

AICE English General Paper Summer Assignment

This year, you will examine and evaluate a number of global interests/concerns in the following areas: Science and Technology, Politics and Government, Environmental, Social and Cultural, and Leisure (arts, media, sports, books, entertainment). Often, these broad areas overlap. The following list of topics represents diverse areas you may explore in your General Paper Journey:

- The role and value of history in modern society
- Wars, conflicts and terrorism
- The state and its institutions
- Political systems, leadership, nationalism and forms of government
- The role of international organisations
- The provision and politics of aid
- Justice and the justice system; prison and rehabilitation
- The role of the individual in society
- Family, marriage and partnerships, social pressure, class and social attitudes
- Globalisation and its impacts
- Wealth and equality in society
- Population and migration
- Education
- Welfare
- Sport and leisure
- Work and employment
- Industry and commerce
- Freedom of speech, thought and action
- Human rights
- Animal welfare
- Matters of conscience, faith and tolerance
- Medical and scientific advances and their ethics
- Drug testing, manufacture and provision
- Diet, health education and provision of healthcare
- Space exploration and its associated industry
- Information and communications technology
- Surveillance and privacy
- Environmental concerns
- Natural disasters including mitigation and management
- Rural and urban concerns
- Food and water security
- Transport, travel and tourism
- The uses and applications of mathematics
- Literature
- Non-fiction writing
- Language
- Performing arts
- Visual arts
- Applied arts
- Arts institutions and venues
- Traditional arts and crafts; heritage
- Print and digital media
- Advertising
- Censorship and freedom of the media and the arts

In order to consider the various elements of this course, you will engage in a variety of **activities found below** over the summer. This will assist you in shifting to a global mindset. You should also feel free to explore any of the topics above that are unfamiliar to you.

Part I: Podcast Assignment

In order to increase your background knowledge about global interests and concerns, please select and listen to five different podcasts- one for each of the five lenses (again, they are: **Science and Technology, Politics and Government, Environmental, Social and Cultural, and Leisure (arts, media, sports, books, entertainment)**).

Here is a list of podcasts that would fall under these lenses for you to choose from:

- Hidden Brain
- Serial
- Pop Culture Happy Hour
- Invisibilia
- Lore
- Ted Radio Hour
- Radio Lab
- Stuff You Should Know

Here is list with more approved podcasts: <https://www.teachthought.com/education/50-of-the-best-podcasts-for-high-school-students/>

You will keep a [Podcast log](#). In this log, you will document:

- a. the name and episode of the podcast you listened to
- b. 2-4 sentences summarizing each podcast
- c. How that podcast fits in the lens/category you place it under
- d. something you learned from it- interesting facts/notable quotes
- e. Why you selected this podcast

Some podcasts may fall under multiple categories and that's okay. Just select **one** category to log it under. You must listen to **at least five podcasts**, one from each category, **even if there is overlap**. You will have a total of five podcasts and five entries. [You can view the rubric for this assignment here.](#)

[Please click here to download the log.](#)

This log is where you will record your information about the 5 separate podcasts you listened too.

Part II: Current Event Articles

The above topics can be situated/organized into more broad groupings. For each of the THREE broad areas of study below, you will select a CURRENT ARTICLE (dated within the last three months). [You will use the included article graphic organizer.](#)

- Economic, Historical, Moral, Political, and Social
- Science, including its history, philosophy, ethics, general principles and applications; environmental issues; technology and mathematics
- Literature, Language, the Arts, Crafts, and the Media

Part III: Essay Diagnostic

Below, please find a sample item specification for Paper 1. Select a topic and research it thoroughly. You will rely on background knowledge when taking the actual assessment; however, this activity is designed to showcase your research and essay writing skills. You will select ONE topic and write a 600-900 word essay that fully addresses the topic of your choice. You are welcome to (and encouraged) to gather information about the topics that you DON'T select as this information will serve you well in the course; however, you must commit to and write a response to ONE topic.

Here are some terminology and concepts that you will utilize in this course, and other AICE classes. You may want to select, learn and utilize some of the words from this list in the evidence gathering/research and writing of your essay. You are also encouraged to create digital or physical flashcards for these terms and concepts:

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|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Globalization | 11. Incarceration | 21. Free market economy | 31. Nationalism |
| 2. Modernization | 12. Economic sanctions | 22. Supply and demand | 32. International affairs |
| 3. Conformity | 13. Dictatorship | 23. Privatization | 33. Foreign aid |
| 4. Renewable resources | 14. Totalitarianism | 24. Outsourcing | 34. Humanitarian efforts |
| 5. Non-renewable resources | 15. Oppression | 25. Philanthropy | 35. Gross domestic product |
| 6. Emissions | 16. Military coup | 26. Censorship | 36. Immigration |
| 7. Deforestation | 17. Diplomacy | 27. Developing | 37. Migration |
| 8. Energy independence | 18. Small businesses | 28. Developed countries | 38. Emigration |
| 9. Alternative medicine | 19. Large corporations | 29. Infrastructure | 39. Travel and tourism |
| 10. Civil liberties | 20. Consumerism | 30. Patriotism | |

Below you will find 10 General Paper topics that have been used on previous exams. Pick ONE of the 10 that you feel comfortable writing about.

1. Evaluate the contribution of any politician or political party to the development of your country. [30]
2. 'Animals should be given the same rights as humans.' Discuss. [30]
3. Evaluate the importance of public sports facilities for a society that is increasingly inactive. [30]
4. Assess the most efficient ways of transporting people and goods in your country. [30]
5. Internet activity can be easily monitored. Examine whether or not this gives any person or organisation the right to know what other people are doing online. [30]

6. Assess whether or not sources of renewable energy offer a necessary and viable alternative to fossil fuels. [30]
7. To what extent is the media in your country biased? [30]
8. 'Music is a universal and unifying language.' To what extent do you agree? [30]
9. 'Going to a theatre to experience a live event is far more enjoyable and interesting than going to a cinema.' To what extent do you agree? [30]
10. 'When power leads man towards arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations.' (John F Kennedy)
To what extent do you agree? [30]

Heads up: pick up a book that ties in (maybe give a list) for independent reading 1st quarter? Could still do this with lit circles- good opportunity to teach the process, too.