**Topic 1 Causes, Practices and Effects of War in the Twentieth Century**
1985-2014
(Compiled from 10 Topic and 6 Topic Format)

[Since 1998, the pattern is: two subject specific questions, two questions allowing a choice of examples, and one question on social, cultural, or intellectual issues.)

1. Compare the two World Wars from the point of view of A. weaponry, B. strategy and C. the impact of these two factors on combatants and civilians. (1985) (SL)

2. Analyze the causes of any ONE civil war in the twentieth century. What effect did the war of your choice have on the unity and stability of the country concerned? (1985) (SL)

3. "The Wars between the Arabs and the Israelis have resolved none of the issues which divide the two peoples."

   How valid is this assertion? (1985) (SL)

4. "Wars are basically exercises in military power for the achievement of nationalistic goals."

   How reasonable is this statement as a summary of the causes of ONE of the following wars?
   (a) the First World War (b) the Arab-Israeli Wars c) the Vietnam War (1987) (HL)

5. Compare the First and Second World Wars from the point of view of the impact of weaponry on (a) tactics and strategy (b) the role and involvement of civilians. (1987)

6. With reference to any ONE war of national liberation since 1945 show how and why that war was successful in achieving its objective of victory over, and independence from, the oppressor. (1987)

7. How did the decisions reached at Yalta and at Potsdam affect EITHER post-war Europe OR post-war Asia? Consider (a) political stability; (b) national boundaries ©) economic reconstruction and development. (1987)

8. "By definition, the 'immediate' causes of war pose a greater threat to peace and are, therefore, more important than the 'long term' or 'basic' causes."

   Consider the validity of this assertion in the case of any twentieth century war of your choice. (1988) (HL)
9. With reference to EITHER the two World Wars OR any two twentieth century wars of your choice, show how the use of aircraft has changed the nature and the practices of war. Reference should be made to (A) war on land; (B) war at sea; (C) war in the air; (D) psychological warfare; and (D) any other relevant aspect. (1988) (HL)

10. "The effects of civil war may include the healing of rifts in society and the promotion of national unity." To what extent is this claim borne out or refuted by any civil wars you have studied in the twentieth century? (1988) (HL)

11. How true is it to claim that the Arab-Israeli wars since 1948 have aggravated rather than resolved the issues which divide the two sides? (1988) (HL)

12. As causes of war since 1945, assess the importance of (A) nationalist aspirations; (B) ideological conflicts, and (C) religious differences. Answer with reference to at least TWO wars. (1989) (HL)

13. Choose TWO battles or campaigns from EITHER the First OR Second World War, and show how they affected the subsequent course and eventual outcome of the war. (1989) (HL)

14. "Scientific and technological advance play an important part in the nature and outcome of wars." Compare the two World Wars with this claim in mind. (1989) (HL)

15. "Wars settle nothing." Examine the validity of this claim with reference to any twentieth century war you have studied. (1989) (HL)

16. "Wars may be started by a single incident. They are never caused by such an incident." With reference to any ONE twentieth century war show how far you agree with this statement. (1990) (HL)

17. How comprehensively are the characteristics of "total war" illustrated by the Second World War? (1990) (HL)

18. "Guerrilla warfare is a most effective weapon of the weak against the strong, for the oppressed against the oppressor." With reference to any wars in which guerrilla fighting has been used, discuss the validity of this claim. (1990) (HL)

19. To what extent has any civil War in the twentieth century settled the issues that caused it? (1990) (HL)

20. "War is the locomotive of history" (Leon Trotsky). With reference to any ONE war in the twentieth century, consider to what extent war has acted as an accelerator/catalyst of (A)
technical; (B) economic; (C) social, and (D) political change. (Nov. 1990) (HL)

21. "Guerilla warfare is essentially as much political and social as it is military, in both its purpose and its means." With reference to at least TWO wars, illustrate the necessity of joint political and military action in achieving success in twentieth century guerilla warfare. (Nov. 1990) (HL)

22. How far do you agree with the view that the Second World War was "the Unnecessary War." (Nov. 1990) (HL)

23. How has "total war" affected: (A) the role of women in society; (B) refugees and displaced persons; (C) the distinction between civilian and military targets and (D) control of national resources. (Nov. 1990) (HL)

24. How far do you agree that the reasons used to justify going to war are often modified during the course of the war? Answers should make reference to at least TWO twentieth century wars. (1991) (HL)

25. "Countries are seldom left to fight out their own civil wars." With reference to TWO civil wars in the twentieth century assess the validity of this claim. (1991) (HL)

