

HOW TO STUDY FOR THE GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY REGENTS EXAM (MR. SFORZA'S RECOMMENDATIONS)

Everyone learns differently, and everyone has different ideas about the best ways to study. Ultimately, each of you will decide what works best for you. Still, I have a few recommendations about how to effectively prepare for the exam.

Part I. Multiple Choice (55% of your score)

In my opinion, the best way to prepare for the multiple choice section is to do as many practice multiple choice questions as possible. Luckily, there are a ton of resources available to you online. All of the old Regents' Exams and answers are available online for you to print out and use. Barron's and Cliff's review books are even better because they provide written explanations for the questions.

Part II. Thematic Essay (15% of your score)

I feel that this is the most important section of the exam to prepare for. Because no documents are provided, you have to provide all of the information for your essay. The good news is that you can choose your topic as long as it pertains to the theme. I recommend spending a good portion of your study time becoming an "expert" in:

1. **Two** belief systems (ex. Communism, Islamic fundamentalism) *UNLIKELY ON TRANSITION EXAM*
2. **Two** human rights violations (ex. blacks in South Africa, Jews in Nazi Germany);
3. **Two** scientific or technological advancements (ex. telescope, nuclear power, steam power; internet);
4. **Two** political revolutions (ex. Russian, French, Chinese, Iranian, Cuban, Mexican);
5. **Two** non-political revolutions (ex. Scientific, Enlightenment, Industrial; Green);
6. **Two** great empires (ex. British, Soviet Union);
7. **Two** geographic factors (ex. island locations of Japan and Britain; size & climate of Russia);
8. **Two** natural resources & how they impacted a society (ex. coal; oil);
9. **Two** global issues (ex. deforestation; desertification; nuclear weapons; terrorism);
10. **Two** examples of imperialism [reasons for it & effects of it] (ex. Great Britain, France, Belgium, Japan)
11. **Two** individuals who have changed history (ex. John Locke, Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela);
12. **Two** nationalistic movements (ex. Hitler, Bismarck, Gandhi, Bolivar)
13. **Two** economic systems (ex. Europe during the Industrial Revolution, the Soviet Union between 1917 and 1990, Japan after World War II, China since 1949, Cuba since 1959);
14. **Two** conflicts (ex. World War I, World War II, the Chinese civil war, the partition of India, the policy of apartheid in South Africa);
15. **Two** trade organizations (ex. the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the European Union (EU)).

IMPORTANT NOTE: The seven themes that have been on a Regents Exam used *more than once* over the years are: Individuals; Revolutions/Turning Points; Geography; Human Rights; Belief Systems; Science & Technology; Conflicts; and Environmental Issues. The three themes that have occurred the most (by far) on the Regents Exams are: Individuals; Revolutions/Turning Points; and Geography.

Part III (A&B). DBQ Short Answer (15% of your score) & Essay (15% of your score)

Success on the short-answer section will be based on the reading comprehension and analysis skills you have developed over the last two years. You probably won't improve your chances much by studying for it. Similarly, success on the DBQ essay will rely on your ability to organize an essay, use the documents to support an argument, and incorporate outside information. Hopefully, you have already developed these skills. Your study time is better spent preparing for Parts I and II.