

FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS
MA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
JUNE 2024

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 bureaucracy in making foreign policy 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 and motivational biases in decision-making – analogies, attribution errors, cognitive dissonance reduction.
4. The role of decision-makers' personality. Hermann's LTA and a case study of a leader of your choice.
5. Group dynamics in decision-making. Social conformity, groupthink, manipulation, and the role of group size.
6. The challenges of policy ratification. Putnam on two-level games (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. 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 the context and the Russian decision-making process.

III. Theory of International Relations

1. Introduce the concept, theory and operation of offshore balancing. In the context of a region of your choice, discuss the polarity of the region, the major powers present there and their role in the balance of power system.
2. Describe the elements of smart power, its theoretical concept and how it works. Explain Nye's institutional concept and the elements of smart power in US foreign policy strategy.
3. Describe the theory of regional security complexes. What is the process of securitisation, how do we distinguish between superpowers, regional great powers and regional middle powers? Describe the security constellation in a chosen region in details!
4. Describe the concept of ontological security! How does ontological security develop at the level of the individual (routines, basic trust system, attachment and recognition)? What issues arise when applying the model to states? How does it modify the security dilemma?
5. Introduce the model of neo-medievalism. How has postmodern sovereignty in the international system changed according to this model?
6. Introduce the concept of global governmentality and its functioning in the international system. What tactics can be detected in the functioning of the actors? Describe how sovereignty and governmentality are related based on Agamben's "state of exception", Butler's "petty sovereigns" and Didier Bigo's "state of exception".
7. Can there be a global just society? Describe it based on John Rawls' theory of just society. Also discuss the relationship between liberal and non-liberal states.
8. Describe the main elements of illiberalism. How are liberalism and democracy related? Why and how does the idea of illiberalism resonate in Western and non-Western societies?
9. Introduce the role theory model. What national role conceptions do you know? Describe the elements associated with role enactment (role-set, number of roles, time spent in one role, major independent variables). Give examples of each element from international politics!
10. Describe the field of Critical Discourse Analysis. Where does the CDA come from? How discourse analysis works in International Relations?