

# International Relations MA

## Final Exam

You will be given two questions: 1 from the general, 1 from the specialization block

### General Questions

**(1)** Describe the emergence of the distinct International Relations discipline. What were the first theoretical considerations of the discipline? Explain the key features of the liberal, realist, radical, and constructivist approaches.

*Literature:*

- Jackson, Robert – Sørensen, Georg: *Introduction to International Relations - Theories and Approaches. Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2013.*
- Mingst, Karen A. – Snyder, Jack L. (eds.): *Essential Readings in World Politics. Sixth Edition, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc, 2016.*
- Mingst, Karen A.: *Essentials of International Relations. Seventh Edition, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York – London, 2017.*

**(2)** Compare classical and critical geopolitics in the bipolar era and the post-bipolar context. Give and analyze 3 examples of geopolitical “hot spots” today.

*Literature:*

- Chapman, Bert: *Geopolitics. A Guide to the Issues. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2011.*
- Tuathail, Geróid Ó – Simon Dalby (eds.): *Rethinking Geopolitics. London – New York: Routledge. Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2002.*

**(3)** Describe the principles of financial globalization and their effects on national governments. Evaluate the role of TNCs and their changing relationship with governments.

*Literature:*

- Gilpin, Robert: *Global Political Economy, understanding the international economic order, Princeton University Press, 2011. Available at: [http://dl1.cuni.cz/pluginfile.php/264754/mod\\_resource/content/1/Gilpin\\_Global%20Political%20Economy.pdf](http://dl1.cuni.cz/pluginfile.php/264754/mod_resource/content/1/Gilpin_Global%20Political%20Economy.pdf) pp. 3-45, 234-304*

**(4)** How would you describe the globalized world with the help of dependency theories? Explain these theories (Prebisch, Frank, Wallerstein etc.).

*Literature:*

- Agnew, John A.: *Geopolitics: Re-visioning World Politics. Routledge, London, 2003. [2nd ed.]*
- Flint, Colin – Taylor, Peter: *Political Geography: World-economy, Nation-state and Locality. Routledge, London, 2011. [6th ed.]*

- *Anderson, James – Brook, Chris – Cochrane, Allan (eds.): A Global World? Re-Ordering Political Space. Oxford University Press, New York, 1996.*

**(5)** Demonstrate the crucial importance of the electoral systems and discuss the main dimensions on which these systems differ.

*Literature:*

- *Johnston, Ronald John: Political, Electoral and Spatial Systems. An Essay in Political Geography. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1979.*
- *Taylor, Peter J. – Johnston, Ronald John: Geography of Elections. Hommes and Meier Publishers, London–New York, 1979.*
- *Johnston, Ronald John – Shelley, Fred M. – Taylor, Peter J. (eds.): Developments in Electoral Geography. Routledge–Croom Helm, London–New York, 1990.*
- *Gallagher, Michael – Mitchell, Paul (eds.): The Politics of Electoral Systems. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005.*

**(6)** What are the foundations of political culture, present-day political cultures across the globe? Explain the classical Almond–Verba model and the intellectual concept of the Civic Culture and elaborate upon the basis that can be used for comparison.

*Literature:*

- *Tarrósy, István: Political Culture in a Glocal Perspective. Textbook and Reader. University of Pécs, Department of Political Studies, Pécs, 2015. (e-book)*
- *Almond, Gabriel A. – Verba, Sydney: The Civic Culture Revisited. SAGE Publications, 1989.*
- *Almond, Gabriel A. – Powell, Jr., G. Bingham – Strøm, Kaare – Dalton, Russel J. (eds.): Comparative Politics Today. A World View. Tenth Edition. Pearson Education Limited, 2014, pp. 46–62. (Chapter on Political Culture and Political Socialization)*
- *Haynes, Jeffrey: Comparative Politics in a Globalizing World. Polity Press, 2005, pp. 181–200. (Ch.9. on Political Culture)*

**(7)** Describe the evolution of the Russian political system in the post-Soviet period and outline the strategic, geographic, and economic priorities of Putin’s foreign policy.

