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UIL Social Studies Director



University Interscholastic League

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Remember to register your attendance and complete session evaluations.

Session numbers are in the program.



bit.ly/ProsperSAC23



SESSION #120 PREPARING FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST

Where in the World?

You are in -

Session 120: Preparing for the Social Studies Contest - ROOM 1124
12:15 - Session 121: Preparing for the Essay Portion of the CI&E and Social Studies Contest

What is in the session

- Basics of Contest (nuts & bolts) parts of it and how to compete
- Intro. of Topic - different sections 3-2-1, and types of questions
- In-depth breakdown, Strategies, and Resources
- Questions answered





Attention All Attendees:

Thank you for registering your attendance for **EACH SESSION:**



Electronic handouts are available there too.

<https://www.uiltexas.org/academics/student-activity-conferences>

And We're Back!

-Former principal, UIL Coordinator for nearly 20 years, 8th year as UIL State Director for Social Studies

- Coached State Competitors in Debate, Speech, OAP, Spelling, Current Events, and Social Studies - Won over 20 titles, including 10 overall academic state championships.

Follow along - Take notes -Ask questions - I will repeat - and hope to have posted or just tweet at me @mracademics or email abates@sabinepass.net - Twitter Poll for Topics, Tips, Resources

How many experienced? How many newbies? (show of hands)



The Social Studies Contest

*Preparing
For
Competition
(what is it about?)*

Purpose

The Social Studies Contest challenges students to *read widely and deeply* in the areas of social studies in order to: expand and apply their understanding of the nature of geography and the physical setting of the earth to physical and cultural environments; expand and apply their understanding of the governmental systems; and expand and apply their understanding of historical trends, movements and eras, the impact and significance of time and place, cause and effect, and change over time.

History of Contest

Pattern of CX like foreign/domestic variety of geographic heavy-to straight
history-to culture -to government and combos

2003 - 2004 Gilded Age - Devil in the
White City

2005 Fifties - The Fifties

2006 WWII - Citizen Soldiers

2007 Am. Revolution - 1776

2008 Supreme Court

2009 African Colonization - King
Leopold's Ghost

2010 Civil War

2011 Space Race - The Right Stuff

2012 Latin America

2013 American Indians -Comanche
-Empire of the Summer Moon

2014 Australia & Oceania -
Commonwealth of Thieves

2015 Presidents - 1920 Year of the Six
Presidents

2016 WWI - Guns of August

2017 US Constitution - Madison's Gift

2018 Former Soviet Union - Lenin's Tomb

2019 U.S. Civil Rights Movements - Race
Beat

2020 East Asia - Everlasting Flower
(The Topic that Wasn't)

2021 American Empire - Honor in the
Dust

2022 Olympics - Rome 1960

2023 20s/20th - New World Coming

2024 Modern South Asia



To Boldly Go Where No Topic Has Gone Before?

- **Domestic/Foreign**
- **Think outside the box, but the box is good too**
- **Need Primary Reading Selections (multiple options)**
- **Be heard and whatnot - discuss, develop, start a movement!**
- **Twitter poll suggestions - Check back / Sites**

The Contest

Individual Competition
Up to 6 students per school
?



The Contest

**Team Competition
at least 3
students per team**



Who Advances?

- **Top three individuals**
- **Up to 4 members of the top team**
- **The wild card team - VERY important**



The Test

Objective Questions

45 total questions = 80 total points

Essay Questions

1 questions = 20 total points



Important Reminder

**Failure to submit an essay
shall result in
disqualifications.**



The Test

***Top 8 objective scores
(or more if ties on eighth)***

Essay scores



The Test

Ranking

Individuals = Objective + Essay

Tiebreaker = judging of essays (scores then side-by-side)

