

Study Guide: Test #1

Of the eight questions below, five will appear on the test. You will have to answer **THREE**. I will choose **ONE** that everyone has to answer. You will choose **TWO** of the remaining four.

Read each question carefully to be sure you understand everything it is asking you to address in your answer. In answering, make an argument – that is, present a thesis in the first paragraph of your essay and spend the rest of the essay showing your reader why your thesis is compelling. Rather than simply relying on generalizations, back up any argument you make with well-chosen specific examples and supporting evidence from the assigned reading.

1. After the First World War, why was the principle of national self-determination easier to theorize than to implement? Throughout Europe, how did this Wilsonian ideal come into conflict with geographic and political reality?
2. During the interwar period (1919-1939), how did British priorities differ from French priorities? How in particular did these differences affect how each nation interacted with Germany and Italy?
3. Why did France and Britain settle on a policy of appeasing Germany during the mid-to late-1930s? Why, shortly after signing the Munich agreement, did they abandon this policy for one of deterrence?
4. As war clouds gathered between 1934 and 1939, why were both British and Japanese policymakers especially concerned about not alienating the United States? How do we see this concern affecting specific foreign policy decisions that each nation made during this period?
5. How did the fall of France in 1940 help to transform a European war between Germany on one side and Britain and France on the other into a global conflict?
6. Why does the historian P. M. H. Bell consider the Battle of Britain a *turning point* in the Second World War?
7. Why did Hitler decide to go forward with Operation Barbarossa in 1941? Why did this decision later prove to be one of his greatest mistakes? (In answering the first question, you should consider Hitler's economic, geopolitical, and ideological motivations.)
8. Why did Japan move toward a more aggressive foreign policy between the fall of France in 1940 and its decision to attack Pearl Harbor in 1941? (In answering, you should consider the influence of events and conditions both within Japan, in Asia, and in Europe.)