Junior Year

Unit 1 – United States Civil War: causes, course and effects 1840-1877 (Aug. – Sept. – Oct.) Paper 3
This section focuses on the United States Civil War between the North and the South (1861-1865), which is often perceived as the great watershed in the history of the United States.
- Cotton economy and slavery
- Origins of the Civil War: political issues, states’ rights, sectionalism, nullification crisis
- Abolitionist debate: ideologies and arguments for and against slavery
- Reasons for, and effects of, westward expansion and the sectional debates
- Strengths and weaknesses of the Union and Confederacy
- Major battles of the Civil War: Antietam and Gettysburg; the role of foreign powers
- Reconstruction: economic, social and political successes and failures
- African-Americans in the Civil War and in the New South: Black Codes and Jim Crow laws

Unit 2 – Emergence of the Americas in global affairs 1880-1929 (Nov.- Dec.- Jan.) – Paper 3
This section focuses on modernization in the region, and its impact on foreign policy. Modernization shaped the new nations and its effects created the basis for a major shift in foreign policy of the region.
- United States’ expansionist policies: political, economic, social, and ideological
- Spanish-American War: causes and effects (1898)
- United States foreign policies: Big Stick, Dollar Diplomacy, Moral Diplomacy
- The U.S. and the First World War: reasons, ideals and Versailles; impact on hemispheric status
- Involvement and participation of Canada in World War I
- Impact of World War I on two countries of the Americas: economic, political and social

This section focuses on the causes, course and impact of the Mexican Revolution that occurred in a country that had experienced a lengthy period of political stability and economic growth.
- Causes of the Mexican Revolution
- The revolution and its leaders: Madero, Villa, Zapata, Carranza
- Construction of the post-revolutionary state: Obregon, Calles, and the Maximato
- Cardenas and the renewal of the revolution
- The role of foreign powers (especially the U.S.) in the development of the revolution.
- Impact of the revolution on the arts, education and music

Unit 4 – Stalin and the Soviet Union (March – April) – Paper 2
Unit 5 – Hitler and Germany (April – May) – Paper 2
Units 4 and 5 fall under the Paper 2 topic: Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states. The following themes will be studied:
- Conditions that produced Stalin’s and Hitler’s authoritarian states
- Totalitarianism: the aim and the extent to which it was achieved
- Methods of control: force, legal, treatment of the opposition
- Form of government: left-wing / right-wing ideology, structure of the government
- Economic, social and religious policies
- Role of education, the arts, the media, propaganda, status of women and minorities

Senior Year

Unit 1 – The Second World War and the Americas (August – September) - Paper 2 and 3
Hemispheric reactions to the events in Europe: Inter-American diplomacy; cooperation and neutrality; Roosevelt’s Good Neighbor policy
- The diplomatic and/or military role of two countries in the Second World War
- Social impact of the Second World War on: African-Americans, Native Americans, women and minorities; conscription
- Treatment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese-Canadians
- Reaction to the Holocaust in the Americas
- Impact of technological developments and the beginning of the atomic age
- Economic and diplomatic effects of World War II in one country of the Americas
Unit 2 – Chinese Civil War (September – October) - Paper 2

War was a major feature of the 20th century. In this topic, the different types of war will be identified, and the causes, practices and effects of these conflicts will be studied

- Type of war: civil, guerilla
- Causes: long and short term causes; ideological and political causes
- Nature of war: technological developments, tactics and strategies, air, land and sea
- Effects and results of the war

Unit 3 – Mao Zedong and China (October – November) - Paper 2

The origin, ideology, form of government, organization, nature and impact of Mao’s regime will be studied.

- Conditions that produced Mao’s regime
- Totalitarianism: the aim and the extent to which it was achieved
- Methods of control: force, legal, treatment of the opposition
- Form of government: left-wing / right-wing ideology, structure of the government
- Economic, social and religious policies
- Role of education, the arts, the media, propaganda, status of women and minorities

Unit 4 – The Cold War (November – December – January – February)

The Cold War – Paper 2

This topic addresses East-West relations from 1945. It aims to promote and international perspective and understanding of the origins, course and effects of the Cold War. It includes superpower rivalry and events in all areas affected by Cold War politics such as spheres of interest, wars (proxy), alliances and interference in developing countries.

- Ideological differences, mutual suspicion and fear
- Superpowers and spheres of influence; alliances
- Policies of containment, brinkmanship, peaceful coexistence, détente
- Role of significant leaders
- Arms race, proliferation and limitation
- End of the Cold War


This section focuses on the development and impact of the Cold War on the region. No nation escaped the pressures of the Cold War, which had an impact on the domestic and foreign policies of the countries of the region.

- Truman: containment; the rise of McCarthyism; impact on society and culture
- Korean War and the Americas: reasons for, military developments, outcomes
- Eisenhower and Dulles: New Look and its application
- Vietnam: reasons for U.S. involvement, military developments, outcomes
- United States foreign policies from Kennedy to Carter
- Cold War in one Latin American country

Unit 5 – Prescribed Subject 3: Communism in Crisis 1976-1989 – (March – April) Paper 1

This subject addresses the major challenges – social, political and economic – facing the regimes in the leading socialist (Communist) states from 1976 to 1989.

- The struggle for power following the death of Mao Zedong
- China under Deng Xiaoping: economic policies and the Four Modernizations
- China under Deng Xiaoping: political changes, culminating in Tiananmen Square in 1989
- Domestic and foreign policies under Brezhnev: stagnation, Afghanistan
- Gorbachev and his aims / policies (glasnost and perestroika)
- Consequences of Gorbachev’s policies for Eastern Europe: Poland, Czechoslovakia, fall of the Berlin Wall

Review for May Exams (April – May)

Exams (May)

Internal Assessment: In addition to the topics above, students are required to complete an Historical Investigation of their choosing.