World History Topic 11: Causes and Effects of 20th Century Wars

This topic focuses on the causes, practice and effects of war in the 20th century. The topic explores the causes of wars, as well as the way in which warfare was conducted, including types of war, the use of technology, and the impact these factors had upon the outcome. Examination questions for this topic will require students to make reference to specific 20th-century wars in their responses, and some examination questions will require discussion of wars from more than one region of the world. Please note that the suggested examples for this topic include “cross-regional” wars such as the First and Second World Wars. In examination questions that ask students to discuss examples of wars from different regions, students may use these wars in a regional context (for example, the Second World War in the Pacific) but may not then use the same war in a different region (for example, the Second World War in Europe) in the same response.

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| Topic | Prescribed Content |
| Causes of war | * Economic, ideological, political, territorial and other causes * Short- and long-term causes |
| Practices of war and their impact on the outcome | * Types of war: civil wars; wars between states; guerrilla wars * Technological developments; theatres of war—air, land and sea * The extent of the mobilization of human and economic resources * The influence and/or involvement of foreign powers |
| Effects of War | * The successes and failures of peacemaking * Territorial changes * Political repercussions * Economic, social and demographic impact; changes in the role and status of women |