

2026-2027 Regional Tournament Study Guide – Gamma History Set - Asia

Instructions: This study guide should be your first step in preparing for the [International History Bee and Bowl tournaments on the Gamma Question Set](#). Many of the facts below are found in the questions on the Gamma 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. Egypt became the first Arab state to recognize Israel under the leadership of President [Anwar Sadat](#) (1918-1981).
2. In 2003, Sudanese dictator [Omar al-Bashir](#) (1944 - present) launched a [Darfur](#) counter-insurgency campaign, killing 300,000 civilians.
3. The government of South Africa has been led by the [African National Congress](#) since the end of [apartheid](#) in 1994.

Ancient History

1. The [Crisis of the Third Century](#), a destructive 50-year period, was ended by [Diocletian](#) (242/243-311/312).
2. [Mycenae](#) is an archaeological site in Greece that was home to the legendary king [Agamemnon](#).
3. [Theodosius the Great](#) (347-395) was a Roman emperor who made [Nicene Christianity](#) the official state religion of the Roman Empire.
4. [Ashoka](#) was a powerful ruler of the [Maurya Dynasty](#) of India who converted to [Buddhism](#) after witnessing the violence of the Kalinga War.

Asian History

1. [Bangladesh](#) was led by [Sheikh Hasina](#) (1947 - present) from 1996 to 2001 and again for four consecutive terms from 2009 until her resignation in August 2024.
2. The [eruption of Krakatoa](#) in 1883 created the loudest sound recorded in history.
3. The collapse of the [Han dynasty](#) was followed by an era of civil war called the [Three Kingdoms](#) period.
4. The [Mongol Empire](#) was established by [Genghis Khan](#).

5. The [Indus Valley Civilization](#) spanned modern-day Pakistan, northwestern India, and northeastern Afghanistan.
6. [Sukarno](#) (1901-1970) led the [nationalist movement of Indonesia](#) before becoming the country's first president in 1945.
7. The beginning of the [Korean War](#) was marked by an invasion by North Korean forces as they crossed the 38th parallel.
8. The [Chola dynasty](#) was a powerful Tamil ruling family that governed southern India and parts of Southeast Asia from the 9th century to the 13th century.
9. The [Battle of Mactan](#) was a conflict between Spanish forces led by Ferdinand Magellan and the native warriors led by Lapulapu.
10. A noblewoman named Murasaki Shikibu wrote what is widely considered the world's first novel, the [Tale of Genji](#).
11. The nonviolent resistance philosophy called *satyagraha* was utilized by [Mahatma Gandhi](#) (1869-1948) to mobilize the people of India against British rule.
12. The [Forbidden City](#) is a palace in Beijing that served as the imperial seat for 24 emperors.
13. The nuclear bombings of [Hiroshima](#) and [Nagasaki](#) in August 1945 led to the surrender of Japan and marked the end of WWII.
14. [Bhutan](#) is currently ruled by the Wangchuk Dynasty, who since 1907 have held the title of Druk Gyalpo, or Dragon King.
15. Japan was unified by [Tokugawa Ieyasu](#) in the wake of the 1600 [Battle of Sekigahara](#). Tokugawa rule is often referred to as the [Edo Period](#).
16. [Thailand](#) was internationally known as Siam until 1939.

European History

1. The [Velvet Divorce](#) of 1993 resulted in the dissolution of [Czechoslovakia](#) into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
2. The [RAF](#) successfully defended the United Kingdom against the [Luftwaffe](#) during the [Battle of Britain](#).
3. [Maria Theresa](#) (1717-1780) was the only female ruler to govern the [Habsburg](#) Domain.
4. The [Hanseatic League](#) consisted of a network of merchant guilds in Northern and Central Europe.
5. England's Catholic king [James the Second](#) was replaced with Protestant Mary the Second and William the Third in the [Glorious Revolution](#).
6. The [Spanish Armada](#) was sent by King [Philip the Second](#) of Spain in 1588 to overthrow Queen Elizabeth the First of England.
7. The [British East India Company](#) was established in 1600 and held a monopoly on trade with Asia until it was dissolved in 1874.
8. The [Reign of Terror](#) during the French Revolution was primarily led by radical [Jacobin](#) leader [Maximilien Robespierre](#).
9. British explorer [James Cook](#) (1728-1779) was the first European to visit the Hawaiian Islands and mapped New Zealand and the eastern coastline of Australia.
10. The Provisional Government of Russia was overthrown by the [Bolsheviks](#) in the [October Revolution](#).

Latin American and Caribbean History

1. The [Sandinistas](#), a guerilla group and political party in Nicaragua, overthrew the [Somoza family](#) dictatorship in 1979.
2. [Juan Perón's](#) (1895-1974) namesake political movement, Peronism, focused on three pillars: social justice, economic independence, and political sovereignty. It is still popular today in Argentina.
3. Disputes over the ownership of the [Falkland Islands](#) resulted in a 1982 war between the United Kingdom and Argentina. The vast majority of its citizens are descended from British settlers.

4. Beginning in 1667, the Dutch colonized [Suriname](#) and ruled it for nearly 300 years until the country achieved full independence in 1975.
5. [Toussaint Louverture](#) (1743-1803) led the enslaved people of [Haiti](#) in a successful revolt against French colonial rule and slavery.

U.S. History

1. [Theodore Roosevelt](#) (1858-1919) formed the [Bull Moose Party](#) in 1912 after losing the Republican Party presidential nomination to [William Howard Taft](#) (1857-1930).
2. Soldiers of the [Continental Army](#) endured a harsh winter while encamped at [Valley Forge](#) during the American Revolution.

Terms for Further Study

1. [Zoroastrianism](#)
2. [Prussia](#)
3. [Wu Zetian](#)
4. [English Civil War](#)
5. [Ishtar / Inanna](#)
6. [Gia Long](#)
7. [Camp David Accords](#)
8. [Trajan](#)
9. [Nicaragua](#)
10. [Sengoku period](#)
11. [Huldrych Zwingli](#)
12. [Zhou dynasty](#)
13. [95 Theses](#)
14. [Shah Jahan](#)
15. [Ptolemaic dynasty](#)
16. [Neil Armstrong](#)
17. [Peloponnesian War](#)
18. [Sir Francis Drake](#)
19. [Jammu](#)
20. [Laozi](#)
21. [Madagascar](#)
22. [Edouard Manet](#)
23. [Samarkand](#)
24. [People Power Revolution](#)
25. [Tenochtitlan](#)
26. [Analects](#)
27. [Haile Selassie](#)
28. [Simon Bolivar](#)
29. [1683 Siege of Vienna](#)
30. [Tikal](#)