

## **Scope of the Entrance Exam**

### **Subject: World History**

#### **1. Prehistory and the Dawn of Civilization**

- **Beginnings of Human History**

- Overview of human evolution from hominids to *Homo sapiens*
- Life in the Stone Age: gathering, hunting, and the invention of tools
- The development of language and communication as the foundation of society

- **Neolithic Revolution:**

- Transition from nomadic life to agriculture and settled societies
- Emergence of the first settlements and agricultural communities
- The significance of rivers such as the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates in the development of the first civilizations

#### **2. Antiquity**

- **First Civilizations:**

- Mesopotamia: development of cuneiform script, Hammurabi's Code
- Egypt: construction of pyramids, religion, and social structure
- India: Indus Valley Civilization, beginnings of Hinduism and Buddhism
- China: Shang and Zhou dynasties, emergence of Confucianism and Taoism.

- **Greece and Rome:**

- Greek culture: philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), Athenian democracy, Olympic Games
- Roman expansion: Republic, Empire, Roman law
- Fall of the Roman Empire: causes and consequences

#### **3. Middle Ages**

- **Feudalism:**

- Social structure: division into knighthood, peasants, and clergy
- The role of castles and cities in medieval Europe.

- **Religion:**

- Dominance of the Catholic Church and its influence on daily life
- Rise of Islam: the life of Muhammad, the Quran, expansion of the caliphates

- **Crusades:**
  - The Crusades and their impact on relations between the Christian and Muslim cultures
- **Culture and Science:**
  - Development of Romanesque and Gothic art
  - Limitations of medieval science; the Carolingian Renaissance

#### **4. Renaissance and Geographical Discoveries**

- **Rebirth of Ancient Culture:**
  - Humanism, Renaissance art (Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo)
  - Development of science: Copernicus, Galileo
- **Great Discoveries:**
  - Voyages of Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Magellan
  - Colonization of the New World, trade in spices and gold
  - Consequences for indigenous peoples and the development of the slave trade
- **Reformation:**
  - The work of Martin Luther and the rise of Protestantism
  - The Council of Trent and the Counter-Reformation

#### **5. Modern Era**

- **Enlightenment:**
  - Developments in philosophy: Rousseau, Voltaire, Locke
  - Ideas of human rights and the social contract
- **Revolutions:**
  - American War of Independence
  - French Revolution: equality, liberty, fraternity
- **Industrial Revolution:**
  - Development of factories, technological development
  - Urbanization and social changes

## 6. The 19th and 20th Century

- **Imperialism:**
  - Colonization of Africa and Asia by European powers
  - Rise of national ideas and independence movements
- **World Wars:**
  - World War I: causes, trajectory, and consequences
  - World War II: totalitarianisms, Holocaust, invention of the atomic bomb
- **Cold War:**
  - Conflict between the USA and the USSR
  - Arms race and space exploration

## 7. Contemporary Era

- **Globalization:**
  - Development of technology, the internet, international organizations
  - Problems of the modern world: climate change, migration, armed conflicts
- **Future Perspective:**
  - The importance of history in shaping the present

### Suggested reading list:

- **In English:** Gombrich, E.H. (2016). *A little history of the world*. Translated by C. Mustill. Yale University Press.
- **In Polish:** Gombrich, E.H. (2017). *Krótką historia świata*. Translated by B. Ostrowska. Dom Wydawniczy Rebis.

Available at:

<https://archive.org/details/gombrich-a-little-history-of-the-world>.