

# FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS

## BA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### JUNE 2026

#### 1. Confrontation and the origins of the bipolar world order

- 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 construction of the post-World War II international order

- 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 Bretton Woods system and the institutions of post-war international economic governance
- The epistemological framework of International Relations studies

#### 3. Confrontation, deterrence and military power

- 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 1950–1953 and 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. Diplomacy, crises and international cooperation

- Fundamental change in East–West relations: the first *détente* period, 1953–1956. Pseudo Cold War crises of 1956: Poland, Hungary and 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. Strategic competition and international security

- Real Cold War crises: the Berlin crisis and the Cuban missile crisis
- Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction during the Cold War
- International humanitarian law: the Hague and Geneva traditions, basic principles and prohibited weapons
- Kenneth Waltz and the neorealist approach to International Relations theory

## **6. Diplomacy, European security and East–West relations**

- 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. Political transition and the transformation of the bipolar order**

- 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. State transformation and the collapse of bipolarity**

- 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. Transformation of the international order after 1990**

- 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. Changing global power structures and international governance**

- 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 power competition in Asia**

- The shifting world order and the principles of Indian foreign policy with special attention to the Indo–Chinese rivalry
- Strategic rivalry, nuclear deterrence and regional security in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region
- 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. Hybrid conflict and contemporary warfare**

- Definition of hybrid warfare in relation to the events in Ukraine
- Russia’s annexation of Crimea and international law (self-determination)
- Russia’s declared war aims and their implementation during the war in Ukraine
- Energy security of Europe
- Constructivism in International Relations theory

### **13. Identities in International Relations theory**

- 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, the second intifada, the Gaza conflicts, the Abraham Accords and recent geopolitical developments)
- The shifting order in the Middle East and North Africa (post-American Middle East order, the regional order, Arab Spring–common features and differences)
- Neo-Gramscianism in International Relations theory

### **14. European integration and European governance**

- The fundamental institutions of the European Union and its decision-making system
- Main characteristics of Community law (acquis communautaire). Primary and secondary legal sources of the European Union
- One of the major common policies of the European Union and its development
- Main developments in the European Common Foreign and Security Policy since 2016