

Politics and International Studies: Second-round sample tasks for the Open Doors postgraduate track

You will be asked to complete 30 tasks, including:

- 18 entry-level tasks with one correct answer worth 2 points;
- 9 intermediate level tasks with several correct answers worth 2-4 points;
- 3 advanced level tasks (constructed response), each correctly completed tasks valued at 1-14 points.

Evaluation criteria and standard answers are provided for the advanced tasks requiring constructed responses.

International relations

Task 1

Entry level (2 points)

In 1945, the following organization was founded:

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

Answer: b

Task 2

Entry level (2 points)

The United States is part of...

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

Answer: a

Task 3

Entry level (2 points)

During the fourth enlargement of NATO (1999), the organization was joined by...

- 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**

Topic: In recent years, China (PRC) has been one of the world's economic and military leaders. Will China dare to annex Taiwan by force in the next few years? Argue your point of view.

The maximum number of words is 500 words.

The maximum number of points for the task is 14 points.

Key characteristics of the answer:

China has ensured constant economic growth in recent decades. In terms of GDP, it is ranked 1-2 in the world. In the military sphere, it is strengthening its position, possessing not only a nuclear arsenal, but also a growing technical potential of land, sea and air weapons. It develops a space program and is a leader in the field of new technologies, in particular unmanned flying vehicles (drones). Since 2019, China has been the world leader in patent applications. Growing economic and military power increases China's pressure on neighboring countries and regions.

One of the objects of Communist China's long-standing claims is the island of Taiwan. It separated from mainland China in a political sense in 1949 after a bloody civil war. Currently, the United States, on the one hand, recognizes the unity of China, maintaining diplomatic relations with the PRC, on the other hand, has a treaty on military assistance with Taiwan.

According to one point of view, the PRC will not seek the unification of the country by military means. This is hindered not only by serious assistance to Taiwan from the United States,

but also by the national mentality. The Chinese are more inclined to long trade, negotiations to obtain benefits, than to quick rash aggression. In addition, the dependence of the PRC industry on European and American technologies and their patents remains. The Chinese economy also remains heavily dependent on the capacious European and American markets for its products, which will be difficult to replace in the context of a military conflict and a political and economic rupture in relations.

According to another point of view, the PRC, in the context of global geopolitical changes and the transition to multipolarity, should back up 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 can be based on the first or the second point of view or compare the two approaches.

Evaluation criteria:

K1. Indication of approaches, concepts and authors corresponding to the concepts, phenomena and processes considered in the task

- The participant correctly identifies and applies relevant research approaches and concepts in their answer (3-5 points).
- The participant correctly applies the terminology and concepts related to the topic of the task, but does not accurately identify them (1-3 points).
- The participant does not demonstrate proficiency in terminology and does not identify relevant approaches and concepts (0 points).

K2. Quality of argumentation

- The participant consistently argues their position. The argumentation they propose is consistent, convincing and sufficient to justify the proposed position (3-5 points).
- The participant consistently argues their position in one form or another. The argumentation offered contains some contradictions, but is generally convincing and sufficient to justify the proposed position (1-3 points).
- The participant does not provide arguments for their position, limiting it to general reasoning (0 points).

K3. Quality of written language

- The answer is characterized by accuracy of expression, lexical variety and grammatical correctness. (3-4 points).
- The answer is characterized by accuracy of expression of thought and lexical variety, but contains individual grammatical errors or the work is characterized by accuracy of expression of thought and grammatical correctness with relative poverty of vocabulary (1-2 points).
- The answer is written in vague terms, with poor vocabulary and grammatical errors. (0 points).

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?

- a. «Politics»
- b. «Laws»
- c. «Critias»
- d. «Timaeus»

Answer: b

Task 8
Entry level (2 points)

A particular pattern of political action orientation that reflects the specifics of each political system -

- a. Political institute
- b. Political deprivation
- c. Political autonomy
- d. Political culture

Answer: d

Task 9
Entry level (2 points)

Which of the following refers to the 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)

The policy of immoralism, expressed in the formula «the end justifies the means», is:

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

Answer: d

Task 11
Intermediate level (2 points)

What types of political culture were distinguished by Henry Almond and Sidney Verba?

- 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

The task: In a single electoral district, in elections conducted according to the proportional system, it is necessary to distribute 8 mandates among the five parties that participated in the elections. According to the election results, Party A received 126 thousand votes, Party B received 94 thousand votes, Party C received 88 thousand votes, Party D received 65 thousand votes, Party E received 27 thousand votes.

How many seats will each party receive using the Hare–Niemeyer (Hamilton method) and the D'Hondt method? Explain exactly how you got the result.

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 maximum number of points for the task is 14.

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Public policy

Task 13

Entry level (2 points)

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

- a. They are two different concepts that should be studied separately
- b. Every public policy issue has a human rights issue behind it
- c. Public policy concept is a part of general Human Rights concept
- d. State policy on Human Rights is one of the fields of Public Policy

Answer: d

Task 14

Entry level (2 points)

Who 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. No correct answer
- e. Someone taking decisions regarding policy

Answer: d

Task 15
Entry level (2 points)

Public administration at the present stage is realized in full accordance with the following management concept:

- 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)

What stages are included in the policy cycle model?

- 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

Topic: Explain the key characteristics of the policy cycle model. In your opinion, what makes it so widely accepted among scholars?

The maximum number of words is 500 words.

The maximum number of points for the task is 14 points.

Key characteristics of the answer:

Harold Lasswell originally proposed the policy cycle model, or at least he is believed to have created the first cyclical model of the policy process. His model was broader than the one we use today, and included stages such as exploration, promotion, prescription, appeal, application, evaluation, and termination. However, while the number of stages and their names may vary across authors and sources, it is most commonly divided into five stages: agenda setting, policy formulation, policy adoption, policy implementation, and policy evaluation. Legitimation runs through the entire cycle.

The model has gained wide acceptance for several reasons. First, it helps us structure our thinking about the policy process; it is a useful heuristic. Second, it structures and unifies the literature, since there are theories for each stage of the cycle. It is also general enough to be applicable to different political systems. Finally, it can be seen as a normative model of what an ideal political process should look like.

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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)

Body language and facial expressions are important in cross-cultural interaction with:

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

Answer: a

Task 21

Entry level (2 points)

The agreement on the demarcation of the joint Russian-Chinese border was signed in

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

Answer: c

Task 22

Intermediate level (2 points)

Name this organization:

Political, economic and cultural regional intergovernmental organization of ten countries located in Southeast Asia. Formed on August 8, 1967 in Maktamay along with the signing of the “Bangkok Declaration”

Answer: ASEAN

Foreign Regional Studies

Task 23

Entry level (2 points)

Which country in this list can be related to Global North?

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

Answer: c

Task 24

Entry level (2 points)

Which type of organization is ASEAN in terms of geographical criteria?

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

Answer: b

Task 25

Entry level (2 points)

ASEM (Asia–Europe Meeting) is:

- a. United Nations system body
- b. International non-governmental organization
- c. One of the APEC institutions
- d. 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 the names of the authors with the ideological and theoretical movements they represent:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. B. Buzan | 1) Communication theory |
| b. K. Deutsch | 2) Regional security complex theory |
| c. E. Haas | 3) Civilizational approach |
| d. S. Huntington | 4) Functionalism theory |

Answer: a2, b1, c4, d3

Task 28

Intermediate level (2 points)

Match the capitals of the regions and republics of the Russian Federation:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 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 the region with the country that makes up the region:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 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