the course appropriately meets their students' needs and interests regardless of their location or context. Throughout the DP history course, students have the opportunity to explore historical events that have played a key role in shaping the world today, deepening their understanding of the complex and interconnected nature of past and present events. For example, students explore historical examples of many of the global challenges facing the world today, such as conflict, rights and governance. This helps to meet one of the central aims of the course—to increase students' understanding of themselves and of contemporary society by encouraging reflection on the past.

Skills and toolkit (ATL)	Topics	Assessments objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thinking skills</li><li>• Communication skills</li><li>• Social skills</li><li>• Self-management skills</li><li>• Research skills</li></ul>	<p>Areas of Exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The move to global war (Japan, Germany and Italy in the interwar years)</li><li>• Authoritarian States (Nazi Germany, Mao China and Fascist Italy)</li><li>• Causes and effects of 20<sup>th</sup> century wars (World War 1, Spanish Civil War, Second World War in the Pacific and the Chinese Civil War.</li><li>• History of the Americas (HL only) (The great depression, the Second World War and the Cold War and the Americas).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and understanding</li><li>• Application and analysis</li><li>• Synthesis and evaluation</li><li>• Use and application of appropriate skills.</li></ul>

### Link to IBO subject brief

<https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/programme-information/dp/history-sl-2020-eng.pdf>