Team = top 3 objective scores

Tiebreaker = score of 4th member



The Test

Objective Questions
Categories and points

Best Answer



Section One

20 questions

- **General Knowledge and Terms**
- **1 point each**



Section Two

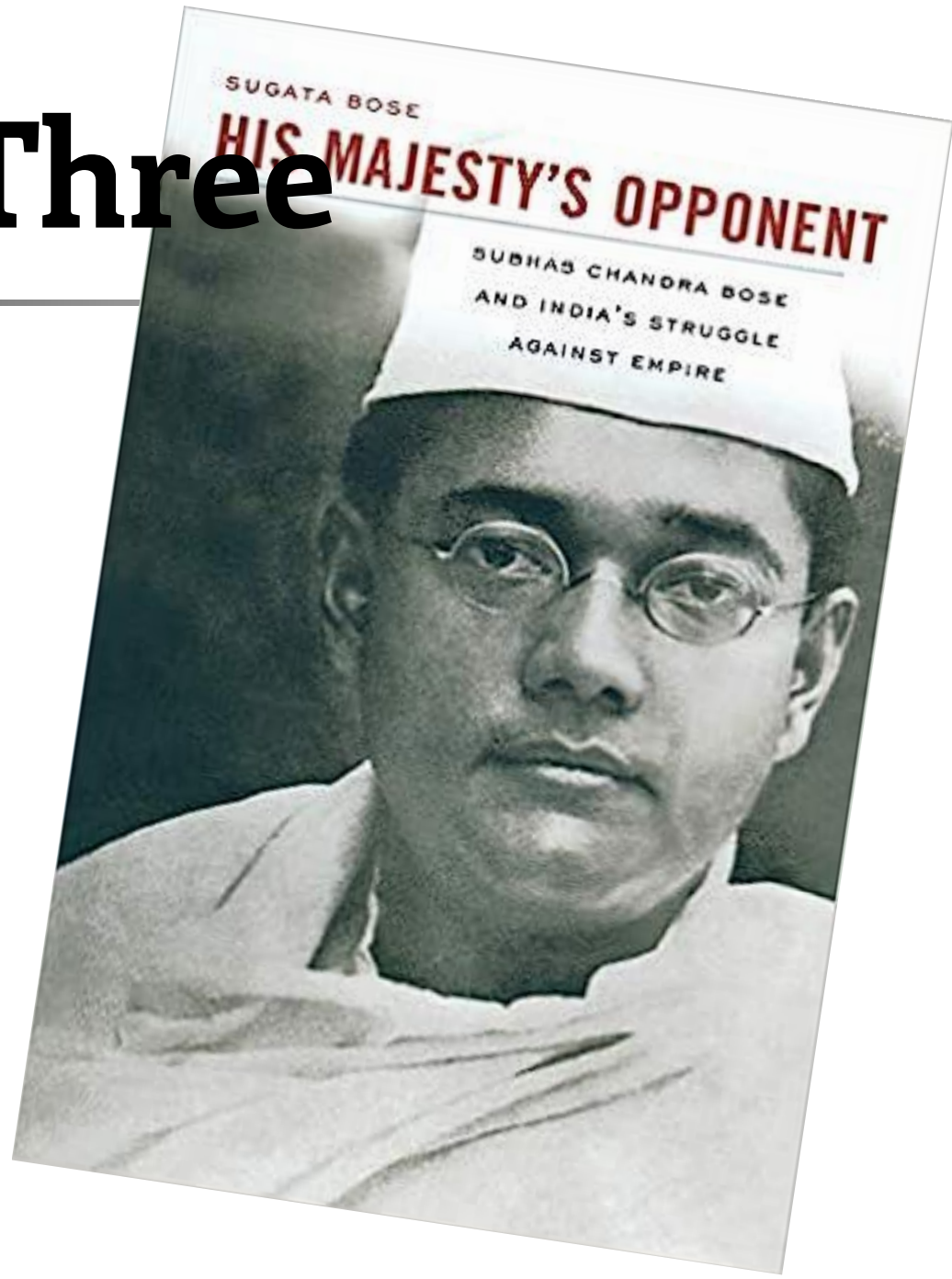
15 questions

- ❖ **Can switch from topic to topic,
(Mostly) Primary Document (Book)**
- ❖ **Supplemental readings
(Country Profiles and Info.)**
- ❖ **2 points each**

Section Three

10 questions

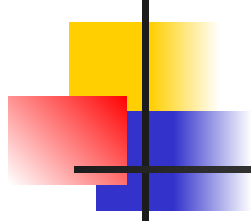
- ◆ (Mostly)
Supplemental
Readings &
Documents
- ◆ Book this year
- ◆ 3 points each





Tips on Writing an Analytical Essay for the UIL Social Studies Contest

- This is the **KEY** to the individual component and very much acts as the determining factor in deciding the best of the best
 - I didn't use to focus on this
 - Shows true extensive knowledge
 - Subjective/Objective Balance (Objective has random/luck aspect)



First read the prompt carefully. Examine the question in a variety of contexts: social, political, scientific, cultural, and economic. We recommend that you outline your essay before writing.