26. How and to what extent are the course and outcome of a war determined by its location? Answers should refer to: (A) the terrain and theater of war; (B) communications and supply lines; (C) distribution of population; (D) types of weapons/armaments. Answer with reference to any ONE war in the twentieth century. (1991) (HL)

27. "A victor's peace will not last unless the defeated side is destroyed completely. Peace settlements negotiated on a basis of equality are much more likely to be durable." Does twentieth century history support this assertion? (1991) (HL)

28. Discuss briefly the immediate effects that the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 had on the progress of the Second World War. Comment on how the existence of the "bomb" has subsequently affected the practices of war in terms of global conflict. (1992) (HL)

29. With reference to any civil war of the twentieth century, examine the social, economic and political background to the divisions in the society involved. To what extent were the problems which produced the war resolved in the post civil war period? (1992) (HL)

30. How valid is it to claim that Europe "stumbled into" a world war in 1914? (1992) (HL)

31. "Wars create more problems than they solve." Discuss this claim with reference to the
causes and results of any TWO wars (each chosen from a different region) during the
twentieth century.  (1992) (HL)

32. Why do wartime alliances tend to change post-war rivalries? Illustrate your answer with
reference to at least TWO twentieth century wars. (1993) (HL)

33. "Wars are caused by miscalculations of the aggressor and the failure of politicians and
diplomats to exercise crisis management." Discuss the validity of this statement with
reference to ONE twentieth century war. (1993) (HL)

34. Assess the significance and importance of air power in any TWO twentieth century wars.
(1993) (HL)

35. "Peace settlements are ineffective unless accompanied by total military victory." Does
twentieth century bear this out.? (1993) (HL)

36. "Political factors, not economic considerations, are the major cause of modern war."
With reference to ONE twentieth century war, discuss this view.  (1994) (HL)

37. "War is much too serious a thing to be left to military men." (Talleyrand). With reference
to at least TWO twentieth century wars, each chosen from a different region, estimate the
importance of generals in (a) influencing the decisions to go to war, (b) shaping military
strategy, and c) establishing war aims.  (1994) (HL)

38. Compare and contrast the role of technology in ONE world war and ONE civil war of
your choice.  (1994) (HL)

39. What were the original causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict? In what ways have the causes
changed since 1948?  (1994) (HL)

40. "Germany must bear the ultimate responsibility for the outbreak of the First World War."
How far do you agree with this judgement?  (1995) (HL)

41. Explain the success or failure of TWO guerilla wars each chosen from a different region.
(1995) (HL)

42. With reference to ONE civil war, evaluate the impact of outside nations on (A) the
conduct and (B) the results of the war.  (1995) (HL)

43. "This is not a peace.  It is an armistice for twenty years." How accurate was Marshall
44. “The Second World War had one victor, the United States, one loser, Germany, and one hero, Britain.” Assess the validity of this claim. (1996) (HL)

45. “The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them.” (Mao Zedong [Mao Tse-Tung]). To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples from TWO different regions. (1996) (HL)

46. The one consistent winner of modern warfare has been technology; the consistent loser has been humanity.” (Ziegler) Discuss with reference to new technology in at least TWO wars, each chosen from a different region. (1996) (HL)

47. Compare the relative importance of foreign intervention and domestic considerations in the outcome of the Korean War. (1996) (HL)

48. “Each war has its own particular causes.” Is this the case, or can evidence be given that twentieth century wars have common causes? Support your answer from at least TWO wars each chosen from a different region. [1997] [HL]

49. What were the major developments in military technology from 1914 to 1945? [1997] [HL]

50. To what extent has war resolved the issues of conflict between Arabs and Israelis? [1997] [HL]

51. What do you understand by “total war”? Select one twentieth century war to illustrate your answer? [1997] [HL]

52. To what extent has any twentieth century war changed the role of women? [Specimen] [1998]

53. How far do you agree with the view of some recent historians that Chamberlain’s appeasement of Hitler at Munich was NOT a mistake? [Specimen] [1998]

54. “The First and Second World Wars were European civil wars that required outside intervention to settle.” How far do you agree with this quotation? [Specimen] [1998]

55. Examine the extent to which guerrilla warfare has been successful since 1945 in any two wars each chosen from a different region. [Specimen] [1998]

56. In what ways did Truman’s policy of “limited warfare” in Korea set the pattern of military conflict up to 1990? [Specimen] [1998]
57. To what extent should Germany be held responsible for causing both the First and Second World Wars? [HL] [1998]

