

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: second-round sample tasks

Entry level tasks

These tasks will be checked by software. One correct answer is worth one point.

1. Which idea is NOT part of conservatism?
a) Human rights
b) Private property
c) Natural law
d) Preservation of norms

2. The form of power achieving subordination with the help of a positive stimulus is called:
a) authority
b) motivation
c) coercion
d) manipulation

3. Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba define political culture as:
a) behavior of political leaders directly involved into the decision-making process;
b) party discipline;
c) specific orientation towards political object: values, perception and insight;
d) universal humanitarian values.

4. Elections as a political recruitment technology are NOT held in:
a) Saudi Arabia;
b) Vatican;
c) Indonesia;
d) Iran.

5. Decisions of which UN body are binding?
a) General Assembly;
b) Security Council;
c) Trusteeship Council;
d) Economic and Social Council.

6. The principle of Westphalian sovereignty dates back to:
a) 1945;
b) 1815;
c) 1648;
d) 1713.

7. In William Niskanen's model, bureaucracy is
a) office-seeking;
b) corrupt;
c) budget-maximizing;
d) profit-seeking.

8. Which stage is absent in the political cycle model?

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- a) Policy implementation
- b) Alignment of political interests**
- c) Decision making
- d) Agenda-setting

9. Soft power does NOT include:

- a) culture
- b) education
- c) weapons**
- d) economics

10. The term "national interests" is central to the following international relations school:

- a) realism**
- b) liberalism
- c) Marxism
- d) modernism

Intermediate tasks

These multiple choice/matching tasks will be checked by software. Each correctly completed task is worth 5 points.

11. Match the names of the authors to the ideological and theoretical trends they represented:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| a) Herbert Marcuse | 1) communitarianism |
| b) Jean-Paul Sartre | 2) libertarianism |
| c) Friedrich Hayek | 3) neo-Marxism |
| d) Alasdair MacIntyre | 4) existentialism |

Answer: a3, b4, c2, d1

12. Arend Lijphart distinguished the following features of the consensus model of democracy:

- a) it focuses on the concentration of power in the hands of the majority or its representatives;
- b) it favors deals and compromises instead over power struggle;**
- c) political decisions are made by the elites representing the majority of the nation;
- d) decentralization and political power distributed between different groups;**
- i) most possible actors are involved in the decision-making process (majority + minorities);**
- f) competitive character and power struggle.

13. Maurice Duverger distinguishes the following types of party systems:

- a) conservative (rigid) party system;
- b) flexible two-party system;**
- c) unipolar party system;**
- d) massive party system;
- i) multipolar party system;**
- f) radical party system.

14. Which states are NOT founding nations of ASEAN?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Laos**

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- c) Malaysia
- d) Singapore
- e) **Vietnam**

15. Which of the following countries were part of the European Coal and Steel Community?

- a) **Belgium**
- b) **Italy**
- c) **France**
- d) Austria
- e) **Netherlands**
- f) Switzerland

16. The model of principal-agency relations is based on the following principles:

- a) joint efforts to achieve a common goal;
- b) **information asymmetry;**
- c) **power asymmetry;**
- d) **difference of interests of actors.**

17. Which are NOT Sustainable Development Goals?

- a) No poverty
- b) Life on land
- c) **Reduced coal consumption**
- d) Reduced inequalities
- e) **Life on air**

Complex tasks

18. You will need to analyze a case or the causes of a political event (group of events). Choose one of the options below and fulfil the task. The maximum score is 25 points.

Assessment criteria (they do not apply to the case tasks, which contain separate assessment criteria):

1. Argumentation

- When commenting on a question, you have consistently defended your position: advanced theses and arguments or performed value-driven selection of arguments, or built argumentation as logical reasoning, or used rhetorical argumentation techniques, etc. Your argumentation is consistent, convincing, and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (9 – 11 points).
- When commenting on a question, you have consistently defended your position: advanced theses and arguments or performed value-driven selection of arguments, or built argumentation as logical reasoning, or used rhetorical argumentation techniques, etc. Although fewer than half of the theses have been proved, your argumentation is consistent, convincing and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (5-8 points).
- The way you defend your position lacks consistency: your arguments do not fully correspond to the topic or your arguments are incompatible, or it is difficult to single out individual arguments in your text (1-4 points).

- You have not defended your position. Only general considerations have been offered (0 points).
- 2. Use of research concepts; references**
- You have cogently applied theoretical models, providing references to their authors. The material you draw on is convincing and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (8-5 points).
 - The theoretical models you draw on provide an incomplete or one-sided account of the topic, and/or you have made 1-3 factual mistakes (1-4 points).
 - You have not provided a theoretical framework, and/or there are at least four theoretical and factual mistakes in your text (0 points).
- 3. Text structure**
- Your text is coherent and logical; its parts are of adequate length; the semantic parts of the text are linked cohesively; there are no unreasonable repetitions (2 – 3 points).
 - Your text has structure, but the semantic parts are not linked cohesively; your theses are repeated or not developed, and/or you have made 1-3 logic errors (1 point).
 - The lack of logic makes your text difficult to understand; there are at least four logic errors, and/or the thesis-argument section is missing or unconvincing (0 points).
- 4. Language**
- Your thoughts are expressed clearly; your language is rich and compelling (2-3 points).
 - Your thoughts are expressed clearly, but your language is monotonous; or your language is rich and compelling, but the text lacks clarity (1 point).
 - Your language is monotonous, and the text lacks clarity (0 points).

18.1:

“The state is a product and manifestation of the irreconcilability of class contradictions. The state arises where, when, and insofar as class contradictions cannot be objectively reconciled. And vice versa: the existence of the state proves that class contradictions are irreconcilable.”