Make sure to have a **THESIS** and
ANSWER THE QUESTION

(no matter how much you wish it was about something else)

PROMPTNESS COUNTS

ESSAY PROMPT:

NOTE: Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified. Any essay that does not demonstrate a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic will be disqualified. The rankings of essays will be based primarily on how well the topic has been addressed. A focused, concise and specific essay beats a vague and rambling essay. Proper grammar and organization should be used to aid clarity, but should not be considered a major factor in scoring. Cover as many corners of the issue as practical. Avoid including personal editorialized opinions, as more than enough information on the subject has been published.

“The mind of the Negro seems suddenly to have slipped from under the tyranny of social intimidation and to be shaking off the psychology of imitation and implied inferiority. By shedding the old chrysalis of the Negro problem we are achieving something like a spiritual emancipation...The multitude perhaps feels as yet only a strange relief and a new vague urge, but the thinking few know that in the reaction the vital inner grip of prejudice has been broken.

With this renewed self-respect and self-dependence, the life of the Negro community is bound to enter a new dynamic phase, the buoyancy from within compensating for whatever pressure there may be of conditions from without.”

-excerpt from Alain Locke, “Enter the New Negro,”

The 1920s witnessed a flourishing culture within the Black community and an expansion of its influence on the wider culture of the United States. However, the dynamic movement of the “New Negro” went well beyond the arts of the Harlem Renaissance by encompassing politics, business, and even globe-spanning social issues. Describe the key individuals and events leading to and defining the “New Negro” movement.



ESSAY PROMPT

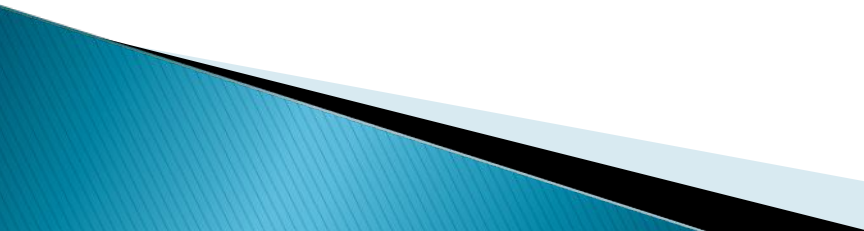
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The PERFECT ESSAY

- Sample Answer Guides
- [Rubric](#)
- Consensus vs. Average (both if done correctly)
- Not an English Paper...seriously though



ESSAY Continued

Open with a clear, precise statement that assimilates all the information you've gathered regarding the question.

Important: Do not repeat the essay prompt in your opening paragraph.

Take it to a new level of understanding.



DEFEND YOUR STATEMENT

- You have 90 minutes for the objective portion of the test and the essay.
- That's more time than you'll probably need, so think first before writing.
- Outline your essay.
- Prioritize your points. Then, be specific.
- Use specific examples.

The BUTLER DID IT!!!

(skip to the end)

- Let it percolate
- Test questions might spark something
- Dulls the impact

General Guidelines for Essay Questions



- **Objective is to encourage thinking and analysis**
- **Specific focus in most questions**
- **Abundant information available for response**



Details Review

Understand the Math?

- 80 is Perfect Objective
- 20 on Essay (Current Events?)

Top 8 Objective (or more if ties at the bottom)

