

Themes in Global Studies

Regents Thematic Essay Review

THEME ESSAY TOPICS

- GEOGRAPHY – 3 FEATURES AND HOW THEY INFLUENCED CULTURE/HISTORY OF A REGION
- NATIONALISM – 1 COUNTRY OR REGION
- CHANGE (IDEAS) – 2 INDIVIDUALS
- INTELLECTUAL LIFE – 2 INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR WRITINGS
- BELIEF SYSTEMS – 2 BELIEF SYSTEMS
- HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS – 2 EXAMPLES
- GEOGRAPHY – 2 FEATURES THAT HELPED OR HURT CULTURAL DIFFUSION
- GEOGRAPHY – 2 EXAMPLES OF HOW HUMANS CHANGE THEIR ENVIRONMENT
- BELIEF SYSTEMS – 2 BELIEF SYSTEMS
- CHANGE – 2 NONPOLITICAL REVOLUTIONS
- POLITICAL SYSTEMS – 2 DIFFERENT ONES
- POLITICAL CHANGE – 2 EXAMPLES
- HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS – 2 EXAMPLES
- TRADE – 2 EXAMPLES
- CONFLICT – 1 EXAMPLE
- CHANGE – 2 LEADERS/PHILOSOPHERS/Individuals
- MODERN GLOBAL PROBLEMS – 2 EXAMPLES
- CHANGE – 2 POLITICAL EVENTS
- ECONOMIC SYSTEMS – 1 EXAMPLE
- TURNING POINTS – 2 EXAMPLES
- NATIONALISM – DEFINITION AND 1 EXAMPLE
- CONFLICT – 2 CONFLICTS
- CHANGE – 1 POLITICAL REVOLUTION

1.Change

Changes have had significant and lasting impact on world history

- A. Neolithic Revolution
- B. Scientific Revolution
- C. Agrarian Revolution
- D. Industrial Revolution
- E. French Revolution
- F. Latin American Revolution
- G. Communist Revolution

Theme #1: Change

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **Describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) **Discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and arguments; to present in some detail”

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Change

Throughout global history, there have been major political, social, economic, cultural and technological revolutions. These revolutions have a variety of complex causes, and often have a great impact of the people involved.

Task:

- Select **two** Revolutions (non-violent or violent) from your study of Global History
For **each** Revolution,
 - Describe the **Causes** of that particular revolution
 - Discuss the **Effects** of that revolution had on the society involved

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Neolithic Revolution, French Revolution, Latin American Revolutions, Agrarian Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Commercial Revolution, Scientific Revolution, Russian Revolution, Chinese Communist Revolution or the Green Revolution.

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

2. Turning Points

Turning points have political, social and cultural impact

- A. Fall of the Roman Empire
- B. Crusades
- C. Renaissance
- D. Enlightenment
- E. Protestant Reformation
- F. Discovery of the Americas
- G. Collapse of Communism

Theme #2: Turning Points

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **Describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) **Explain** means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Turning Points

Political, economic and social conditions have often led to turning points that have changed the course of history for nations and people.

Task:

- Identify two turning points from your study of global history.
 - Describe the causes and key events that led to the turning point
 - Explain how each turning points changed the course of history for that nation, region or people involved

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Protestant Reformation, Enlightenment, the Crusades, Renaissance, Discovery of the Americas, Fall of the Roman Empire, Cold War and the Collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union.

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

3. Belief Systems

Belief systems are the established, orderly ways in which groups look at religious faith

- A. Animism
- B. Judaism
- C. Christianity
- D. Islam
- E. Hinduism
- F. Buddhism
- G. Confucianism
- H. Taoism
- I. Legalism
- J. Shintoism

Theme #3: Belief Systems

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) Describe means "to illustrate something in words or tell about it"

(b) Discuss means "to make observation about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Belief Systems

There are a variety of belief systems practiced throughout the world today. Many of these beliefs have developed massive following, and as a result have had a considerable amount of influence on culture in the areas where they are practiced.

Task:

- Choose **two** belief systems from your study of global history
- For **each** belief system
 - Identify the nation or region where it was founded
 - Describe two basic teachings
 - Discuss how the belief system has influence the culture of the areas in which it is practiced.

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Animism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Confucianism and Legalism

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

4. Geography

The national surroundings of the land have a significant impact on the cultures of the groups that live there

A. River Valleys

- Ancient Civilizations

B. Mountains

- Greek City-states
- Isolation of China

C. Islands

- Japanese Expansion
- British Imperialism

D. Natural Resources

- Gold/Salt Trade in Northern Africa
- British Imperialism

Theme #4: Geography

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **Explain** means "to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of"
- (b) **Discuss** means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Geography

Geographic features have affected the development of a nation or region both positively and negatively. These factors have also promoted or hindered cultural diffusion.