*Literature:*

- *Donaldson, Robert H. – Vidya Nadkarni: The Foreign Policy of Russia: Changing Systems, Enduring Interests. Routledge, New York, 2023.*
- *Herd, Graeme P.: Understanding Russian Strategic Behavior: Imperial Strategic Culture and Putin’s Operational Code. Routledge, London, 2022.*
- *Mankoff, Jeffrey: Russian Foreign Policy: The Return of Great Power. Roman & Littlefield, 2009.*
- *Leichtova, Magda: Misunderstanding Russia – Russian foreign policy and the West. Ashgate, 2014.*

**(8)** Discuss the main elements and directions of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era.

*Literature:*

- *Henriksen, Thomas H.: American Foreign Policy in the 21st Century. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.*
- *Hybel, Alex Roberto: US Foreign Policy Decision-Making from Kennedy to Obama: Responses to International Challenges. Palgrave Macmillan US, 2014.*
- *Onea, Tudor A.: US Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era: Restraint versus Assertiveness from George H.W. Bush to Barack Obama. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.*

**(9)** Which are the main principles of good governance and how are these measured?

*Literature:*

- *Pálné Kovács, Ilona: Good governance and decentralisation. Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/11155/1463>*
- *Kaufmann, D. – Kraay, A. – Mastruzzi, M.: Governance matters VIII. Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators. 1996-2008. WB Policy Research Working Paper 4978, 2009.*

**(10)** Discuss Machiavelli and political realism. The Machiavellian concept of virtú as opposed to moral reasoning. What is political realism in International Relations?

*Literature:*

- *Machiavelli, Niccoló: The Prince. available at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm>*
- *Stanford Encyclopedia of philosophy: 1. The roots of realist tradition. Available at: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/realism-intl-relations/>*
- *Bell, Duncan: Political realism and international relations. Philosophy Compass, Vol 12. Nr. 2, 2017. Available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/phc3.12403/full>*

**(11)** Present the most burning global environmental problems and summarize the evolution of the sustainable development theory from 1962 to the present day.

*Literature:*

- *Glied, Viktor: Sustainable Development, Political Ecology and Environmental Policy: [https://www.academia.edu/15028575/Sustainable\\_Development\\_Political\\_Ecology\\_and\\_Environmental\\_Policy](https://www.academia.edu/15028575/Sustainable_Development_Political_Ecology_and_Environmental_Policy)*

**(12)** The birth of Security Policy and Hungary's way to the NATO.

*Literature:*

- *Williams, Paul D. (ed.): Security Studies. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Routledge, 2013.*
- *Buzan, Barry: The evolution of International Security Studies. Cambridge University Press, 2010.*

**(13)** Compare the political systems of Germany and the United Kingdom from a comparative politics perspective.

*Literature:*

- *Powell Jr, G. B., et al. (2015). Comparative politics today: a world view, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson (relevant chapters)*

**(14)** Describe the dimensions and characteristics of comparing cultures according to Hofstede.

*Literature:*

- *Hofstede, Geert – Hofstede, Gert Jan – Minkov, Michael (2010): Cultures and Organizations. Software of the Mind. Intercultural Cooperation and Its Importance for Survival. New York: McGraw-Hill.*

**(15)** How does popular geopolitical inquiry differ from traditional geopolitical approaches?

*Literature:*

- *Dittmer, Jason – Bos, Daniel. (2010). Popular Culture, Geopolitics, and Identity. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield. 1-68.*

## Specialization Questions

### EU

**(A)** Describe the changes of the European Parliament's influence on the legislative procedures of the European Union between 1951-2009.

*Literature:*

- *Judge, David and Earnshaw, David: The European Parliament, (2nd edition). Palgrave–Macmillan, 2008.*
- *Horváth, Zoltán: Handbook on the European Union, (4th edition), HVGORAC, 2011.*
- *Piris, Jean-Claude: The Lisbon treaty: legal and political analysis. Cambridge University Press, 2010.*

**(B)** Evaluate the EU's CFSP, the institutional background and the Community's international position (especially focusing on the US, Russia and China).

*Literature:*

- *Leonard, Mark: Why Europe will run the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Fourth Estate, 2005.*
- *Mix, Derek E.: The European Union: Foreign and Security Policy. CRS Report, 2013. Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41959.pdf>*
- *Chelotti, Nicola: The Formulation of EU Foreign Policy: Socialization, negotiations and disaggregation of the state. Taylor & Francis, 2017.*

**(C)** Describe the EU's enlargement policy, list the candidate countries and show where one of them stands in the process.