Both are important

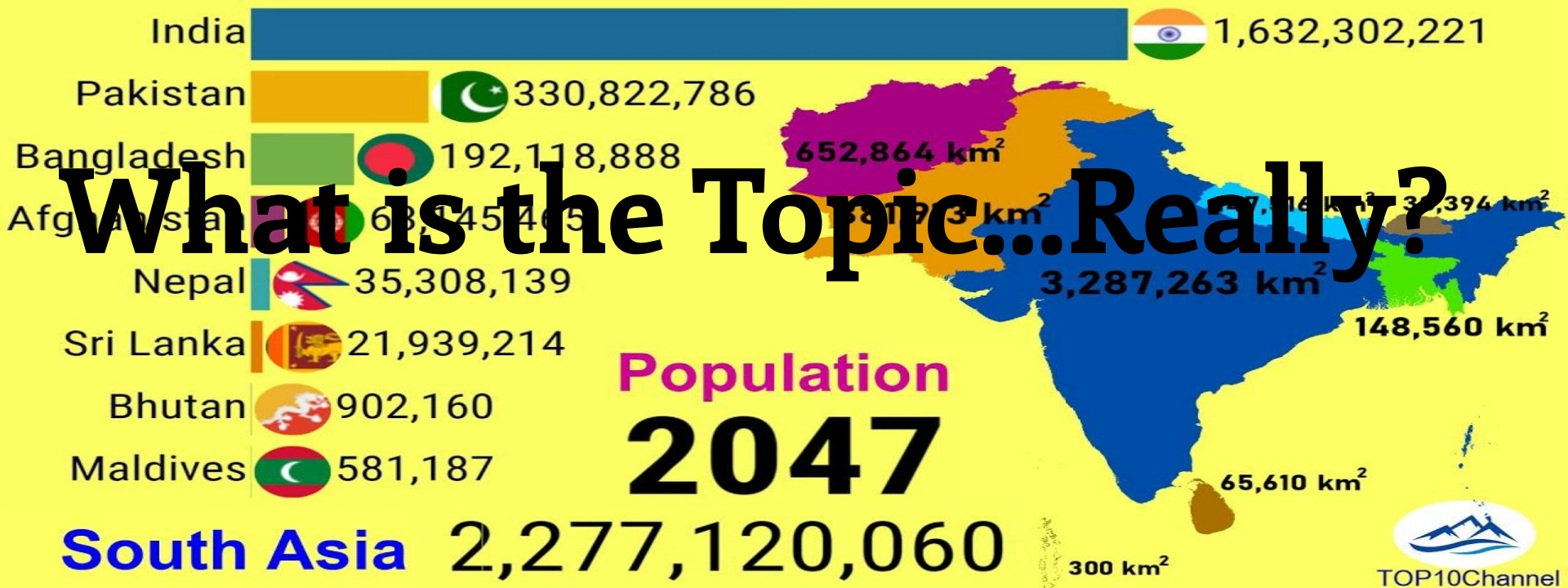
- Perfect score and not place (b/c bad essay)
- Amazing Essay that no one ever reads (b/c not top 8 objective)

Team Score is Top 3

- Tie break is 4th place score (if there is a 4th)
- All the way to state

Individual Tie-Break = Essay

- 2nd tie-break = compare side by side (cannot be an individual tie)



- 1 out of every 4 people on the planet
 - Economic power, Economic Struggles (1 out of 2-worst form of violence), Nukes!
 - Not just History
- (Wild ride, but once you get a grip, Amazing ride!)



Source : Ministry of External Affairs (India)

What is the Topic...Really?



“The small wisdom is like water in a glass: clear, transparent, pure. The great wisdom is like the water in the sea: dark, mysterious, impenetrable.”

- 1857?
- Not just India...but a lot of India
- Pakistan and Bangladesh AKA British India
- Nepal and Sri Lanka
- Bhutan and Maldives

What is the Topic...Really?



- Some earlier, as always, also provides context for Civilizations (A good idea)
- Have to have context to understand
- Eras are nebulous and hard dates are deceiving



Say...what?



“The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their proper name.”

- Not definitive just an attempt at uniform
- List is based on preponderance
- Book will always be source
- Pick and Stick (and be thankful there isn't an oral component)

Section One

- Geographic focus

Explore List

- Lots of People and Groups
- Events
- Section II and III Overlap
- Terms
- Terms
- More terms





Section Two Questions

Questions related to documents

□

- **Standard for Domestic topic**
- **Court Cases**
- **Legislation**
- **Speeches**
- **Other Documents**
- **Documentary**



Section Two Questions

Questions related to Country Profiles

- BBC- full (media least important)

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm)

- CIA World Factbook (Intro/Geo./People/Society intro/Gov./Transnational)

(<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/>)

- Infoplease (No Eco./Commun./Transpo.)

