

Washtenaw International High School World Studies – Final Project

Overview

The idea of the project is to engage leaders, philosophers, and ideas from across all of the cultures and civilizations we learned about this year in one conversation about essential questions in life. You will be part of a team that reviews and focuses on one specific person and the historical context in which s/he learned and lived. This will culminate in a final conversational debate about several essential questions with other leaders from across the globe and across time periods.

Specifics


- Your **team will be assigned** by your teacher along with your person or area of research.
- The **possible people** who will be involved in the final debate or discussion include:
 - Hammurabi
 - Cyrus the Great
 - Asoka
 - Arjuna/Krishna
 - Confucius
 - Buddha
 - Hanfeizi
 - Laozi
 - Draco
 - Cleisthenes
 - Socrates/Plato
 - Julius Caesar
 - Alexander the Great
 - Jesus
 - Muhammad
- The **essential questions** to be discussed or debated include:
 - *What is the purpose of life?* Consider ideas such as why we live, whether there is an afterlife, what we should do in our daily lives, etc.
 - *What is just rule?* Consider what people’s natural behavior is like, how leaders and rulers should behave, and how to define “just” or “fair” rule.
 - *What is the function of society?* Consider why we create and live in groups, what people need from another, and how people should interact within a society.
- You will need to do the following **individually**. Your teams serve the purpose of helping each other to find information and share ideas, but your grade will be an individual grade (see Rubrics for details).
 - Complete attached **notes’ organizer** with the relevant information that demonstrates your understanding of relevant vocabulary, key ideas, and potential conflicts.
 - Use concrete **evidence** from class to help support your points.
 - Complete your individual **reflection** about the assignment and the essential questions in World Studies for this year.
 - Participate in the final class **discussion/debate**. You must be able to answer and engage in conversation with others as if you are your assigned person.


Deadlines


Thursday June 5 (A Class) or Friday June 6 (B Class) – Completed notes’ organizer due
Wednesday, June 11 (A Class) or Thursday, June 12 (B Class) – Completed reflection due
During Assigned Final Exam Time – Discussion/Debate


Rubrics

Included below are the rubrics for how you will be graded. This information should be demonstrated in your notes and participation. This will be your final exam score for World Studies.

IB MYP Criterion		A – Knowledge & Understanding		Year 4 (Grade 9)	
Terminology (A.i.)	10 – Excels Consistently uses a wide range of terminology effectively	8 – Proficient Uses a range of terminology accurately and appropriately	6 – Approaching Uses some terminology accurately and appropriately	4 – Concern Uses some terminology accurately	2 – Attempted Uses limited relevant terminology
Historical Context (A.ii.)	20 – Excels Demonstrates detailed understanding of social, political, and other historical factors and their impacts on the leader	16 – Proficient Demonstrates substantial understanding of social, political, and other historical factors and their impacts on the leader	12 – Approaching Demonstrates adequate understanding of social, political, and other historical factors and some impacts on the leader	8 – Concern Demonstrates basic understanding of social, political, and other historical factors with limited impacts	4 – Attempted Demonstrates limited understanding of social, political, and other historical factors and impacts
Core Beliefs (A.ii.)	20 – Excels Demonstrates detailed understanding of the person’s core beliefs with substantial evidence	16 – Proficient Demonstrates substantial understanding of the person’s core beliefs with some evidence	12 – Approaching Demonstrates adequate understanding of the person’s core beliefs with some evidence	8 – Concern Demonstrates basic understanding of the person’s core beliefs with limited evidence	4 – Attempted Demonstrates limited understanding of the person’s core beliefs with minimal evidence
Comments				Criterion Total	 50

