

# AICE English General Paper Summer Assignment

This year, you will examine and evaluate a number of global interests/concerns in the following areas: Science and Technology, Politics and Government, Environmental, Social and Cultural, and Leisure (arts, media, sports, books, entertainment). Often, these broad areas overlap. The following list of topics represents diverse areas you may explore in your General Paper Journey:

- The role and value of history in modern society
- Wars, conflicts and terrorism
- The state and its institutions
- Political systems, leadership, nationalism and forms of government
- The role of international organizations
- The provision and politics of aid
- Justice and the justice system; prison and rehabilitation
- The role of the individual in society
- Family, marriage and partnerships, social pressure, class and social attitudes
- Globalization and its impacts
- Wealth and equality in society
- Population and migration
- Education
- Welfare
- Sport and leisure
- Work and employment
- Industry and commerce
- Freedom of speech, thought and action
- Human rights
- Animal welfare
- Matters of conscience, faith and tolerance
- Medical and scientific advances and their ethics
- Drug testing, manufacture and provision
- Diet, health education and provision of healthcare
- Space exploration and its associated industry
- Information and communications technology
- Surveillance and privacy
- Environmental concerns
- Natural disasters including mitigation and management
- Rural and urban concerns
- Food and water security
- Transport, travel and tourism
- The uses and applications of mathematics
- Literature
- Non-fiction writing
- Language
- Performing arts
- Visual arts
- Applied arts
- Arts institutions and venues
- Traditional arts and crafts; heritage
- Print and digital media
- Advertising
- Censorship and freedom of the media and the arts

In order to consider the various elements of this course, you will engage in a variety of **activities found below** over the summer. This will assist you in shifting to a global mindset. You should also feel free to explore any of the topics above that are unfamiliar to you.

## Part I: Podcast Assignment

In order to increase your background knowledge about global interests and concerns, please select and listen to five different podcasts- **one for each of the five lenses** (again, they are: **Science and Technology, Politics and Government, Environmental, Social and Cultural, and Leisure (arts, media, sports, books, entertainment)**).

Here is a list of podcasts that would fall under these lenses for you to choose from:

- Hidden Brain
- Serial
- Pop Culture Happy Hour
- Invisibilia
- Lore
- Ted Radio Hour
- Radio Lab
- Stuff You Should Know

**Here is list with more approved podcasts:** <https://www.teachthought.com/education/50-of-the-best-podcasts-for-high-school-students/>

You will keep a [Podcast log](#). In this log, you will document:

- A. the name and episode of the podcast you listened to
- B. 2-4 sentences summarizing each podcast
- C. How that podcast fits in the lens/category you place it under- one for each of the five lenses (again, they are: **Science and Technology, Politics and Government, Environmental, Social and Cultural, and Leisure (arts, media, sports, books, entertainment)**).
- D. something you learned from it- interesting facts/notable quotes
- E. Why you selected this podcast

Some podcasts may fall under multiple categories and that's okay. Just select **one** category to log it under. You must listen to **at least five podcasts**, one from each category, **even if there is overlap**. You will have a total of five podcasts and five entries. [You can view the rubric for this assignment here.](#)

[Please click here to download the log.](#)

## Part II: Current Event Articles

The above topics can be situated/organized into more broad groupings. For **each of the THREE broad areas of study below, you will select a CURRENT ARTICLE** (dated within the last three months). [You will use the included article graphic organizer.](#)

- Economic, Historical, Moral, Political, and Social
- Science, including its history, philosophy, ethics, general principles and applications; environmental issues; technology and mathematics
- Literature, Language, the Arts, Crafts, and the Media

## Part III: Book Talk

In addition to the summer reading parts 1-2 please pick up a book that ties into one of the topics listed to read and be ready to do a Book Talk in the first few weeks of the year.

Suggested book list:

1. Dry – Jarrod Shusterman
2. Turtles All the Way Down – John Green
3. The Book Thief – Markus Zusak
4. I am Malala – Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick
5. 1984 – George Orwell
6. The Pearl – John Steinbeck
7. The Stranger, Albert Camus
9. The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho
10. All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr
11. Born a Crime, Trevor Noah
12. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck

You may also select ANY novel at high school level that "fits" thematically into this year's topics. **You are not limited to the books on this list; however, please make sure your parent or guardian approves your choice, you will be required to document this approval the first week of school via Canvas.** Therefore, your parent should be made VERY aware of your choices. Base your choice on how it fits categories for this course and your interests. DO NOT base your choice on whether there is a movie adapted from the book.

Please avoid books read in core English or Reading classes previously taken. We are aware of those lists. It needs to be a book you haven't previously read or read for class. Please do not choose Night by Elie Wiesel (we use it in class as supplement).

