Essay Questions Arranged by Topics 2014
1985-2014

Political developments in the Americas after the Second World War 1945–1979

1. Compare and explain the outcomes of two revolutions in Latin America, one successful, and one unsuccessful. (1985)

2. How far is it possible to interpret contemporary Latin American political and economic systems as either democratic or capitalist? (1985)

3. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the vote seemed the remedy to women's unequal status. Compare and contrast the effects of gaining the suffrage on women's lives in TWO countries of the region. (1987)

4. Explain the rise and fall of Juan Perón and evaluate his impact on Argentina. (1987)

5. Compare and contrast TWO twentieth century Latin American revolutions with respect to (a) causes, (b) goals, (c) leadership and (d) achievements and failures. (1987)

6. Discuss the major political and social results of the Vietnam War for the United States. (HL) (1988)

7. Compare and contrast the role of the army in any TWO of the following countries since 1960: Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Peru. (HL) (1988)

8. What unique problems did Canada face in the 1960's? How successful has she been in dealing with them? (HL) (1988)

9. Trace the development of social welfare legislation in TWO countries of the region and assess its impact on the position of women. (HL) (1988)


11. What forces underlay EITHER the FLQ crisis in Quebec OR the Falklands/Malvinas crisis in Argentina? (HL) (1989)

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14. Analyze and describe the work of (A) the Federal Government and (B) the Courts in obtaining Civil Rights for minorities in the United States since 1945. (HL) (1990)
15. Compare and contrast the aims and achievements of peasant revolutionaries in Cuba and Mexico in the twentieth century. (HL) (1990)

16. Explain the failure of Latin America to match the rapid economic growth of the United States in the twentieth century. (HL) (1990)

17. Discuss the role of the armed forces since 1945 as opponents or sponsors of change in any TWO of the following countries (A) Chile (B) Brazil (C) Bolivia (D) Peru. (HL) (1990)

18. Why have populist and socialist parties been more successful in Canada than in the United States? (HL) (1990)

19. Why have single party regimes been common in twentieth century Latin America? Answer with reference to at least TWO different countries. (HL) (1991)

20. Analyze the social and economic problems in any ONE Latin American country since 1945. (HL) (Nov 1991)

21. Does the history of Latin America since 1945 justify the view that Latin American countries are "developing" countries? (HL) (1991)

22. How and why have the President and Congress of the United States come into conflict since 1952? What effect has this had in at least TWO specific areas? (HL) (1993)

23. With reference to at least TWO countries, assess the attempts at land reform in Latin America since 1945. (HL) (1993)

24. "Reformers, revolutionaries, or soldiers?" Who have been more successful in Latin America since 1945? Be specific in reference to at least TWO countries. (HL) (1993)

25. How has Canada's foreign trade evolved since 1945? (HL) (1993)

26. Compare the domestic programs of TWO United States presidents between 1945 and 1985. Which one do you consider to have been more successful and why? (HL) (1994)

27. Discuss the role of the military in TWO Latin American countries from 1945 to 1980. (HL) (1994)


29. Analyze the trade relations of the United States with ONE other country of the region since 1960. (HL) (1994)

30. What were the causes and characteristics of Peronism? (HL) (1995)
31. Where has political democracy been successful in Latin America since 1945? What conditions were present in at least TWO countries for this to happen? (HL) (1995)

32. Evaluate the domestic and foreign policies of Lyndon B. Johnson. (HL) (1996)

33. How successful have the forces of the “political left” been in TWO Latin American countries since 1945? (HL) (1997)

34. Compare and contrast the programs of two Latin American leaders in the first half of the twentieth century and assess their successes and failures. (HL) (1998)

35. Analyze the reasons for the longevity of Fidel Castro’s rule in Cuba. (HL) (1998)

36. What were the causes of the “Quiet Revolution” of the 1960s in Quebec? (HL) (1998)


38. Why did Marxism become popular in Latin America after the 1960s? Support your arguments with examples from at least two countries in Latin America. (HL) (1998)

39. Analyze the trade relations of the United States with one other country of the region since 1960. (HL) (1998)

40. Why did Juan Peron become the dominant figure in the history of Argentina from 1955 to 1971? (HL) (November 1999)

41. Analyze the role of the Catholic Church in Latin America during the period 1960 to 1980. (HL) (November 1999)

42. Compare and contrast the influence on domestic issues (domestic policy) of two presidents of the United States between 1950 and 1970. (HL) (November 1999)

43. Account for Fidel Castro’s rise to power in Cuba and explain the United States reaction to his regime until 1970. (HL) (November 1999)

44. “Latin American politics depended much more on personalities than on ideologies in the twentieth century.” Referring to at least two countries in the region show how far you agree with this statement. (HL) (1999)