IB MYP Criterion		C – Communicating		Year 4 (Grade 9)	
Information & Ideas (C.i.)	10 – Excels Communicates relevant information and ideas effectively and accurately by using a style that is completely appropriate for the audience and purpose	8 – Proficient Communicates relevant information and ideas accurately by using a style that is mostly appropriate for the audience and purpose	6 – Approaching Communicates relevant information and ideas satisfactorily by using a style that is somewhat appropriate for the audience and purpose	4 – Concern Communicates relevant information and ideas at a basic level by using a style that is somewhat appropriate for the audience and purpose	2 – Attempted Communicates relevant information and ideas in a limited way by using a style that is limited in its appropriateness for the audience and purpose
Reflection (C.ii.)	10 – Excels Carefully and thoughtfully explains personal growth, attitudes, and future growth	8 – Proficient Thoughtfully explains personal growth, attitudes, and future growth	6 – Approaching Explains at a basic level elements of personal growth, attitudes, and future growth	4 – Concern Offers a limited explanation of personal growth, attitudes, and future growth	2 – Attempted Offers a minimal and limited explanation of personal growth, attitudes, and future growth
Comments				Criterion Total	 20

IB MYP Criterion		D – Thinking Critically		Year 4 (Grade 9)	
Opposition (D.iv.)	15 – Excels Thoroughly interprets a range of different perspectives on the topic(s) and their implications	12 – Proficient Interprets different perspectives on the topic(s) and their implications	9 – Approaching Interprets different perspectives on the topic(s) and some of their implications	6 – Concern Interprets different perspectives on the topic(s) and minimal implications	3 – Attempted Identifies different perspectives on the topic(s) and minimal implications
Counter Arguments (D.ii.)	15 – Excels Synthesizes information to make valid, well-supported arguments in response to others	12 – Proficient Synthesizes information to make valid arguments in response to others	9 – Approaching Synthesizes information to make limited arguments in response to others	6– Concern Summarizes information to make arguments in response to others	3 – Attempted Summarizes information to a limited extent to make arguments in response to others
Comments				Criterion Total	 30

OVERALL SCORE				
Comments			Total	 100

Personal Assignment

In the space below, write your team, assigned person, and mark the question that you will focus on for the debate/discussion.

Team: _____

Person: _____

Question:

- What is the purpose of life?
- What is just rule?
- What is the function of society

Good luck!

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

World Studies Notes' Organizer

Complete the following as part of your final project grade. Bulleted lists are fine, but be sure to include some evidence and sources of evidence.

Finding Information

Person	
Civilization	
Terminology to Use (in context)	
Historical Context (Political & Social) <i>Consider person's role, sentiment towards society, broader environment during time period, contact with foreigners, etc.</i> Note EVIDENCE (sources).	

Core Beliefs

Consider how society should work, how people should interact, what people are naturally like, the purpose of life, what leaders should do, how leaders should behave, etc.

Note

EVIDENCE

(sources).

(1) What is the purpose of life?

(2) What is just rule?

(3) What is the function of society?

Developing Your Arguments

Use the information you've found to develop your core arguments. You must prepare notes for all three questions, but only have to participate in a debate/discussion about one of them.

Question	Essential Argument	Key Evidence/Quotation	Source
What is the purpose of life?			
What is just rule?			
What is the function of society?			

Preparing for Opposition

Identify at least 3 other people who you will likely disagree with about some element of this discussion. Note what their beliefs would be and how you would respond to their argument.

Opposition (Name & # of Question in Debate)	His Views/Argument	My Counter Argument/Response

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

World Studies – Final Reflection

Towards the beginning of the year, you were given 6 questions to answer:

1. What is needed for people to live in one place?
2. How do religions and beliefs systems from East Asia compare and contrast with those starting in the Middle East?
3. What is the life cycle of an empire?
4. How do empires view and work with outsiders?
5. Why do societies isolate themselves and/or give up freedoms that they previously enjoyed?
6. What are the main reasons that bring societies into conflict with another?

Now, at the end of the year, pick one of those questions to answer again. Write the **number of the question and your response** (including examples to help prove your point) in the space below.

Question # _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Look back at your response from the start of the year. In the space below, explain **how you think you have grown** over this year. (This could be in terms of knowledge, writing skills, attitude, communication skills, collaborative abilities, critical thinking, etc.)

Consider your work on your work throughout the year and for final project in this class. **What are you able to do now that you would/could not have done at the start of the year?** What is one thing that you did that challenged you or pushed you outside your comfort zone? (This could be in terms of your individual participation, specific skills, collaboration with others, etc.)

With this growth in mind, think ahead to next year. Come up with **at least 2 personal goals** you have for next year – *at least one should be related to social studies or the IB learner profile*. List these goals below, and briefly explain why or how you hope to accomplish them.