

FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS
MA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
2023

I. International Law in Practice

1.

A) Theoretical background: peaceful (diplomatic) settlement of international disputes; and the present: the UN Charter.

B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

2.

A) Differences between diplomatic and judicial means of settlement. General categories of judicial settlement and their main characteristics (arbitration, permanent adjudication, challenges such as proliferation).

B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

3.

A) Classification and characteristics of international courts and tribunals according to their geographical scope, their parties, their subject matter jurisdiction and duration of functioning as well as the “hybrid courts” (with examples).

B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

4.

A) Acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

5.

A) Binding nature of international judgments and their enforcement (with particular attention to the ICJ and the ECtHR).

B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

6.

A) The international regulation of the use of force.

B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

7.

- A) Sources of international law, with particular attention to customary law.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

8.

- A) States as subjects of international law; criteria of statehood, territorial sovereignty of States.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

9.

- A) General considerations relating to international environmental law.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

10.

- A) General considerations relating to diplomatic and consular law; immunity from jurisdiction.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case related thereto decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

11.

- A) International relevance of nationality. Diplomatic protection.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

12.

- A) Legal status of aliens under international law.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

13.

- A) Developments and limits of international jurisprudence. Legal nature and main characteristics of international law and its role in international relations.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

14.

- A) Factors and other causes behind the fragmentation of international law. Possible advantages and negatives effects of the fragmentation of international law.
- B) Presentation of the facts and the law of a freely chosen case decided by an international court or tribunal concerning Question A).

II. Comparative Foreign Policy

1. The role of the foreign policy bureaucracy and its characteristics: Allison on the Cuban missile crisis
2. Risk-taking and decision-making (prospect theory): Mark Haas on the Cuban missile crisis
3. Cognitive heuristics in decision-making: cognitive and motivational biases in decision-making – The role of analogies and other heuristics
4. The role of decision-makers' personality – Hermann's LTA and case studies of Tony Blair and a leader of your choice
5. Group dynamics in decision-making – Groupthink, manipulation, and the role of group size
6. The challenges of policy ratification: Putnam on the two-level game (2LG), win-sets, defection and the distribution of gains among interest groups
7. "Ethnic" lobbies and their perceived strength in the United States and elsewhere – A realistic assessment of the role – The importance of methodological triangulation in investigating interest group impact
8. The media and foreign policy – "The CNN effect," and how we can make sense of it – Media systems in a comparative perspective
9. Public opinion and foreign policy – Does it matter? – Leader attitudes towards public opinion – Examples of public opinion's role in the policy process
10. The 2011 intervention in Libya. What variables played a role in the decision-making of the countries involved?
11. The Russian annexation of Crimea. What played a role in the Russian decision? Characterise context and the Russian decision-making process.

III. Theory of International Relations

1. Emergence of International Relations (IR) as separate academic discipline and its distinguishing features
2. Modern and classical realism. Morgenthau's (unit and system level) approach to the international politics.
3. Neorealism as system-level (systemic) theory (Kenneth Waltz): continuity and discontinuity in realist theory. Concept of structure of international system, theory of balancing, cooperation under anarchy.
4. Realism after the Cold War: offensive and defensive realism in IRs.
5. Classical liberalism and utopian idealism: Kant, Wilson and the changing concepts of liberal World Order.
6. Sociological liberalism. Rosenau, Burton, Deutsch and the World Society. Networks and civil society in international Relations.
7. Commercial liberalism. Rosecrance and the trading (virtual state). The political effects of the global economy.
8. Interdependence liberalism, regime theory.
9. Liberalism after the Cold War: strong (Ikenberry) and weak (Moravcsik) liberals.
10. General Marxist theory in International Relations.
11. Two strands in Marxist theory in IRs: the World System Theory and the Neo-Gramscian approaches.
12. The social constructivism as constitutive theory in triangle of ontology, epistemology and methodology. State-centric and structuralist constructivism.
13. Postmodern and radical constructivism in IRs.