1. What theoretical approach to understanding politics does the author of this quote adopt? 2. What social functions of politics does he attach paramount importance to? 3. To what ideological and political trend can it be attributed?

Answer:

1. The author draws on the conflict model of politics, i.e. he views politics as the domain where social conflicts are settled and resolved. 2. He brings to the fore several social functions of politics: expressing and advancing the interests of social groups (classes), resolving social/class conflicts, managing and controlling social processes, to name a few. 3. The author, Vladimir Lenin, is clearly a Marxist.

Assessment criteria for task 18.1:

Criterion 1. Identifying political science approaches, concepts, and ideological and political trends corresponding to the concepts, phenomena, and processes described in the text

The approaches and concepts have been named correctly; the ideological and political trends have been identified (8-10 points).

The approaches and concepts have been named correctly, but misattributed (1-7 points).

The approaches and concepts have not been identified (0 points).

Criterion 2. Quality of argumentation

When commenting on the question, you have consistently defended your position. Your argumentation is consistent, convincing, and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (8-10 points).

When commenting on a question, you have consistently defended your position. Although fewer than half of the theses have been proved, your argumentation is consistent, convincing and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (5-7 points).

The way you defend your position lacks consistency: your arguments do not fully correspond to the topic or your arguments are incompatible, and/or there are obvious factual mistakes (1-4 points).

You have not defended your position. Only general ideas have been put forward (0 points).

Criterion 3. Language

Your thoughts are expressed clearly; your language is rich and compelling (4-5 points).

Your thoughts are expressed clearly, but your language is monotonous, or your language is rich and compelling, but the text lacks clarity (1-3 points).

Your language is monotonous, and the text lacks clarity (0 points).

18.2:

According to popular classifications, the UK is a unitary state. Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced on 28 June 2022 that the Scottish Government intended to hold a referendum on independence on October 19, 2023. How does this correlate with the features of a unitary state (prove or disprove that the UK is a unitary state)?

18.3:

Analyze the situation around the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, drawing on the ideas and concepts of the IR Theory. Consider the policies pursued by the key stakeholders, their motivation, proclaimed and actual goals and objectives, and strategies to achieve them.

18.4:

Write an analytical piece on the advantages and disadvantages of the practice of new leaders (ministers, governors) recruiting federal and regional administrative teams, which leads to the complete replacement of team members.

18.5:

Sri Lanka has moved towards green technologies, away from traditional ways of agriculture. This decision, along with an unfavorable international situation and a poor grain harvest, has had an adverse effect on the country's economy and society. A sociopolitical crisis has arisen as a result. Suggest short-term and medium-term solutions to overcome the crisis in the country.

19. Essay

Choose one of the essay questions below and give a detailed and well-argued answer to it.

The maximum word count is 500 words.

The highest possible score is 30 points.

Assessment criteria:

1. The ability to formulate an original problem (set a research question) based on the information given in the text

- You have correctly set the research question in line with the current state of knowledge. Your essay is well-structure, and you have chosen a convincing way to prove your point; the communicative intent has been clearly expressed (8–6 points).
- You have set a research question that has an indirect bearing on the topic (5–3 points).
- You have reported superficially on the topic; the research question has not been clearly set; the communicative intent is ambiguous (1–2 points).
- Your essay does not correspond to the topic, and/or the communicative intent of the essay is not clear (0 points).

2. Argumentation

- You have consistently defended your position: advanced theses and arguments or performed value-driven selection of arguments, or built argumentation as logical reasoning, or used rhetorical argumentation techniques, etc. Your argumentation is consistent, convincing, and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (9 – 12 points).
- You have consistently defended your position: advanced theses and arguments or performed value-driven selection of arguments, or built argumentation as logical reasoning, or used rhetorical argumentation techniques, etc. Although fewer than half of the theses have been proved, your argumentation is consistent, convincing and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (4-8 points).
- You have not defended your position. Only general considerations have been offered (0 points).

3. Research concepts and factual material

- You have cogently applied theoretical models, providing references to the authors of the concepts. You have collected relevant factual material from the literature, the media, historical and philosophical sources, as well as anecdotal evidence. Your argumentation is convincing and sufficient to give a full account of the topic (3-4 points).
- The theoretical models and factual materials you draw on provide an incomplete or one-sided account of the topic, and/or you have made 1-3 factual mistakes (1-2 points).
- You have not provided a theoretical framework, and/or there are at least four theoretical and factual mistakes in your text (0 points).

4. Text structure

- Your text is coherent and logical; its parts are of adequate length; the semantic parts of the text are linked cohesively; there are no unreasonable repetitions (2–3 points).
- Your text has structure, but the semantic parts are not linked cohesively; your theses are repeated or not developed, and/or you have made 1-3 logic errors (1 point).
- The lack of logic makes your text difficult to understand; there are at least four logic errors, and/or the thesis-argument section is missing or unconvincing (0 points).

5. Language

- Your thoughts are expressed clearly; your language is rich and compelling (2-3 points).
- Your thoughts are expressed clearly, but your language is monotonous, or your language is rich and compelling, but the text lacks clarity (1 point).
- Your language is monotonous, and the text lacks clarity (0 points).

19.1:

What role do concepts such as challenge/response or stimulus/reaction have in behavioral theory?

19.2:

What does the term “post-truth” mean, and how can this phenomenon affect the policy of a country (give a concrete example)?

19.3:

Comment on the “non-West” phenomenon in international relations and “non-western” international relations theories coming to prominence. Put forward compelling arguments.

19.4:

Who has more influence on the adopted public policies: elected politicians or officials (bureaucrats)? Advance convincing arguments.

19.5:

How is the term “national interests” understood in different countries?