Task:

- Explain **two** geographic features from your study of global history
 - For **each** region,
 - Explain how the geographic feature has had an effect (positive/negative) on the historical development of that region
 - Discuss how the geographic factor promoted or hindered cultural diffusion

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; River valleys (Ancient civilizations), Mountain regions (Greece), Deserts (Isolation of China), Islands (Industrialization of Japan, Great Britain), Climate Zones (Africa) and Irregular Coastlines (Greece)

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

5. Economic Systems

Economic systems include various business systems that include all the times and ways that goods and services are produced and distributed

- Traditional Economy
- Manorialism
- Mercantilism
- Laissez-Faire Economics
- Commercial Revolution
- Capitalism
- Communism

Theme #5 Economic Issues

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

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- (b) **Describe** means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"
- (c) **Discuss** means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Economic Systems

Societies have developed different economic systems for many reasons. These economic systems have changed their societies both positively and negatively.

Task:

- Choose two economic systems that has been used throughout Global History
For **each** economic system;
 - Discuss the historical circumstance surrounding the development of that economic system
 - Describe two features of economic system
 - Discuss the effect that that economic system had on the society it was used in

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include: Manorialism, Communism, Traditional Economic System, Mercantilism and Capitalism

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

6. Political Systems

Political Systems address certain questions on the roles and responsibilities of government,

- A. Absolute Monarchy
- B. Feudalism
- C. Democracy
- D. Republic
- E. Totalitarianism
- F. Communism
- G. Fascism
- H. Militarism

Theme #6 Political Systems

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"
- (b) *Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Political Systems

Political Systems have affected the history and culture of nations and societies. These governments have had both positive and negative effects on the people that it governed.

Task:

- Choose **two** political systems;
For **each** economic system;
 - Describe the characteristics of the political system
 - Discuss the effects (positive/negative) that that political system had on the society that it was used

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include: Absolute Monarchy, Limited Monarchy, Direct Democracy, Republic, Theocracy, Communism, Feudalism and Fascism

You are **not** limited to these suggestions.

7. Culture and Intellectual Life

Culture includes the patterns of human behavior that a society passes on to future generations

- A. Greek Civilization
- B. Roman Civilization
- C. Gupta Golden Age
- D. Islamic Golden Age
- E. Renaissance
- F. Mesoamerican Civilizations
- G. Enlightenment
- H. African Civilization

Theme #7 Culture and Intellectual Life

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) *Explain* means "to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of;
- (b) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Culture and Intellectual Life

Throughout history, many cultures have experienced a Golden Age when great advances were made in a variety of different fields. These cultures developed new patterns of thought that have shaped global history.

Task:

- Choose **two** different cultures that experienced a Golden Age
For **each** Golden Age;
 - Describe specific achievements of each culture identified
 - Explain how these achievements influenced Global History

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the Islamic civilizations, Gupta Dynasty in India, the Tang Dynasty in China and the Renaissance in Europe

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

8. Nationalism

Nationalism is a feeling of pride and devotion to one's country to one's country

- A. German and Italian Unification
- B. Zionist Movement
- C. African Independence Movement
- D. Pre-World War I Conflicts
- E. Latin American Independence Movement

Theme #8: Nationalism

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) Discuss means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and argument; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Nationalism

Nationalism has been shaping world events for the past 500 years. The desire for self-rule can cause tremendous change both positively and negatively. Individuals have also played huge roles in leading nationalistic movements that effect people and nations

Task:

- Choose **two** nationalist leaders from your study of global history
 - For **each** leader;
 - Identify the nation or region where that individual led a nationalist movement
 - Discuss the historical background leading up to that nationalist movement
 - Discuss how the actions of the specific nationalist leader have influenced the region or

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Simon Bolivar, Jose de San Martin, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Fidel Castro, Camilo Cavour, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Giuseppe Mazzini, Otto von Bismarck, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, Mohandas Gandhi, Jomo Kenyatta, Nelson Mandela or Yasir Arafat

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

9. Imperialism

Imperialism is the domination by one country of the political and economic life of another country

- A. British in India
- B. European Involvement in Africa
- C. Meiji Restoration in Japan
- D. Pre-World War I Rivalries
- E. Mongol Empire
- F. Byzantine Empire
- G. Colonies in the Americas

Theme #9 Imperialism

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"

(b) *Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Imperialism

Imperialism is the domination by one country of the political and economic life of another country or region. Imperialism has had both positive and negative effects on the colonies.

Task:

- Choose two examples of Imperialism during Global History;
For **each** example;
 - Describe the causes for the Imperialist takeover
 - Discuss the effects on the society taken over by the Imperialist power

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Mongol takeover of Asia, British involvement in India, European Imperialism in Africa, European Colonization of the Americas, Meiji Restoration in Japan, European Imperialism in China, Pre-World War II Japan Imperialism in Asia, Nazi Imperialism in Europe

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

10. Diversity and Interdependence

Diversity involves understanding and respecting oneself and others including cultural differences

- Middle East
- Greek Empire
- Roman Empire
- Muslim Differences
- Indian Cultures

Theme #10 Diversity and Interdependence

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"
- (b) *Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Diversity and Interdependence

Throughout history, various cultures have blended together to create vast empires. These cultures relied upon each other in mutually beneficial interactions and exchanges. Sometimes, the refusal to accept diversity leads to conflict.

