



Social Studies

Global Studies Research Questions

Research Field	Key Questions: Take a position
Dissenters and Minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissenters / Minorities fought to get their rights through violent means and were successful. • Minority populations are almost always enslaved, controlled, limited, or dominated by the majority populations in a state. • It is not possible for minorities or dissenters to gain political power most of the time. • Migrations are often motivated by dissenters who cannot get tolerance at home. <p><i>“Dissenter” – a group who does not agree with the dominant religion, government, or policy</i></p> <p><i>“Minority” – group that is far less in number than the rest of the society or community.</i></p>
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political stability is only possible when commerce is successful. • Access to natural resources and a strong infrastructure are keys to economic growth. • The more control the government exercises over the economy, the weaker the economy. • Cities make successful commerce possible.
Fashion and Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing shows social status. The different social strata were... • New styles are pioneered by the rich classes. • Styles change more rapidly now than in the past. • The function of clothing in human societies is ...
Food and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet was better among the wealthier classes. • Large empires require food imports because they cannot sustain themselves. They fall when these sources become jeopardized. • Food often plays a ritual function in many cultures. For example...
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic features have an important influence on the culture of a region or nation. • Geography affects commerce...
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong leaders have these characteristics in common... • Most governments favor the wealthy classes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic governments cannot withstand economic, social and/or military crises. • During times of war or other crisis, governments that are less democratic work best. • Democracy is only possible when the citizens are educated. • Most democracies in history failed. • Strong, central governments are better than loose, associated states. • Throughout history, people have tried to change their societies through reform or revolution. • Turning points in important events that change the course of history for a nation or region. Such turning points are... • Certain individuals in government had a major impact on history...
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care gets better as time goes by. • Historically, the best health care mostly reserved for the wealthy classes. • Health and sanitary conditions better in cities than in the country. • Educated people enjoy better health than lesser-educated people.
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slavery was a common form of labor throughout history. • The slavery of the Southern United States was fundamentally different from slavery in ancient Greece and Rome. • Ancient peoples did not question the morality of slave labor.
Language and Linguistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Languages change over time and evolve into other languages. • The language of conquerors influences the people conquered [in the following ways...] • Immigrants lend pieces of their language to the dominant language of their new country. • Although speaking the same language, there are regional variations or “dialects” within a single nation or state. • Different social classes have different ways of speaking and access to the other social class is reserved for those who can learn to speak that way.
Migrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrants are always poor people seeking a better life. • People are not liable to migrate if they are economically successful. • The historic reasons people migrate are ... • Immigrants enrich the culture of their new land.
Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When armies are loyal to the State instead of an individual, there is a great chance of the government being overthrown. • Greater numbers most always determine the winner of battle. • Wars usually start with people thinking they won’t last long. • Empires cannot maintain their size because the demands of the military become too great. • War is too expensive for states to wage. • The strongest armies in [such-and-such a period in] history were those that ...
Plastic,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The arts were mostly for the rich.

Visual, Art and Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art styles that become dominant in a period usually draw from one or two important artists. • The role of the arts in society is ... • Artistic creations reflect the values of a people. • All great artists have suffered in their personal life.
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation time increases for most people through the centuries. • Recreation time is based on wealth. • The wealthier classes enjoy different types of recreation than the working classes... • The influence of technology on recreation is ... • The importance of recreation in society is...
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion is connected with social class. Ruling elites usually belong to one religion and the lower classes to others). • Religions acquire ideas and practices from other religions. • Religions go through periods of “purification” every so often when some members break away to go return to their idea of the original form. • The influence of religion on government is ... • Religious wars aren’t REALLY about religion. They are about resources or power or economics. • Religions evolve over time. • Some religions lend themselves more readily to democracy than others. • Religion has significant effects on various features of a culture.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumps in technological innovation occur especially during times of war. • States with better technology gain dominance over their neighbors and rivals. • Technological development is tied to economic success. • Technological development is a continual progress toward improvement. • Technology is copied from some other place more often than it is invented. • Technological advances happen most often when... • Scientific discoveries and inventions have led to many changes in the world... • Inventions and technological advances have often led to major changes in societies. • Since the earliest days, humans have been exploring and studying the universe. Some important people who contributed to our knowledge are...