(<https://www.infoplease.com/countries>)

Section Three (Book)



Questions

His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire

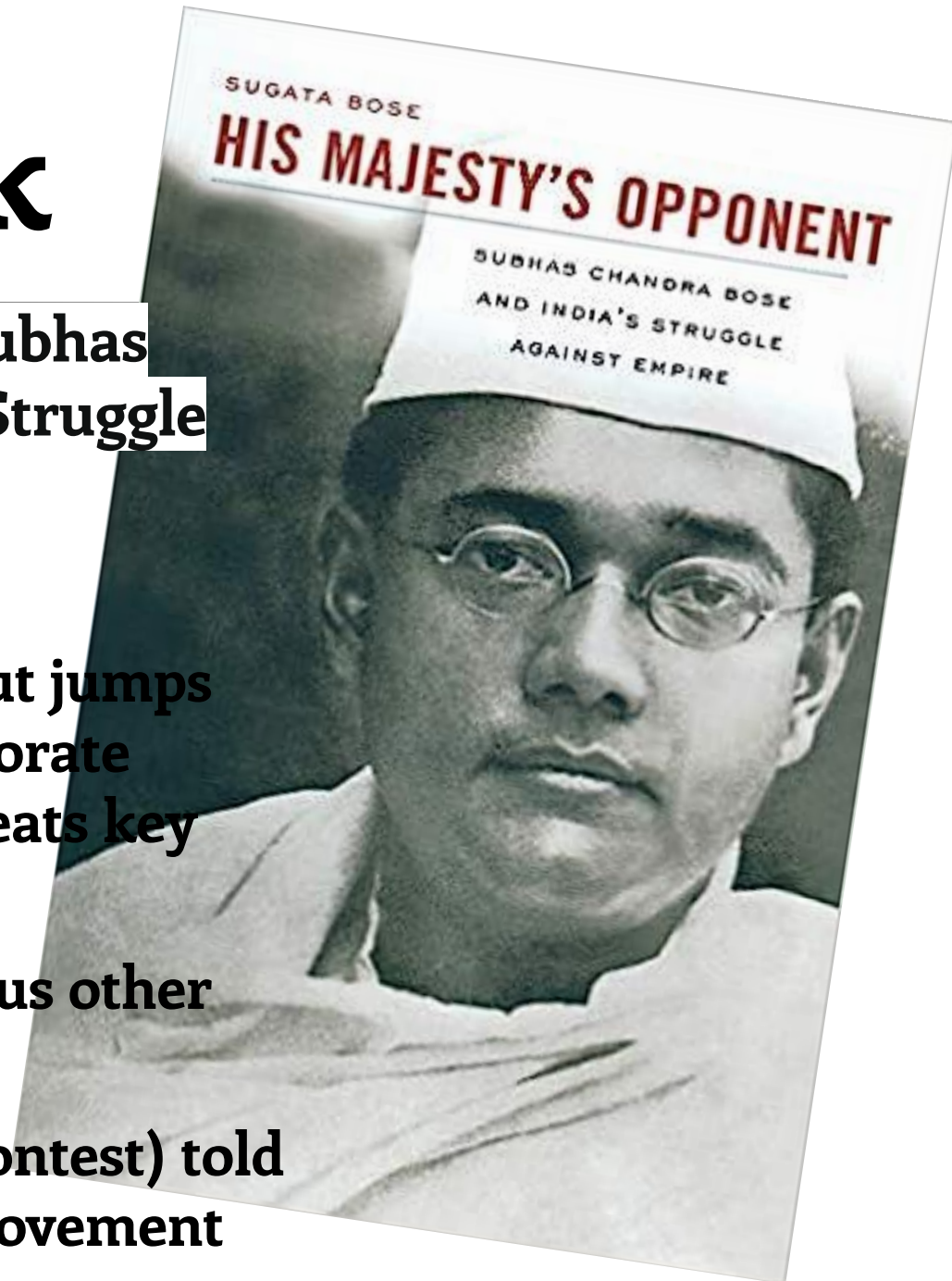
by Sugata Bose

- Generally a spotlight/magnification of a specific key area.
- Chronological overall, but jumps back and forth to incorporate context and quotes. Repeats key items.
- Extremely readable versus other options
- Biography (unique for contest) told in terms of the swaraj movement

The Book

His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire

- Why?
- Chronological overall, but jumps back and forth to incorporate context and quotes. Repeats key items.
- Extremely readable versus other options
- Biography (unique for contest) told in terms of the swaraj movement





Possible Essay Question Areas!