Task:

- Choose two examples of diverse cultures working together during Global History;
For *each* example;
 - Describe the achievements of that culture
 - Discuss the lasting effects of these cultures on global history

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Roman Empire, Greek Empire, Byzantine Empire, Modern Environmental Issues, Balkan Region in Eastern Europe, Mongol takeover of Asia, Muslim and Hindu interactions in India, Middle East Tension

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

11. Justice and Human Rights

Throughout history, law codes have tried to create social order by establishing fair and just laws that promoted equality among its members

Justice

- A. Code of Hammurabi
- B. English Bill of Rights
- C. Twelve Tables of Roman Law
- D. Ten Commandments

Human Rights

Violations

- A. Holocaust
- B. Yugoslavia
- C. Rwanda

Theme #11: Justice and Human Rights

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) *Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and argument; to present in some detail"

(b) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Justice and Human Rights

Justice is fair, equal or appropriate treatment given to individuals in societal or governmental interactions. Throughout history, the human rights of certain groups of people have been violated.

Task:

- Choose **two** examples of human rights violations that have occurred in Global History\
For **each** example;
 - Describe the causes of these human rights violations
 - Discuss the historical background leading up to that nationalist movement
 - Discuss one specific effort that was made to deal with the violation

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Christians in the early Roman Empire, Native Peoples in Spain's American colonies, Untouchables in India, Jews in Nazi Germany, Muslims in Bosnia, Kurds in Iraq, or Tibetans in China, Tiananmen Square demonstration in China

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

12. Movement of People and Events

Cultural Diffusion is the constant exchange of people, ideas, goods and technology from one civilization to another

- A. Muslim Influence in Africa
- B. Silk Road
- C. Crusades
- D. Bubonic Plague
- D. Irish Potato Famine
- E. Columbian Exchange

Theme #12: Movement of People and Goods

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) *Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"
- (b) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Movement of People and Goods

Cultural diffusion is the constant exchange of people, ideas, products, technology and institutions from one region or civilization to another. This movement of people from one region to the next has had both positive and negative effects on global history.

Task:

- Choose **two** examples in global history of people movement
For **each** example;
 - Describe the causes of these movements
 - Discuss the effects (positive, negative or both) of the movement

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; The Crusades, Silk Road in China, Columbian Exchange between Americas and Europe, Bubonic Plague, Potato Famine in Ireland and Gold and Salt Trade in Africa.

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

13. Science and Technology

Technology means the tools and methods used by people to get what they need and want

A. Neolithic Revolution

B. Invention of the Printing Press

C. Scientific Revolution

D. Advancements in Exploration

E. Green Revolution

Theme #13 Science and Technology

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **Explain** means "to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of;
- (b) **Analyze** means "to determine the nature and relationship of the competent elements"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Science and Technology

Science and technology means the tools and methods used by people to get what they need and want. These advancements have played a critical role in altering the course of human history.

Task:

- Choose **two** scientific or technological advancement that had a major effect on global history
For **each** advancement;
 - Explain the relationship between the advancement and the specific historic event or period in history
 - Analyze how these advances changed the course of history

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include; Neolithic Revolution, Development of the Steam-engine, Development of the Printing Press, Development of Interchangeable Machine Parts, Development of the Astrolabe and the Modern Environmental Movement

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

14. Conflict

Throughout history, conflict (violent and non-violent) has caused political, economic or cultural changes

- A. Crusades
- B. World War I
- C. World War II
- D. French Revolution
- E. Communist Revolutions
- F. Communist Expansion
- G. Cold War
- H. Arab-Israeli Conflict

Theme #14 Conflict

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"

(b) *Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail"

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Conflict

Throughout history, there are many different causes of violent and non-violent conflict. The results of the conflicts had both expected and unexpected conflicts.

Task:

- Choose **two** conflicts in Global History;
For **each** conflict;
 - Describe the economic, social, political reason for the conflict
 - Discuss the effects (either unexpected, expected, both) of the conflict

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include: The Crusades, World War I, World War II, Cold War, French Revolution, Latin American Revolutions, Communist Revolution, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.

15. Modern Issues

Today's world is a web of connections and interactions causing both negative and positive changes

- A. Global Communication
- B. United Nations
- C. Environmental Cooperation
- D. Global Terrorism
- E. Global Migrations
- F. Nuclear Proliferation
- G. Green Revolution

Theme #15 Modern Issues

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

In developing your answer to the Thematic Essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) *Explain* means "to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of;
- (b) *Describe* means "to illustrate something in words or to tell about"
- (c) *Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning and arguments; to present in some detail

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several body paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion

Theme: Modern Issues

Since the end of World War II, the world has faced many issues that have affected countries, regions and the global community. The solutions to these issues are often complex and have met with varying degree of success.

Task:

- Choose **two** Global Issues that have occurred since the end of World War II
For **each** Global Issue;
 - Describe how this issue has affected a specific country or region or the global community
 - Explain a solution that has been proposed to address the issues
 - Discuss the extent to which the solution has been successful in solving the issue

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include: United Nations, Deforestation, Nuclear Proliferation, AIDS epidemic, Famine, Terrorism, Pollution, Desertification and Pollution

You are *not* limited to these suggestions.