

You will choose to research and write a 1500-2000 word paper on **ONE** of the following topics:

1. Which ancient Chinese school of thought do you think provides the best guidance for government and society? Your essay should compare and contrast the three schools and make a compelling argument for the one that you believe would be most effective.
2. Describe the Great Wall of China and its purpose. What is the symbolic significance of such an endeavor? What does the Wall suggest about the formation of China's national identity?
3. What were the technological innovations and cultural achievements of the Han dynasty? How did they contribute to the empire's strength and success?
4. Explain how the term "republic" or "republican government" applies to Rome during the years of its rise. Make sure to explain who Rome's leaders were and what rights people had.
5. Describe one of the shifts in power or power struggles that occurred in Rome between the time of the republic began to decline and the death of Augustus. Make sure to discuss the prevailing political atmosphere of divisiveness, plotting, and threat.
6. Do you agree or disagree, in full or in part, with the idea that life would have been good for a Roman citizen living in Rome during the days of the Early Empire. Include accurate facts about the living conditions in Rome, as well as what you know about the privileges of Roman citizenship. Coupled with the facts, explain your personal feelings about life in the greatest city of the great Roman Empire.
7. Research and write about why Romans thought Christianity was dangerous to their empire. Compare these arguments to the doctrine and practices of Christians at that time.
8. Look at the theories that explain the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. Choose ONE and write an essay explaining why you think this reason was or was not a significant factor in the fall of the Roman Empire.
9. Pretend that you have joined a medieval monastic community. Write an essay describing your daily life and your duties.
10. Write a persuasive essay about whether or not the wergild was a good way to punish wrongdoers.

You will be assessed based on the rubric on the next page.

Read the rubric. If you have any questions come see me during Lab time.

Make sure to create a proper cover page - see our website for instructions on how to do this.

Historical Research Paper Rubric: Grade 9 World History

Knowledge	Criteria	Below 1			Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4			Total
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
	Using historically accurate information	Use of historical information not passable			Limited use of accurate Historical information		Accurate for the most part, some important information is not accurate		All information historically accurate; most is relevant to topic		All information used is historically accurate and relevant			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
Thinking/ Inquiry Skills	Historical analysis	Demonstrated analysis skills not passable			Limited recognition of historical significance		Adequate recognition of historical significance		Very good recognition of historical significance		Thorough and perceptive recognition of historical significance			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
	Evidence to support thesis statement	Support demonstrated is not passable			Little evidence to support thesis, 1-2 sources used.		Some good evidence to support thesis, 3-4 sources used		Solid evidence to support thesis, 5-6 sources used.		Excellent support for thesis, all sources used.			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
Communication	Introduction has clear thesis statement	No thesis statement in introduction			Thesis statement of limited clarity		Thesis statement mostly clear		Introduction establishes thesis clearly		Introduction clearly states strong thesis			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
	Body of evidence/citations to support research findings	Evidence of research not passable			Quality and quantity of evidence limited; sequence weak.		Good quantity; quality of sequence of evidence is adequate		Good quantity and quality of evidence; sequence mostly logical		Quality and quantity are sound, sequence logical			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
	Conclusion used to summarize research findings	Conclusion not present or not consistent with facts presented			Conclusion has limited connection to facts presented		Adequate conclusion; consistent with some key facts		Good conclusion; consistent with most key facts		Sound conclusion; fully supportive: restates thesis, summarizes main points			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
Effective use of language	Use of language not passable			Limited use of proper spelling, grammar and sentence structure		Adequate use of proper spelling, grammar and sentence structure		Spelling and grammar used well; sentence structure awkward at times		Spelling, grammar, and sentence structure all used effectively				
	0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10		
Application	Persuasive, informative, and interesting	Not interesting or convincing			Limited interest and persuasiveness		Persuasive and interesting in some key parts		Persuasive and interesting in all key parts		Totally interesting and persuasive			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
	Organized, typed, TNR, font 12, title page, doubled spaced	Not passable			Limited title page; limited neatness		Adequate title page; limited neatness		Effective title page; neat presentation		Title page and essay layout both excellent			
		0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	
Use of footnotes, bibliography, and sources cited	Sources not used or evident or properly cited			Limited use of footnotes, bibliography or sources cited in text		Footnotes, bibliography used, and few sources cited in text		Good sources used, all majority cited		Excellent sources used, all sources well cited				
	0	2	4	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10		
Final mark												%		