45. Explain the reasons for the long-term survival of the regime of Fidel Castro. (HL) (1999)

46. Compare and contrast the domestic policies of two United States Presidents in the period

47. In what ways, and for what reasons, have there been social obstacles to development in Latin America since 1945? Support your answer with specific examples from two countries of the region.  (HL) (1999)

48. Why have various revolutionary movements of the left since 1945 failed in Latin America?  (HL) (1999)


50. With reference to either the different regions of Canada or to any two countries in mainland Latin America, analyze the impact of economic changes between 1960 and 1990.  (HL) (2000)

51. To what extent was Castro able to achieve his aims between 1959 and 1990, and what prevented him from achieving more?  (HL) (2000)

52. How successful were the Regional Trade Agreements between 1950 and 1970 in three countries of the region?  (HL) (1999)

53. Analyze the policies of one populist leader in Latin America in the first half of the twentieth century and assess their effectiveness.  (HL) (2000)

54. Discuss the view that the Organization of American States (OAS) had more successes than failures in the period 1950 to 1990.  (HL) (2000)

55. Analyze the main political and economic developments in either Canada or one country mainland Latin America during the period 1960 to 1990.  (HL) (2001)

56. Assess the domestic (internal) program and policies of one populist leader of Latin America in the period 1900 to 1955.  (HL) (2001)

57. “Cuba, unlike other Latin American countries, has created a true social revolution.” How valid is this assessment of the impact of Castro’s regime upon Cuba?  (HL) (2001)

58. In what ways, and with what results, did either Per6n or Vargas pursue populist policies?  (HL) (2002)

60. In what ways, and to what extent, were the policies of either Vargas or Perón successful in achieving their aims? (HL) (2003)

61. The outcome of the Vietnam War was determined not on the battlefield but on the television screen.” How far do you agree with this judgment? (HL) (2003)


63. Assess the contribution of foreign investment and transnationals to the economic development of Canada since 1950. (HL) (2003)

64. Compare and contrast the ways in which Vargas and Perón maintained themselves in power. (2004)

65. To what extent did domestic events lead to a political and social revolution during the post-Second World War period in either Guatemala or Nicaragua? (2004)


67. What domestic problems did Canada face in the 1960s, and how successfully were they resolved? (2004)

68. Analyse the aims and achievements of one populist leader in Latin America in the first half of the twentieth century. (HL) (2005)

69. For what reasons, and with what results for the economy of Cuba, did Castro become ruler of Cuba? (HL) (2005)

70. Analyse the main political and economic developments in Canada during the period 1960 to 1990. (HL) (2005)

71. For what reasons, and by what means, did either Peron or Vargas obtain power? (HL) (2006)

72. Compare and contrast the causes of two revolutionary movements in Latin America after 1945. (HL) (2006)

73. "By the late 1960s it seemed to many Americans that the forces of chaos and radicalism were taking control of the nation." To what extent did the domestic policies of either Richard Nixon (1969-74) or Jimmy Carter (1977-81) address this situation? (HL) (2006)

74. For what reasons, and with what results, did the military intervene in one country in Latin
75. Assess the nature and effectiveness of opposition to either Juan Domingo Perón (1946–55) or Getulio Vargas (1930–45). (2007)

76. For what reasons, and what with results, did Populist movements emerge in Latin America in the first half of the twentieth century? Support your answer with specific examples from one country of the region. (2008)

77. “Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba because of the weaknesses of Batista’s regime.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? (2008)

78. Compare and contrast the successes and failures of the domestic policies of two Canadian prime ministers from 1948 to 1979. (2008)


80. Assess the reasons for the long survival of Fidel Castro’s regime in Cuba. (2009)

81. Analyze the political or social developments in Canada between 1960 and 1981. (2009)

82. For what reasons, and with what success, was there opposition to the Vargas regime between 1930 and 1945? (2009)

83. Assess the results of the Silent Revolution (Quiet Revolution) in Canada during the 1960s. (2010)

84. Compare and contrast the rise to power of two populist leaders in Latin America between 1945 and 1979. (2010)

85. Examine the domestic policies of one Canadian or Latin American leader between 1945 and 1979. (2011)

86. To what extent was Truman successful in his domestic policies as president of the United States (1945–1953)? (2011)


88. To what extent did domestic dissent and disorder become a rationale for Latin American military regimes to intervene in their country’s internal affairs between 1945 and 1979? Answer with reference to two Latin American countries. (2012)

89. Examine the features of Eisenhower’s “New Look” foreign policy and evaluate its impact on the region of the Americas. (2012)
90. Compare and contrast the social policies of two leaders in the Americas from the mid 1940s to the 1970s. (2013)

91. Why was there a Silent (or Quiet) Revolution in Canada in the 1960s?

92. For what reasons, and with what results, did President Johnson attempt to establish a “Great Society” in the United States? (2014)

93. In what ways, and to what extent, was one populist leader in Latin America successful in achieving economic independence during the period 1945–1979? (2014)