Regional depth: the HL option

IB DP History HL Paper 3: regional depth, historiography, Japan and China 1853-1912

Two neighbours, two results

Japan, fifty years on

A constitution, railways, a modern army and navy.

Defeated China (1895) and Russia (1905).

China

Reforms stopped and started.

In 1912 the last emperor gave up the throne.

Paper 3

> Three essays, 2 hours 30 minutes, 45 marks.

- HL only; marked like Paper 2.
- Examiners expect precise regional detail and historians' debates.

Four regions

> One region, three sections, in depth.

- Each region has 18 sections.
- Schools usually teach three of them in depth.

What depth means

General (Paper 2)	**Precise (Paper 3)**
Japan modernised its army.	1873 conscription: ordinary men served three years, replacing the samurai.
Japan got a constitution.	1889: an elected lower house, but the army answered to the emperor.

Choosing and planning

> Choose where your knowledge is deepest, not the shortest question.

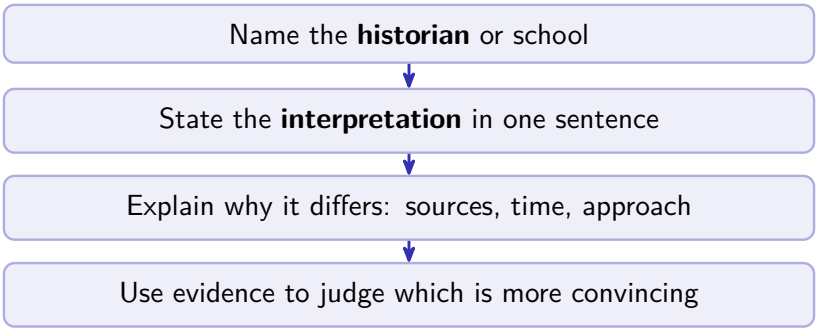
- The same plan as Paper 2: thesis, three paragraphs, counter, judgement.
- About 45 minutes per **essay**, 5 of them to plan.

Why historians disagree

> Different sources, different questions, different times.

- **Historiography**: how historians have written about the past.
- Disagreement is part of the evidence.

Using historians in an essay



Japan: the Meiji state

> Forty years from forced opening to a regional power.

- 1868: the shogun's rule ends; power returns to the emperor.
- 1871-73: domains abolished; the Iwakura Mission studies the West.

China: reform within the Qing

> Reform came in pieces, and too late.

- Self-Strengthening: arsenals, shipyards, a navy, translation schools.
- 1899-1901: the Boxer Uprising and a large indemnity.

The Hundred Days

> 103 days of reform, then Cixi stopped it.

- The Guangxu Emperor, advised by Kang Youwei.
- Changes to exams, schools and the army.

Why the difference?

Factor	Japan	China
Power	young leaders took the state	the court; Cixi held power
Scale	small and compact	huge; weak control of provinces
Aims	change the whole state	add technology, keep tradition
Pressure	unequal treaties, no invasion	wars, rebellion, indemnities

Impact and response, or China-centred?

Fairbank: impact-response (1950s-60s)

China mainly reacted to the West.

Tradition resisted change, so it reacted slowly.

Cohen: China-centred (1984)

That model made China passive.

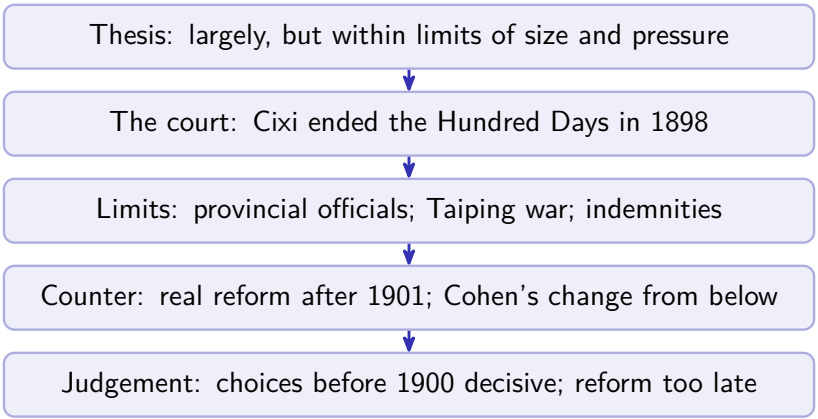
Much change came from inside China.

Debating Meiji Japan

> A model of success, or the road to militarism?

- Three readings of the same Restoration.
- Each was written at a different time, for different questions.

Worked plan: the late Qing



Check yourself

