

## Politics and International Studies: Second-round Sample Tasks for the Open Doors Master's and Doctoral Track

This sample test comprises 30 tasks, including: 18 entry-level tasks with a single correct answer, each correct answer assigned 2 points; 9 intermediate-level tasks with multiple correct answers, each correct answer is assigned 2 to 4 points; 3 advanced-level tasks requiring a detailed answer, each answer assigned up to 14 points, depending on its correctness and completeness.

For advanced-level tasks requiring a detailed answer, assessment criteria and a standard answer are provided.

### Field of Science 1. International Relations

#### Task 1

Entry level (2 points)

Which organization was founded in 1945?

- a. NAFTA
- b. UN
- c. SCO
- d. EU

**Answer:** b

#### Task 2

Entry level (2 points)

Which of the following organizations includes the United States as a member?

- a. NAFTA
- b. CIS
- c. SCO
- d. EUROPEAN UNION

**Answer:** a

#### Task 3

Entry level (2 points)

Which of the following countries joined NATO during its fourth enlargement in 1999?

- a. Austria, Switzerland, Ireland
- b. Russia, Ukraine, Belarus
- c. Finland, Sweden, Montenegro
- d. Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary

**Answer:** d

#### Task 4

Entry level (2 points)

When did the USSR cease to exist?

- a. 1945
- b. 1985
- c. 1991
- d. 1999

**Answer:** c

**Task 5**  
**Intermediate level (3 points)**

1. Compare the country and the disputed territory:

1. Moldova	a) Kashmir
2. Turkey	b) Nagorno-Karabakh
3. Azerbaijan	c) North Cyprus
4. Pakistan	d) Transnistria

**Answer:** 4a, 3b, 2c, 1d

**Task 6**  
**Advanced level (14 points)**  
**Essay**

In recent years, the People's Republic of China has emerged as one of the world's leading economic and military powers. In your opinion, is it likely that China will attempt to annex Taiwan by force in the near future? Provide arguments to support your position.

Maximum word count: 500

Maximum score: 14 points

**Standard answer**

China has maintained steady economic growth over recent decades, currently ranking first or second globally in terms of GDP. In the military domain, it continues to strengthen its position—not only through its nuclear arsenal, but also by expanding the technological capabilities of its land, naval, and air forces. The country is advancing a space program and leads in emerging technologies, particularly in unmanned aerial vehicles (drones). Since 2019, China has held the global lead in patent applications. This growing economic and military influence has intensified China's pressure on neighboring countries and regions.

One of the long-standing territorial claims of Communist China concerns the island of Taiwan, which became politically separate from mainland China in 1949 following a bloody civil war. Currently, the United States officially recognizes the principle of "One China" and maintains diplomatic relations with the PRC, while simultaneously upholding a treaty that provides for military assistance to Taiwan.

According to one perspective, the PRC is unlikely to pursue unification through military means. This reluctance is influenced not only by substantial U.S. support for Taiwan but also by the national mentality; the Chinese tend to favor prolonged trade and negotiations to secure advantages rather than swift, impulsive aggression. Additionally, the PRC's industry remains dependent on European and U.S. technologies and patents. The Chinese economy is heavily reliant on the large European and U.S. markets for selling its products, markets that would be difficult to replace in the event of a military conflict and the resulting political and economic rupture in relations.

Yet, according to another point of view, the PRC, in the context of global geopolitical changes and the transition to multipolarity, should reinforce its economic power with military successes. Periodic crises in the Taiwan Strait indicate a gradual increase in tension. According to Chinese President Xi Jinping, reunification with Taiwan is an important part of the "Chinese dream" and the restoration of the PRC's greatness.

The answer may be based on either the first or the second point of view, or it may offer a comparison of the two approaches.

### Assessment criteria

#### **K1. Identification of relevant approaches, theoretical frameworks, and authors corresponding to the discussed concepts, phenomena, and processes**

- Relevant research approaches and concepts are correctly identified and applied in the answer (3–5 points).
- The terminology related to approaches and concepts is used correctly, though partially misinterpreted (1–3 points).
- Proficiency in terminology is not demonstrated, and relevant approaches and concepts are not identified (0 points).