58. Why was there so much civil strife and civil war in China during the first half of the twentieth century? [HL] [1998]

59. Compare and contrast the outcome and effects of two revolutionary wars, each chosen from a different region. [HL] [1998]

60. How and why has guerilla warfare been used in the twentieth century? Examples should be given from at least two different groups. [HL] [1998]

61. Explain the impact of war on two of the following: women; the arts; the media. [HL] [1998]

62. To what extent can it be said that the First World War was caused by the alliance system? [HL] [1999]

63. Evaluate the role of ideological differences in two civil wars each chosen from a different region. [HL] [1999]

64. In what ways and for what reasons have tactics changed in twentieth century warfare? [HL] [1999]

65. How valid is the claim that treaties are not necessary to end wars? Support your answer with evidence from at least two regions. [HL] [1999]

66. Explain, with specific examples from their work, how artists have reacted in two of the following: Mexican Revolution; Spanish Civil War; Vietnam War. [HL] [1999]

67. Assess the importance of nationalism and of selfish ambition as causes of twentieth century wars. Reference must be made to at least two wars. [HL] [2000]

68. Examine critically two treaties and evaluate their success in resolving the armed conflicts which necessitated the treaties. [HL] [2000]

69. Compare and contrast the effects for the country concerned of two of the following: the Chinese Civil War; the Nigerian Civil War; the Spanish Civil War. [HL] [2000]

70. Assess the significance of either the Mexican Revolution (1910 to 1940) or the Vietnam War (1964 to 1975). [HL] [2000]
71. In what ways have wars (a) caused suffering and hardship to women and (b) helped promote women’s equality? Specific evidence must be given from at least two regions. [HL] [2000]

72. Analyse the reasons for the outbreak of war either in Algeria in 1954, or in Korea in 1950. [HL] [2001]

73. In what ways and for what reasons did foreign intervention play an important role in two civil wars, each chosen from a different region? [HL] [2001]

74. Evaluate the successes and failures of one twentieth century treaty in addressing the causes of conflict, and restoring peace and normality. [HL] [2001]

75. Assess the results of both the Arab-Israeli war of 1956 (Sinai Campaign) and the 1967 Six Day War. [HL] [2001]

76. Using specific examples explain the popularity of war themes in (a) films and (b) novels and/or plays. [HL] [2001]

77. Compare and contrast the causes of the First and Second World Wars. [HL] [2002]

78. Analyse the changes in the nature of warfare during the twentieth century. [HL] [2002]

79. Why were there so many civil wars in the twentieth century? [HL] [2002]

80. Examine the effects of war and the fear of war on the civilian population of two countries, each chosen from a different region. [HL] [2002]

81. “The Korean War was a limited war, a civil war, and an episode in the Cold War.” To what extent do you agree with each part of this assertion? [HL] [2002]

82. What were the most frequent causes of twentieth century wars? Specific evidence from at least three wars should be used. [HL][2003]

83. In what ways, and to what extent, was the Second World War “total war”? [HL][2003]

84. How and why did technological developments play an important part in twentieth century wars? [HL][2003]

85. Analyze the causes and results of one of the following: Chinese Civil War (1945-1949); Mexican Revolution (1910-1940); Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). [HL][2003]
86. “War causes more suffering to women than to men.”
   “War liberates women.”
   Using evidence from at least two wars, explain which statement you consider is more appropriate. [HL][2003]

87. In what ways did the causes of the Second World War differ from the causes of the First World War? [HL][2004]

88. Evaluate the importance of naval warfare in twentieth century wars. Specific examples must be given from at least two wars. [HL][2004]

89. Why were there so many Arab-Israeli wars between 1948 and 1978? [HL][2004]

90. Analyze the results of two wars, each chosen from a different region. [HL][2004]

91. Assess the social and economic effects of one war on two of the countries involved, in the ten years following the end of the war. [HL][2004]

92. Analyse the results of either the First World War or the Second World War. (HL) (2005)

93. Examine the impact of foreign intervention on either the Chinese Civil War or the Spanish Civil War. (HL) (2005)

94. Assess the social and economic causes of one twentieth century war. (HL) (2005)

95. Compare and contrast the use of naval warfare in two wars, each chosen from a different region. (HL) (2005)

96. For what reasons, and with what results, was "limited" warfare a feature of the second half of the twentieth century? (HL) (2005)


99. "No twentieth century war could be called a limited war." To what extent do you agree with this assertion? (HL) (2006)