*Literature:*

- *Grabbe, H. (2002). European Union Conditionality and the Acquis Communautaire. International Political Science Review, 23(3), 249-268.*
- *EC: 2023 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy. European Commission, 2023. [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/COM\\_2023\\_690%20Communication%20on%20EU%20Enlargement%20Policy\\_and\\_Annex.pdf](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/COM_2023_690%20Communication%20on%20EU%20Enlargement%20Policy_and_Annex.pdf)*

**(D)** Describe the migration challenges for the European Union.

*Literature:*

- *Glied, Viktor: Migration challenges in the European Union, 2016. Available at: [https://www.academia.edu/32949541/MIGRATION\\_CHALLENGES\\_IN\\_THE\\_EUROPEAN\\_UNION](https://www.academia.edu/32949541/MIGRATION_CHALLENGES_IN_THE_EUROPEAN_UNION)*

## Regional Studies

**(A)** Discuss PR China's role and its global prospects in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Literature:*

- Thornton, W. H. – Thornton, S. H. (2018). *Sino-globalisation: The China model after Dengism. China Report, 2., 213–230.*
- Vörös, Z. – Somsack, P. (2020). *Laos and the Belt and Road Initiative: An Interconnector Helping the Chinese Needs? Foreign Policy Review, 13, 24-38.*
- *Most importantly: Course materials*

**(B)** Describe the structural transformation of the Chinese economy, the social and environmental challenges and how they can avoid the middle-income trap.

*Literature:*

- Flint, C. – Zhu, C. (2019). *The geopolitics of connectivity, cooperation, and hegemonic competition: the Belt and Road Initiative. Geoforum 99, 95–101.*
- Glawe, Linda – Wagner, Helmut: *THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE MIDDLE-INCOME TRAP? ADBI Working Paper Series, No. 749., 2017.*
- *Most importantly: Course materials*

**(C)** Name and evaluate at least three global problems the countries of Asia have to face. What are the future prospects for these regions in the light of the challenges mentioned?

*Literature:*

- Sernau, Scott. R.: *Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability. Pearson, Boston, 2012. [3rd. ed.] ISBN: 978020584177*

**(D)** Evaluate some of the major challenges and the numerous opportunities of the African states in the changing global arena?

*Literature:*

- Rotberg, Robert I.: *Africa Emerges. Consummate Challenges, Abundant Opportunities. Polity Press, Cambridge, 2013.*
- Tarrósy, István – Szabó, Loránd – Hyden, Goran (eds.): *The African State in a Changing Global Context. Breakdowns and Transformations. LIT Verlag, Berlin – Münster, 2011.*
- Taylor, Ian: *The International Relations of Sub-Saharan Africa. Continuum, New York – London, 2010.*

**(E)** Describe the regional, political, and socioeconomic challenges of the Middle East in the aftermath of the Arab Spring(s).

- Kingshuk Chatterjee: *Political Faultlines in the Middle East. Routledge, New York, 2023.*
- Moosa A. Elayah, Laurent A. Lambert: *Conflict and Post-Conflict Governance in the Middle East and Africa. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2023.*

- *Simon Mabon: The Struggle for Supremacy in the Middle East: Saudi Arabia and Iran. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2023.*

(F) In what ways have the historical legacies of colonialism, coupled with contemporary economic and political challenges, shaped the development of democracy and governance in Latin America?

*Literature:*

- *Pérez Gamón, C. M. (2024). Latin America in the 21st Century: Disputes for Democracy. Political Economy of Inequality. European Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 1(2). [https://doi.org/10.59324/ejahss.2024.1\(2\).14](https://doi.org/10.59324/ejahss.2024.1(2).14)*
- *López, M. (2020). State Segmentation and Democratic Survival in Latin America. American Political Science Review, 114(3), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764220941244>*
- *Córdova, A., – Seligson, M. A. (2010). Economic Shocks and Democratic Vulnerabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Latin American Politics and Society, 52(2), 1-35. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1548-2456.2010.00080.x>*