

IB History Year 2 HL or IB History SL

Optional Summer Assignment—100/100

3 Options (Choose ONE)

- A. You do not have to submit any summer assignment 0/0. This will not affect your grade!
- B. Complete BOTH Economics and Personal Finance before the first day of school = 100/100
 - see career services for details
- C. Complete Book Review/Critique (see below) for any non-fiction book on 20th century history (minimum 250 pages). Send me a link to the book for approval =100/100

The Summary

A summary consists of a discussion of the major features, trends, themes, ideas, and characteristics. It should be no more than 2 typed pages.

- Use your own words. Combine ideas from the book into new sentences of your own. Avoid copying the original language and put quotes around any that you do borrow. Summarizing is a good way to learn, to assimilate material, but the process doesn't work very well unless you translate the original into your own language.
- Generally, it is best when summarizing to follow the organization of the original.
- Your aim should be to give a true but condensed picture of the book, including the way it is organized.
- **Give a background review on the author.** You may need to look him/her up in the library or on the internet

The Critique

A critique consists of your thoughts, responses, and reactions to what you have read. This is the heart of your review. It should be no less than 3-4 typed pages and the following questions are examples of the kind you should consider as you read your book and prepare the critique.

- What are **the theme(s) of the book** and how effectively and in what ways does the theme(s) of the book or arguments of the author reflect what you already know? Explain your response.
- What do you believe to be the **author's aims**? How well has the author achieved his/her aims? Are these aims supported or justified?
- Does the **author seem fair and accurate**? Is there any distortion, exaggeration, or diminishing of material? Is the overall interpretation biased, subjective, slanted, and/or objective? Does the author try to look at both sides of the issue? Use evidence from the book to support your answer.
- Is there **enough information** in the book? Explain.
- What is your **overall opinion of the book, and why**? Is the book interesting or boring? Does the material presented raise your curiosity about the subject? Did you feel satisfied, disappointed, or puzzled by the book? How well is the book written? (Should you use quotes as examples, keep them very short -- preferably no more than one sentence.) Explain all responses
- What is **distinctive or noteworthy** about the book? (Give examples where useful.)