100. Analyse the causes of either the Spanish Civil War or the Korean War. (HL) (2006)
101. Assess the social results of two wars, each chosen from a different region. (HL) (2006)

102. Analyse the results of either the First World War or the Second World War. (HL) (2007)

103. Examine the impact of foreign intervention on either the Chinese Civil War or the Spanish Civil War. (HL) (2007)

104. Assess the social and economic causes of one twentieth-century war. (HL) (2007)

105. Compare and contrast the use of naval warfare in two wars, each chosen from a different region. (HL) (2007)

106. For what reasons, and with what results, was “limited” warfare a feature of the second half of the twentieth century? (HL) (2007)

107. Compare and contrast the causes of the First World War and the Second World War. (HL) (2008 A)

108. To what extent did changes in military tactics and strategies determine the outcome of twentieth century wars? (HL) (2008 A)

109. “Even in the twentieth century the term ‘total war’ could not be applied to any war.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment? (HL) (2008 A)

110. Analyse the results of either the Mexican Revolution or the Russian Civil War. (HL) (2008 A)

111. In what ways and with what results did two wars, each chosen from a different region, affect the role and status of women? (HL) (2008 A)

112. Compare and contrast the causes of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. (HL) (2008 B)

113. Examine the role of warfare either at sea or in the air in two wars each chosen from a different region. (HL) (2008 B)

114. Why, and with what results, was the First World War not confined to Europe? (HL) (2008 B)

115. Analyse the results of one twentieth century treaty or peace settlement. (HL) (2008 B)

116. For what reasons, and in what ways, did one twentieth century war affect the social and
economic conditions of two countries fighting in it? (HL) (2008 B)

117. Compare and contrast the causes of two twentieth century civil wars. (2009 A)

118. Define guerrilla warfare, and discuss its significance in two wars, each chosen from a different region. (2009 A)

119. Analyse (a) the short-term results, and (b) the long-term results up to 1935, of the First World War. (2009 A)

120. In what ways, and with what results, did either the Korean War or the Vietnam War bring about social and cultural changes in the countries involved? (2009 A)

121. In what ways, and for what reasons, did the nature of war in the air change between 1939 and 1990? (2009 A)

122. Analyse (a) the long-term causes and (b) the short-term causes, of the Second World War. (2009 B)

123. Define limited war and explain to what extent one twentieth century war was a limited war. (2009 B)

124. Compare and contrast the social and economic issues caused by two wars, each chosen from a different region. (2009 B)

125. To what extent did foreign involvement affect the outcome of either the Spanish Civil War, or the Vietnam War? (2009 B)

126. For what reasons, and with what results, did the nature of war at sea change between 1939 and 1990? (2009 B)

127. Select two causes of the Second World War and show (a) how, and (b) why, they led to the outbreak of war in 1939. (Specimen Paper 2010)

128. What do you understand by the term “limited war”? Explain in what ways one twentieth century war could be called a limited war. (Specimen Paper 2010)

129. Assess the importance of air power in two wars, each chosen from a different region. (Specimen Paper 2010)

130. “Those who can win a war well can rarely make a good peace.” Select one peace treaty and, by examining its clauses, explain how the winners treated the losers, and if
you agree with the quotation. (Specimen Paper 2010)

131. What were the main results of two of the following: Iran–Iraq war, Falklands/Malvinas war, Nigerian Civil War, Spanish Civil War? (Specimen Paper 2010)

132. In what ways, and with what results, did the status of women change during, and in the decade [ten years] following, one twentieth century war? (Specimen Paper 2010)

133. Discuss the part played in the outbreak of the First World War by two states (excluding Germany). (2010 A)

134. Analyse the reasons for, and the results of, either the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) or the Chinese Civil War (1946-1949). (2010 A)

135. Assess the significance of naval warfare in determining the outcome of one twentieth century war. (2010 A)

136. "Many twentieth century wars had the characteristics of both a limited and a total war." With reference to two wars explain to what extent you agree with this statement. (2010 A)

137. For what reasons, and with what results, did Iran and Iraq fight a war from 1980 to 1988? (2010 A)

138. For what reasons, and with what results, did twentieth century wars influence the status of women? (2010 A)

139. Select two causes of the Second World War and show (a) how, and (b) why, they led to the outbreak of war in 1939. (2010 B)

140. What do you understand by the term “limited war”? Explain in what ways one twentieth century war could be called a limited war. . (2010 B)

