

# World War I: Causes

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## *In-Class Essay Questions, for 14 November 2013*

Choose **ONE** question to answer in a proper essay-format.

You will have 2 minutes and 30 seconds of reading time and 45 minutes of writing time.

1. “Wars frequently begin ten years before the first shot is fired.” **To what extent** does this statement explain the outbreak of the First World War?
2. **To what extent** was nationalism the major factor behind the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914?
3. **Assess** the relative importance of the long-term and short-term causes of the First World War.
4. **Assess** the contribution of military preparedness as a cause of the Great War.
5. In what ways and for what reasons have tactics changed in twentieth century warfare?
6. **Assess** the social and economic causes of World War I.

## **Essay Prompts as defined by the IB** (understand these!!!)

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*You should understand and internalize all of these prompts to ensure you will ANSWER the question*

**Analyse:** Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.

**Compare:** Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Compare and contrast:** Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Contrast:** Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Define:** Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.

**Describe:** Give a detailed account.

**Discuss:** Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.

**Distinguish:** Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.

**Evaluate:** Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.

**Examine:** Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.

**Explain:** Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.

**Identify:** Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.

**Justify:** Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.

**To what extent:** Consider the merits ('how') or otherwise ('how not') of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound argument.