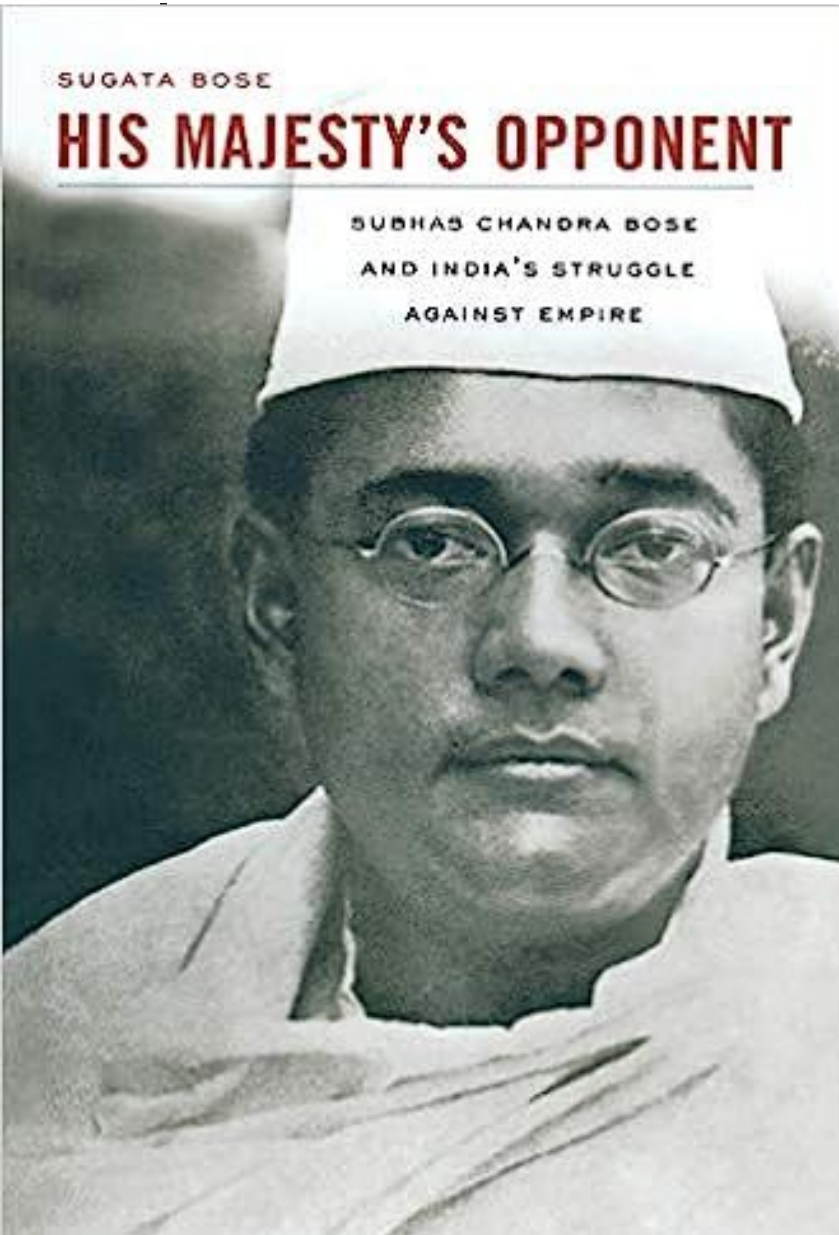
People (From Sct I & II- Generally)

- Leaders: (Political, Business, Social/Culture) Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru (and Indira, Sanjay, Rajiv, Sonia...), Bose, Modi, Jinnah, Bhutto (Zulfikar/Benazir-Zardari) Nawaz/Shehbaz Sharif, Mujibur Rahman, Gen. Ziaur Rahman, Begum Hasina, Begum Zia
- But also: British colonials (Curzon, Mountbatten)
- groupings/interactions: Religions, INC, Muslim League, British Raj(overlap with III- (Section II this year))