#### **K2. Quality of argumentation**

- The position is consistently argued. The argumentation is coherent, persuasive, and sufficient to justify the stated position (3–5 points).
- The position is presented with some degree of reasoning. The argumentation displays some inconsistencies but remains broadly persuasive and sufficient to justify the stated position. (1–3 points).
- No arguments are provided to support the stated position, with reasoning limited to general statements (0 points).

#### **K3. Language proficiency**

- The response demonstrates precision in expression, lexical diversity, and grammatical accuracy (3–4 points).
- The answer is characterized by accuracy of thought expression and lexical variety but contains some grammatical errors, or it demonstrates accuracy of thought expression and grammatical correctness with relatively limited vocabulary (1–2 points).
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## Field of Science 2. Political Science

### Task 7

#### Entry level (2 points)

Plato is known to have created two social and political utopias. One of them is set forth in the dialog *The Republic*. What is the name of Plato's work in which the second utopia is set forth?

- Politics
- Laws
- Critias
- Timaeus

**Answer:** b

### Task 8

#### Entry level (2 points)

Which of the following refers to a specific pattern of political activity orientation reflecting the characteristics of each political system?

- Political institute
- Political deprivation
- Political autonomy

d. Political culture

**Answer: d**

### **Task 9**

**Entry level (2 points)**

Which of the following is part of institutions of civil society?

- a. Legislative bodies
- b. The penitentiary system
- c. Judicial authorities
- d. Non-profit organizations

**Answer: d**

### **Task 10**

**Entry level (2 points)**

Which of the following refers to the policy of immoralism expressed by the phrase “the end justifies the means”?

- a. Nationalism
- b. Bonapartism
- c. Voluntarism
- d. Machiavellianism

**Answer: d**

### **Task 11**

**Intermediate level (2 points)**

Which types of political culture were distinguished by Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba? Select all that apply.

- a. Parochial
- b. Fragmentary
- c. Clientelistic
- d. Participant—Citizens
- e. Synthetic
- f. Spectator culture
- g. Subject

**Answer: a, d, g**

### **Task 12**

**Advanced level (14 points)**

**Case study**

In a single electoral district in an election using a proportional system, 8 mandates must be allocated among five parties. According to the results, Party A received 126,000 votes; Party B, 94,000 votes; Party C, 88,000 votes; Party D, 65,000 votes; and Party E, 27,000 votes.

How many seats will each party be allocated using the Hare–Niemeyer (Hamilton method) and the D'Hondt method?

**Correct answers**

The Hare–Niemeyer (Hamilton method)

Party A: 2

Party B: 2  
Party C: 2  
Party D: 1  
Party E: 1

D'Hondt method  
Party A: 3  
Party B: 2  
Party C: 2  
Party D: 1  
Party E: 0

The task has a maximum score of 14 points.

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### Field of Science 3. Public Policy

#### Task 13

#### Entry level (2 points)

What is the relationship between public policy and the concept of human rights?

- a. The two concepts are distinct and should be examined independently.
- b. Each public policy issue inherently involves a human rights dimension.
- c. The concept of public policy is subsumed within the broader concept of human rights.
- d. State policy on human rights is a field of public policy.

**Answer: d**

**Task 14**  
**Entry level (2 points)**

Which of the following cannot be classified as a political actor?

- a. Someone who designs policies
- b. Someone who implements policies
- c. Someone who is influenced by policies
- d. Someone taking decisions regarding policy
- e. None of the above

**Answer: e**

**Task 15**  
**Entry level (2 points)**

At the present stage, public administration is realized in full accordance with which of the following management concepts?

- a. Weberian bureaucracy
- b. New public management
- c. Good governance
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Task 16**  
**Entry level (2 points)**

Who is the author of the budget-maximizing model?

- a. William Niskanen
- b. Karl Marx
- c. Max Weber
- d. Harold Lasswell
- e. Paul Sabatier

**Answer: a**

**Task 17**  
**Intermediate level (2 points)**

Which stages are included in the policy cycle model? Select all that apply.

- a. Agenda setting
- b. Policy implementation
- c. Policy evaluation
- d. Stakeholders inclusion
- e. Strategic planning
- f. Assumption building

**Answer: a, b, c**

**Task 18**  
**Advanced level (14 points)**  
**Essay**

Explain the key characteristics of the policy cycle model. What, in your opinion, makes it so widely accepted among scholars?

