

Preparing for the Regents

Enduring Issues

An enduring issue is a challenge or problem that a society has faced and debated or discussed across time. An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success. To identify an enduring issue for your extended essay, you must analyze each of the documents, determine the issues in each document, and then group those issues under a common category that encompasses all of the issues you identified. This common category is your enduring issue. The identified issue must be an issue that has affected people or has been affected by people and has continued to be an issue across time or has changed over time. Defining the enduring issue will require information from the documents and the application of your social studies knowledge.

The following is a set of select examples of enduring issues that came from a list provided by the New York State Education Department. The “nested issues” are issues that could be considered elements within the overarching “enduring issue.” However, they could also be considered enduring issues themselves.

Enduring Issue	Nested Issues
Conflict	war, competition, armed struggle, resistance, invasions, threats to balance of power, power struggles, disputes over boundaries or location of boundaries, ethnic disputes, religious disputes, disputes between social classes, terrorism
Human Rights Violations	injustice, discrimination, exclusion, unfair treatment, cruel treatment, persecution for beliefs, threats to cultural identity, enslavement, human trafficking, genocide
Scarcity	lack of food, lack of human resources, lack of natural resources, lack of housing/shelter, lack of clean water/water resources, lack of medical treatment, lack of arable land, lack of technology, lack of capital
Power	lack of access to power, unfair distribution of power, relationship of ruler to ruled, social class tensions, ability of the people to have a voice in government
Security	threats to property, terrorism, lack of safety, nuclear proliferation, biological weapons, role of technology in harming security, hacking, debate over formation of alliances/membership in an alliance, responsibilities of collective security
Population Growth	strain on resources, strain on housing, sanitation conditions/strain on sanitation systems, healthcare needs, ability to feed population, restrictions on population growth
Human Impact on the Environment	consequences of establishing political/physical boundaries, impact of deforestation, desertification, global warming, destruction of ozone layer, pollution, diversion of rivers/water sources, draining of aquifers, impact of extraction of resources, impact of policies to adapt to potential flooding, spread of disease
Impact of Environment on Humans	impact of natural physical barriers, impact of access to rivers, impact of access to seas, impact of climate, impact of weather, impact of natural disasters, impact of flooding, impact of earthquake destruction
Tensions Between Traditional Culture and Modernization	loss of cultural identity, loss of language, loss of traditional beliefs, traditional gender roles versus modern gender roles, disputes over gender roles, role of ethnic identity and power, ethnic tensions, debate over westernization as modernization, difficulty of maintaining traditions in a time of change
Impact of Trade	integration of new ideas, rejection of new ideas, economic sanctions, boycotts, embargoes, imposing/levying tariffs, loss of jobs, integration of new technology, impact of changes in production, balance of trade, impact on environment, ability to participate in global trade



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Impact of Cultural Diffusion	loss of/threats to cultural identity, spread of disease, debate over change, challenge of imported technology, debate over value of accepting a new good, debate over value of accepting a new idea, unintended consequences of embracing new ideas, unintended consequences of embracing new philosophies
Impact of Technology	consequences of technology use for people, consequences of technology use for the environment, impact of technology on jobs/livelihoods, impact of technology on cultural traditions, impact of technology on land usage, impact of technology on settlement patterns
Impact of Industrialization	low wages, poor working conditions, unsafe working conditions, use of child labor, unequal wages for similar work, need for regulations, need for reform, unionization, pollution, demand for infrastructure, impact on status of women, rise of socialism
Impact of Urbanization	overcrowding, challenge to meet housing/shelter needs, need to address waste disposal/sanitation, ability to keep order, ability to provide protection, availability of jobs, ability to provide clean drinking water, spread of disease
Impact of Nationalism	secession, demand for a shift in boundaries, reaction to new boundaries, citizenship/what does it mean to belong/what does it mean not to belong, force of unification, manipulation of nationalistic feelings/ultra-nationalism
Impact of Imperialism/ Colonization/ Empire Building/ Decolonization	challenge of securing resources, challenge of maintaining control of territory, challenge of exerting power, maintaining cultural identity, maintaining ethnic identity, loss of cultural identity, loss of ethnic identity, loss of traditions, challenges to religious practices, ability to participate in/have a say in government, economic overextension, ability to get goods to market, market for goods
Impact of Migration	reaction to immigrants, reaction to migrants, reaction to outsiders/those who are different, challenge of integrating immigrants, reaction to efforts to integrate immigrants, reaction to refugees, acceptance of refugees, problems faced by refugees, disenfranchisement, strains on housing, impact of squatter settlements, strains on social welfare systems, availability of jobs
Impact of Globalization	rate of cultural change, unintended consequences of cultural change, access to information, access to education, access to jobs/job opportunities, debate over sustainability, support for cultural convergence, displacement of industries/companies, displacement of jobs, impact on human capital, consequences of interdependence, debate over spread of technology, debate over reduction in barriers, importance of international workers
Equity Issues/Lack of Access	lack of access to information, lack of access to education, lack of access to food, lack of access to shelter, lack of access to clean water
Impact of Cooperation (solving of mutual problems)	consequences of cooperation on countries/on cultures/on traditions, consequences of mitigation of hunger/famine, consequences of involvement in maintaining peace or in multinational peacekeeping efforts, consequences of mediating disputes, consequences of membership in cooperative organizations, benefits of working together to solve mutual problems