141. Assess the importance of air power in two wars, each chosen from a different region . (2010 B)

142. “Those who can win a war well can rarely make a good peace.” Select one peace treaty and, by examining its clauses, explain how the winners treated the losers, and if you agree with the quotation. . (2010 B)
143. What were the main results of two of the following: Iran–Iraq war, Falklands / Malvinas war, Nigerian Civil War, Spanish Civil War. (2010 B)

144. In what ways, and with what results, did the status of women change during, and in the decade [ten years] following, one twentieth century war? . (2010 B)


146. To what extent did militarism contribute to the origins of the First World War (1914-1918) and the Second World War (1969-1945)? (2011 A)

147. Analyze the impact of guerrilla warfare on the course and outcome of ONE twentieth century war. (2011 A)

148. “No peace treaties have been made since the Second World War.” With reference to TWO specific examples, to what extent do you agree with this statement?” (2011 A)

149. How effective have attempts been to achieve collective security since the Second World War? (1939-1945)? Support your view with specific examples. (2011 A)

150. Assess the economic effects of EITHER the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) OR the Nicaraguan Revolution (1976-1979)? (2011 A)

151. With reference to one war before 1945 and one war after 1945, assess the significance of either air power or naval power in deciding its outcome. (2011 November)

152. “The contribution of outside intervention to victory in twentieth century civil wars was greatly exaggerated.” With reference to two civil wars, each chosen from a different region, to what extent do you agree with this statement? (2011 November)

153. Analyse (a) the causes and (b) the short-term results of either the Algerian War (1954–1962) or the Gulf War (1991). (2011 November)

154. Compare and contrast the social and economic results of two wars fought in the second half of the twentieth century. (2011 November)

155. To what extent did the peace settlements after the First World War (a) deal with the issues which caused the war and (b) produce new problems, hindering future peace? (2011 November)

156. Assess the importance of religious and economic factors in the origins of either the

157. With reference to two examples, each chosen from a different region, assess the factors which helped and hindered successful guerrilla warfare. (2012 A)

158. Analyse the economic and social effects of two wars in the second half of the twentieth century. (2012 A)

159. To what extent were religious issues responsible for the wars between either India and Pakistan (1947-1971) or Iran and Iraq (1980-1988)? (2012 A)

160. Analyse the reasons for, and importance of, foreign intervention in one of the following: the Chinese Civil War (1927-1949); the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939); the Gulf War (1991). (2012 A)

161. In what ways did advances in technology affect the nature and outcome of warfare in the first half of the twentieth century? (2012 A)

162. Assess the importance of each of the following in causing the First or the Second World War: nationalism; alliances; economic factors. (2012 A)

163. Analyse the economic and political causes of two civil wars, each chosen from a different region. (2013 November)

164. “The role of alliances in the origin and expansion of the war in 1914 was greatly exaggerated.” With reference to the First World War, to what extent do you agree with this statement? (2013 November)

165. Why, and with what consequences, was there so little opposition to aggressive expansionism in the period 1931–1939? (2013 November)


167. With reference to the period 1945–1965, analyse the factors that helped and hindered attempts to promote collective security. (2013 November)

168. To what extent was the outcome of either the Falklands/Malvinas War (1982) or the Gulf War (1991) determined by technological developments? (2013 November)
169. Assess the role of each of the following in causing the First World War (1914–1918): the desire for revenge; economic motives; Balkan nationalism. (2013 May)

170. “The length and outcome of the civil war was dependent upon outside involvement.” With reference to two twentieth century civil wars, to what extent do you agree with this statement? (2013 May)

171. With reference to the period 1919–1939, analyse the factors which hindered the maintenance of international peace. (2013 May)


173. In what ways, and for what reasons, did the role and status of women change as a result of twentieth century total war? (2013 May)

174. Account for the use of guerrilla warfare in the Chinese Civil War (1927–1949) and estimate its contribution to Communist victory. (2013 May)

175. With reference either to the First World War (1914-1918 or the Second World War (1939-1945), to what extent was the Allies’ success the result of their superior tactics and strategies? (2014 A)

176. Assess the extent to which religious causes were an important factor in the origins of either the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) or the Indo-Pakistani Wars (1947-1949, 1965, 1971). (2014 A)

177. Assess the factors which determined the result of either the Falklands / Malvinas War (1982) or the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970). (2014 A)

178. In what ways and with what success were attempts made to establish collective security in either the period 1920-1930 or 1945-1955? (2014 A)

179. Examine the political and economic effects of two civil wars, each chosen from a different region. (2014 A)

180. With reference to two guerrilla wars of the twentieth century, to what extent was the guerrillas’ success due mainly to the mistakes of their opponents? (2014 A)