12th Grade AICE Gen Papers Summer Reading

You will engage with real-world articles and develop **well-structured, evidence-based responses**.

✍️ Student Instructions

For each of the 5 readings:

1. **Read the article carefully** using the link provided
2. On a piece of paper, take **detailed notes** on:
    - Main argument
    - Key examples
    - Important statistics or viewpoints
3. **You will attach your notes** to your assignment to prove that you have read the articles. Be sure to include facts from the entire article and not just the beginning.
4. For each of the 5 articles, handwrite **ONE analytical paragraph (8–12 sentences)** answering the prompt. Be sure to include specific facts and details from the article to support your answer. TYPED ANSWERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You will have a total of 5 paragraphs.

📌 Paragraph Requirements

Each paragraph must:

- Use correct **grammar, punctuation, and capitalization**
- Demonstrate **varied sentence structure**
- Maintain a **formal academic tone**
- Include at least **THREE specific facts gleaned from the article**
- Focus on **analysis and evaluation**, not just summary

📚 Reading Tasks

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1. Arts & Social Change

Article: *How arts and culture can serve as a force for social change*
Source: *World Economic Forum*
Link:
https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/10/how-arts-and-culture-can-serve-as-a-force-for-social-change/

Context: *Art can shape public opinion, challenge stereotypes, and give a voice to marginalized communities. For example, filmmakers and artists have used storytelling to influence debates on issues like identity and human rights.*

Prompt:
To what extent can the Arts effect positive social change today?

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2. Censorship & Creativity

Article: Taking a stand against book bans
Source: *American Psychological Association*
Link: *https://www.apa.org/monitor/2025/07-08/fighting-book-bans-censorship*

Context: *There has been a significant increase in book bans across U.S. schools, often targeting works that address race, identity, or social issues. Critics argue that these restrictions limit students' exposure to diverse perspectives and undermine creative and intellectual freedom.*

Prompt: 'Censorship undermines the arts and violates the right of freedom of speech.' How far do you agree?

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3. Pop Culture

Article: Is pop music really getting dumber? A music professor explains what the science really says
Link:
https://www.musicradar.com/artists/is-pop-music-really-getting-dumber-a-music-professor-explains-what-the-science-really-says
Context: Critics argue modern pop music lacks depth, while others see it as evolving.

Prompt:
Assess the view that pop music today is frivolous.

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4. Environmental Responsibility

Article: *What is climate change and why does it matter?*
Source: NASA
Link: https://climate.nasa.gov/what-is-climate-change/

Context: Climate change is driven by human activity and has global consequences, including extreme weather, rising sea levels, and environmental degradation.

Prompt:
To what extent is environmental protection the responsibility of the individual?

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5. Sports

Article: *World's Highest Paid Athlete*
Source: Forbes
Link: https://www.forbes.com/lists/athletes/

Context: Professional sports generate massive revenue, raising questions about fairness, access, and priorities.

Prompt:
'Professional sport today is more about money than passion.' Discuss.