



International
History Bee



International
History Bowl

2025-2026 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Question Set Beta

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the [International History Bee and Bowl tournaments on the Beta Question Set](#). Many of the facts below are found in the questions on the Beta Question Set. Other facts in the study guide will be found in the other Question Sets being used this academic year. **However, the majority of questions in the tournament are not referenced in the study guide.** The study guide is meant to help you get started. It is not meant to be fully comprehensive as the essence of academic competition is not memorizing a list, but having wide-ranging knowledge.

As the questions are all short paragraphs on a particular topic, if a topic is found below, then it is a good idea to learn more about it (since additional facts about a topic will also be referenced in the question). It is also helpful to read the introduction of a Wikipedia page on a topic. Please also use our past question sets which are found [here on the website](#). Many of the topics that are found in past years' questions will come up this year too. Good luck!

Note 1: This academic year, the study guides are slightly shorter than in past years, but we are also including a list of additional terms at the end. These are also likely to be referenced at some point in the tournament, but you will need to do some research to learn about the significance of each of these.

Note 2: Dates of peoples' lives are provided mostly for reference. With very few exceptions (e.g. mentioning the year of an assassination), birth and death dates are almost never directly mentioned in questions. Please do not waste time trying to memorize any dates if they are only provided in parentheses below.

African History

1. The [Comoros](#), the only member of the [Arab League](#) entirely within the Southern Hemisphere, was a former [French colony](#).
2. [Somalia](#), which dominates the Horn of Africa, has been burdened by [piracy](#) since at least the mid-1990s.
3. [Madagascar](#), home to the [Austronesian](#) Malagasy people, once hosted the [Merina Kingdom](#).
4. [Cecil Rhodes](#), the founder of the [De Beers](#) diamond company, became synonymous with [British imperialism](#) of the late 19th century.

Ancient History

1. [Alexander the Great](#) was tutored by [Aristotle](#) before succeeding his father, [Philip II](#), after which he executed Philip's plan to invade the [Persian Empire](#), winning battles at Issus and Gaugamela.
2. [Egyptian mythology](#) features stories about the god of Pharaohs and the dead, [Osiris](#), being killed by his brother Set, god of the desert, who then enters a series of contests with [Horus](#) for rule of Egypt.
3. Ancient [Buddhist](#) statues include massive [Buddhas in Bamiyan](#), Afghanistan that were destroyed by the Taliban, as well as stupas, such as the one at [Sanchi](#), that were commissioned by Mauryan emperor [Ashoka](#).
4. The [Hanging Gardens](#), one of the [Seven Wonders of the Ancient World](#), were legendarily constructed in [Babylon](#).

Asian History

1. [The Philippines](#) were colonized by both the Spanish Empire and the United States, who set in motion the independence process with the 1934 [Tydings-McDuffie Act](#).
2. A native of [Mecca](#), [Muhammad](#) is considered the founder and primary prophet of [Islam](#).
3. [Cambodia](#) was the center of the historical [Khmer Empire](#), which constructed the temple complex [Angkor Wat](#).
4. [Aung San Suu Kyi](#) is a longtime democratic activist in [Myanmar](#), where she has been held as a political prisoner by the Tatmadaw since 2021.

European History

1. [Wernher von Braun](#) was a pioneer of rocket technology for Nazi Germany, and was brought to the United States to work for NASA as part of [Operation Paperclip](#).
2. The European Union was partially preceded by the European Coal and Steel Community, and it came into being when the [Maastricht Treaty](#) came into effect in 1993.
3. [James I of England](#) was the first [Stuart](#) monarch of England as the successors of the [Tudors](#).
4. The [Battle of Waterloo](#) saw Prussian general [Gebhard von Blücher](#) link up with the English [Duke of Wellington](#) to impose a final defeat on [Napoleon Bonaparte](#).
5. [The Hague](#) has been the longtime seat of government of the [Netherlands](#), and is the home of the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court.
6. [Martin Luther](#) set off the [Protestant Reformation](#) by nailing his [Ninety-Five Theses](#) to the church door of Wittenberg in 1517.
7. [Vienna](#), the capital of [Austria](#), was besieged numerous times by the [Ottoman Empire](#), perhaps most notably when it was saved from destruction in 1683 by the timely arrival of the Polish king [Jan the Third Sobieski](#).
8. The [Holy Roman Empire](#) was a patchwork affair of German states, called "neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire" by French philosopher [Voltaire](#).

European History (continued)

9. [Friedrich Engels](#) and [Karl Marx](#) influenced the development of [Communism](#).
10. The [Italian Renaissance](#) flourished during the 15th and 16th centuries, particularly in [Florence](#).
11. [Impressionism](#) began as an artistic movement that began in the 1870s, following the creation of [Claude Monet's](#) painting [Impression, Sunrise](#).
12. In the early 17th century, [King James the First of England](#) commissioned a version of the [Bible](#).
13. [Giuseppe Garibaldi's Expedition of the Thousand](#) overthrew the [Kingdom of the Two Sicilies](#) in 1860.
14. [Sochi](#) is a Russian resort city on the Black Sea that hosted the [2014 Winter Olympics](#).
15. The [30 Years' War](#) (1618-48) was ended by the [Peace of Westphalia](#).
16. [Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](#) served as the first [president of Turkey](#) from 1923 to 1938.

Latin American and Caribbean History

1. The [Inca Empire](#) was once led by a Sapa named [Atahualpa](#), who was overthrown by a Spanish invasion led by [Francisco Pizarro](#).
2. [Mexico City](#) sits on the site of the former Aztec capital city [Tenochtitlan](#).
3. [Venezuela](#) was long led by Communist president and staunch anti-US imperialism advocate [Hugo Chavez](#), whose tenure resulted in South America's [worst continuing economic crises](#).
4. The heavily-rainforested [Suriname](#) is the smallest South American country by population and area, and was historically part of the [Dutch Colonial Empire](#).
5. [Hernán Cortés](#) toppled the [Aztec Empire](#) on behalf of Spain from 1519 to 1521.
6. The two most recent [presidents of Brazil](#) are [Jair Bolsonaro](#) (b. 1955) and [Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva](#) (b. 1945), who is known as Lula.

Terms for Further Study

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| 1. Wales | 14. Spanish Civil War | 27. The Three Musketeers |
| 2. Plymouth Colony | 15. Mansa Musa | 28. Roald Amundsen |
| 3. Isaac Newton | 16. Socrates | 29. Warsaw |
| 4. Bhutan | 17. Long John Silver | 30. Genoa |
| 5. Lebanon | 18. Taiping Rebellion | |
| 6. Czechoslovakia | 19. Saladin | |
| 7. African National Congress | 20. Spartacus | |
| 8. Ivan the Terrible | 21. Tartarus | |
| 9. Honduras | 22. The Bible | |
| 10. Peloponnesian War | 23. Aboriginal peoples | |
| 11. Byzantine Empire | 24. Nile River | |
| 12. Zionism | 25. October Crisis | |
| 13. Tecumseh | 26. Battle of Actium | |