

**FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS**  
**BA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**JUNE 2025**

**1. The emerging Cold War**

- The position of the victorious powers after the Second World War. The appearance of conflicts between the Allies (1945–1947)
- Subjects of international law and their characteristics. Recognition of States and governments under international law
- Transatlantic and regional pillars of the post-World War II European security architecture
- The establishment of the discipline of International Relations. The ontological framework of the discipline of international relations

**2. The framework of the post-World War II peace settlement**

- The peace treaties of 1947 in Paris and the 1951 Treaty of Peace with Japan
- Sources of international law
- The United Nations' role in international security
- The epistemological framework of international relations studies.

**3. Realpolitik, ideology and open conflict in the early Cold War**

- The coldest years of the Cold War (1947–1953)
- Use of force under international law (its prohibition, exceptions and grey zones), lawfulness of the use of force during the Korean war of 1950–1951 and the in the Arab–Israeli conflicts
- The spread of nuclear weapons and the nuclear arms race
- The common principles of realism in international relations theory. Classical realism (Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Morgenthau)

**4. The Soviet Union after Stalin's death**

- Fundamental change in East–West relations: the first *détente* period, 1953–1956. Pseudo Cold War crises, 1956: Poland, Hungary, Suez
- Peaceful settlement of international disputes by diplomatic means and in the framework of international organisations; discussions on the 1956 Hungarian revolution in UN organs
- Definition of peacekeeping and the first generation of peacekeeping operations
- The principles of liberalism in international relations theory; the approach of neoliberal institutionalism

**5. The strategic arms race**

- Real Cold War crises: The Berlin crisis and the Cuban missile crisis
- Weapons of Mass Destruction non-proliferation during the Cold War
- International humanitarian law (The Hague law and Geneva law), its basic principles and prohibited weapons
- Kenneth Waltz and the neorealist approach to international relations theory

## **6. The question of European security: the Helsinki process**

- The German question and West-German *Ostpolitik*
- The Helsinki conference and its consequences, the Helsinki Follow-up Meetings
- Establishment of diplomatic relations, functions of diplomatic missions, immunities of diplomatic missions
- The liberal tradition in International Relations: common assumptions and theoretical foundations

## **7. The transformation of East–West relations and political transition in East–Central Europe**

- The Cold War between 1979–1985, NATO Double-Track Decision
- Gorbachev's reforms and the US–Soviet summits
- Process of political transition in a selected country of East–Central Europe
- Territory of States under international law: territorial sovereignty, State borders, acquisition of State territory and limitations of territorial sovereignty
- Offensive and defensive neorealism in international relations theory.

## **8. The end of the Cold War, dissolution of the Soviet Union and German reunification**

- The causes and the process of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the creation of CIS
- Nuclear non-proliferation after 1990, the START Treaties, nuclear weapons in the post-soviet states
- Questions of state succession and its practice in relation to the dissolution of USSR and Yugoslavia
- Sociological liberalism in international relations theory.

## **9. The 1990s: a New World Order?**

- The role of the UN Security Council in international lawmaking in relation to the use of force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and the 1991 Gulf War
- Difficulties in drafting and ratification of the ICC Statute and the CTBT and BTWC treaties, reasons for rejection by States not Party
- Changing concept of security, contemporary security challenges
- The role of Neoliberal Institutionalism in explaining international cooperation

## **10. Regional conflicts – China and Taiwan**

- Basic trends and stages of China's foreign policy from 1949 to the present day. Stages of China's economic reforms from 1978 to the present day
- Role and importance of the concept of 'State sovereignty' and questions of recognition in relation to Taiwan. The 'one China' principle. Geopolitical importance of the South-China Sea
- The development of international criminal law after the Cold War (ad hoc criminal tribunals, the International Criminal Court, hybrid criminal tribunals)
- The emergence of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the role of the European Security and Defence Policy in conflict management

### **11. Regional conflicts – Kashmir**

- Historical background of the Kashmir issue, the wars over the territory and the possible solutions
- The shifting world order and the principles of Indian foreign policy with a special attention to the Indo–Chinese rivalry. Impact of the 1998 nuclear tests on the Kashmir issue. India, Pakistan and the nuclear arms race
- Use of force under international law, the practice of the UN Security Council to authorise use of force, and disputed forms of self-defence (e.g. preventive/pre-emptive self-defence, against non-State actors etc.)
- World systems theory in international relations theory

### **12. Regional conflicts – Ukraine**

- Definition of hybrid warfare in relation to the events in Ukraine
- Russia's annexation of Crimea and international law (self-determination)
- Analyse how Russia's war aims declared on 24 February 2022 were achieved during the war in Ukraine
- Energy security of Europe
- Constructivism in International Relations Theory

### **13. Regional conflicts – Middle East and North Africa**

- Definition of the Middle East and classification of the Middle Eastern states from political and social perspectives; the evolution of the contemporary state system in the region
- The Arab–Israeli conflict (with a focus on the Oslo Process and its failure, second intifada, recent developments)
- The shifting order in the Middle East and North Africa (post-American Middle East, the regional order, Arab Spring–common features and differences)
- Neo-Gramscianism in international relations theory

### **14. European integration**

- The fundamental institutions of the European Union and its decision-making system.
- Describe the main characteristics of Community law (acquis communautaire). Primary and secondary legal sources of the European Union.
- Introduce one of the major common policies of the EU and its development
- What are the main developments in the European Common Foreign and Security Policy since 2016?