Maximum word count: 500

Maximum score: 14 points

### Standard answer

Harold Lasswell originally proposed the policy cycle model, or is at least credited with creating the first cyclical model of the policy process. His model was broader than the one commonly used today and included stages such as exploration, promotion, prescription, appeal, application, evaluation, and termination. Although the number and names of stages vary among authors and sources, the model is generally divided into five stages: agenda setting, policy formulation, policy adoption, policy implementation, and policy evaluation. Legitimation is considered a continuous process throughout the entire cycle.

The model has gained wide acceptance for several reasons. First, it structures thinking about the policy process, serving as a useful heuristic. Second, it organizes and consolidates the literature, as theories exist for each stage of the cycle. Third, it is sufficiently general to apply across different political systems. Finally, it functions as a normative model, illustrating what an ideal political process should look like.

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## Field of Science 4. Oriental and African Studies

### Task 19

**Entry level (2 points)**

Who is the author of the Koran according to Muslim beliefs?

- a. Prophet Muhammad
- b. Allah
- c. Jesus Christ
- d. Prophet Moses

**Answer:** b

**Task 20**

**Entry level (2 points)**

In cross-cultural interactions with which nation do body language and facial expressions play a crucial role?

- a. Japanese
- b. Germans
- c. the French
- d. Spaniards

**Answer:** a

**Task 21**

**Entry level (2 points)**

When was the agreement on the demarcation of the shared Russian-Chinese border signed?

- a. 2005
- b. 1998
- c. 2004
- d. 1967

**Answer:** c

**Task 22**

**Intermediate level (2 points)**

What organization is described in the following passage?

A political, economic, and cultural regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten Southeast Asian countries, established on August 8, 1967, with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.

**Answer:** ASEAN

**Field of Science 5. International Regional Studies**

**Task 23**

**Entry level (2 points)**

Which of the following countries can be classified as part of the Global North?

- a. Indonesia
- b. Bangladesh
- c. Australia
- d. St Kitts and Nevis

**Answer:** c



**Task 24**  
**Entry level (2 points)**

What type of organization is ASEAN from a geographical standpoint?

- a. Global
- b. Regional
- c. Subregional
- d. Local

**Answer:** b

**Task 25**  
**Entry level (2 points)**

What is ASEM (Asia–Europe Meeting)?

- a. A United Nations system body
- b. An international non-governmental organization
- c. One of APEC institutions
- d. A non-binding international consultative forum

**Answer:** d

**Task 26**  
**Intermediate level (2 points)**

Identify three member states of the European Union.

- a. Czech Republic
- b. Switzerland
- c. Greece
- d. Macedonia
- e. The Netherlands

**Answer:** a, c, e

**Task 27**  
**Intermediate level (4 points)**

Match each author to the ideological or theoretical movement they represent.

- a. Barry Buzan                    1) Communication theory
- b. Karl Deutsch                    2) Regional security complex theory
- c. Ernst B. Haas                    3) Civilizational approach
- d. Samuel Huntington            4) Functionalism theory

**Answer:** a2, b1, c4, d3

**Task 28**  
**Intermediate level (2 points)**

Match Russia's regions and republics with their respective capitals.

- a. Yoshkar-Ola                    1) Republic of Bashkortostan
- b. Ulan-Ude                        2) Republic of Mari-El
- c. Ufa                                3) Republic of Buryatia
- d. Kazan                            4) Republic of Tatarstan

**Answer:** a2, b3, c1, d4

**Task 29**  
**Intermediate level (3 points)**

Match each region with its constituent country.

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| a. Latin America  | 1) Bahrain |
| b. Africa         | 2) Belize  |
| c. Southeast Asia | 3) Brunei  |
| d. Middle East    | 4) Benin   |

**Answer:** a2, b4, c3, d1

**Task 30**  
**Intermediate level (2 points)**

Identify the four geographic sub-regions of Latin America:

- a. Central America
- b. Caribbean
- c. South America
- d. Maghreb
- e. North America

**Answer:** a, b, c, e