Major Events or Processes or Beliefs

- Terms w/ overlap in II & III (Religions/Caste)
- Swadeshi, Swaraj, Noncooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India, Partition
- Wars/Disputes (1857, Indo-Pakistan, Indo-China, 1971, Sri Lankan Civil War)

Book Topics



THEMES

- Growing anti-Imperialist movement (successes/failures)
- Domestic and Foreign politics
- Interplay w/ other key figures

EVENTS

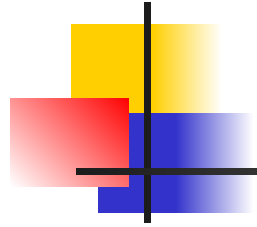
- WWI (impacts)
- INC Presidency (political groups)
- WWII (events/people)



Possible Essay Question Areas!

**Country histories, regional events,
and cultural concepts**

- **Cause and effect**
- **Compare and contrast**
- **Could be stand alone if significant enough**



... about the questions



Sample Question

1. The originator of the term Pakistan was

_____.

A. Rabindranath Tagore

B. Zulkifar Bhutto

C. Choudhry Rahmat Ali

D. Muhammad Ali Jinnah

(other forms)



... and another

2. Narayanganj, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Brahmanbaria, and Cox's Bazar are all major cities in ____.

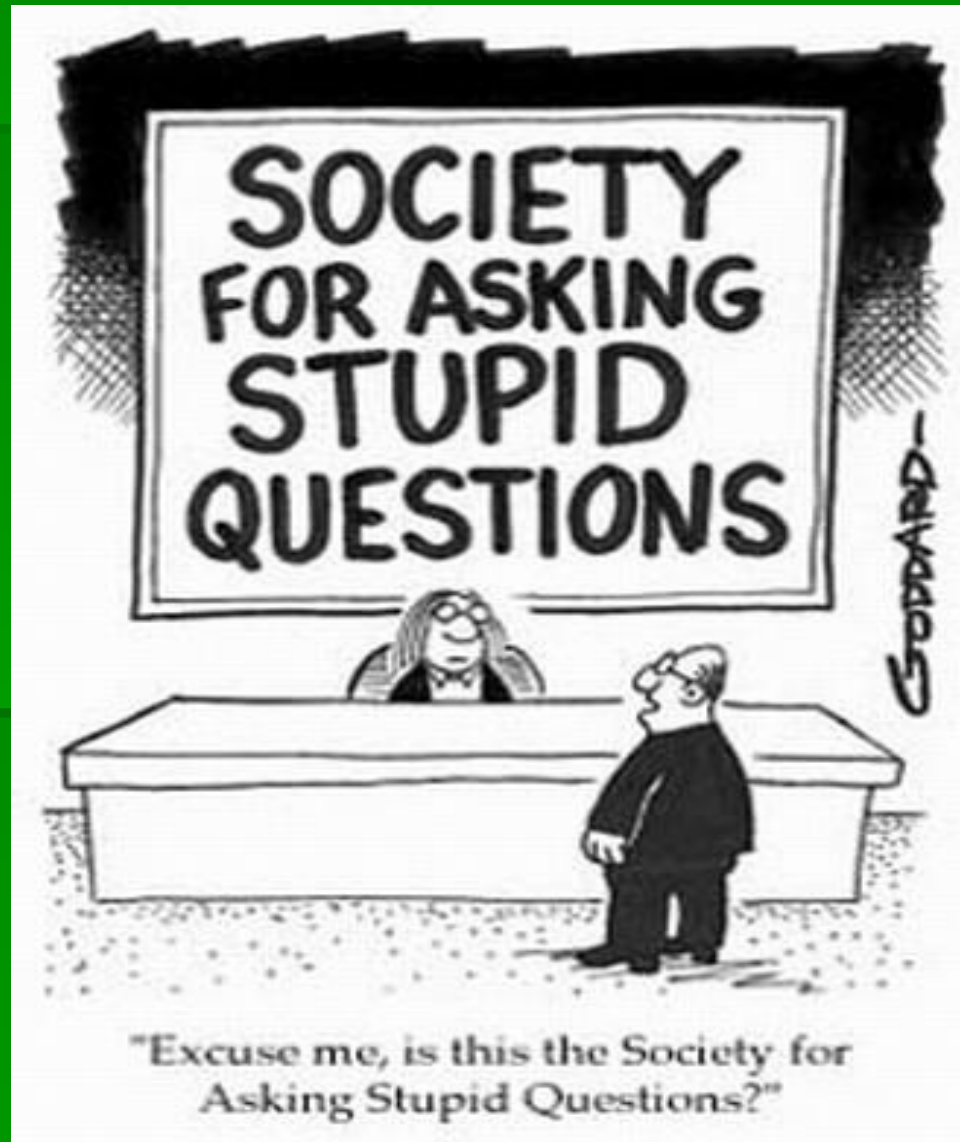
A. India

B. Pakistan

C. Bangladesh

D. Sri Lanka

No really easy questions





Do NOT Expect This One

- 1. The _____ was an organization devised in 1858 by the British to serve as the administration of the civilian bureaucracy in India.**
 - A. Non-Indian Uncivil Diservice?**



... nor ones like this

2. The partition of 1947 led to a mass migration of approximately _____ Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs across newly formed borders.

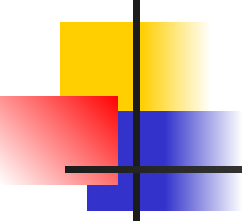
A. 5,000,000

C. 10,000,000

B. 25,000,000

D. 15,000,000

(will not be questions based on specific numbers / statistics)



4. On October 19, 1946, a British captain named Alfred Raymond Turner recorded a statement by Captain _____, the surgeon in charge at the Taipei hospital, inside the Stanley Gaol in Hong Kong. When the injured were brought from the airport to the hospital.

A. Someone who I'm sure meant a lot to their family.



Question Areas

- **Matching individuals and position, philosophy, accomplishments**
- **Issues related to specific events**
- **Specific accomplishments (firsts)**



Question Areas

- **Timeline kinds of questions**
- **The order in which major events transpire**
- **Emergence of political principles**



Question Areas

- **Cause/Effects**
- **Evolution of involvement-key political events**
- **Exceptional situations**

How to Make it Stick

First Things First (Basic Background)

"You cannot cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water."





3-2-1 Approach (2-3-1?)

- **Finite (kind of) to Infinite (Seemingly)**
- **Section 2 is by no means simple, but is more limited than the rest and needs time to simmer**
- **Knowing Section 2 makes the Book much easier to understand and retain**
- **Studying the Book covers a large portion of Section 1**
- **Section 1 will be easier and more effectively studied after the others**
- **The Math Don't Lie**

	Section I	Section II	Section III
Set A	20	15	10
Set B	20	15	10
District	20	15	10
Region	20	15	10
State	20	15	10

SCTN 1 - 100

SCTN 2 - 75

SCTN 3- 50

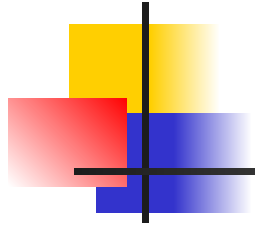
225 TOTAL

Look for Section Overlap



- “Take up an idea, devote yourself, struggle in patience, and the sun will rise.”*
-
-

If it's in on the List and in the Book and in Supplemental Readings... all the more reason to focus



Additional Helpful Material



Websites

Not the be all end all-Research-Send me more-Not just memorizing

“Those who know how to think need no teachers.”

- **Britannica**
- **World History Encyclopedia**
- **Encyclopedia.com**
- **History.com**
- **Cogito**
- **Geography Now**
- **Wondrium**
- **Crash Course**
- **TBT (To Be Tweeted)**
- **The Dreaded Wikipedia**



Preparation

- **Practice regularly – Practice makes...less horrible**
- **Prepare team questions – a great way to gain new insight**
- **Question writing assignments – see above and add some focus**
- **Study Materials (Tests, Study Guides, etc.)**



Preparation

- **Flashcards – one of the best ways to prepare (All the greats steal)**
- **Practice test-taking skills – regardless of the test, skills remain the same**



Competition

- **Official UIL – District, Region and State**
- **UIL – Invitational tournaments**
- **Informal competition**
- **Internet competition**
 - <http://virtualchallengemeets.com/>
 - <http://bestoftexascontest.net/>



More Suggestions

- Review tests from previous competition
- Network with other coaches/students
- Ask questions @mracademics