

COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA

TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER

PROGRAMME:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COURSE: IRL 122

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IRL 122: STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

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QUESTIONS

1. Define the structure of international society. Examine the characteristics of contemporary international political system
2. What is National Power? Discuss the components of national power
3. Using relevant examples, differentiate between Non-Governmental Organizations and Inter-Governmental Organizations
4. Define the concept of globalization. Illustrate with examples, the five major sub-themes under globalization
5. Define terrorism. What do you consider to be the threats of contemporary forms of terrorism?
- 6 Define sovereignty and discuss how nations gain and lose sovereignty.

- 7 Define power in the international system and discuss the components of national power

- 8 Mention and discuss the basic features of contemporary international system

- 9 Define actors in the international system and discuss the roles of the various actors.

- 10 what is terrorism? Proffer logical solutions to the scourge of terrorism

- 11 Identify and discuss the factors that limit the sovereignty of states in contemporary international system.
- 12 What are the basic features of contemporary international political system?
- 13 Discuss the dangers of terrorism in contemporary international system. What are the remedies?
- 14 Using the dimensions of national interest discuss the categories of interest that nations seek to protect.
- 15 Using Hans Morgenthau's definition of power, arrange the types of power in their order of importance.
- 16 Discuss the controversies surrounding the existence of the international system.
- 17 Discuss the global interactive processes in contemporary international system and show their contradictions.
- 18 Write short notes on the following:
 - Chou Dynasty of China
 - Renaissance Italy
 - Holy Roman Empire
 - Feudal Organisation in Europe

- 19 Do you think the 'Treaty of Westphalia' is relevant in understanding evolution of contemporary international system?
20. Identify and discuss the contemporary relevance of the principles that governed warfare in the ancient Greek-City state system.

MODEL ANSWERS IN ALTERNATE SEQUENCE (ODD NUMBERS)

Question 1

Define the structure of international society. Examine the characteristics of contemporary international political system.

Solution:

Definition of the structure of international society: It investigates the arrangements of the units of analysis in the international community into patterns of predictable relationships.

The following are the characteristics of contemporary international political system:

- The state as the most basic unit of the international system
- High decentralization or devolution of powers and authority
- The use and the threat of the use of force
- Hierarchical or uneven distribution of wealth and privileges
- High degree of interdependence
- Respect for human rights, good governance and democratization
- Emergence of new centres of power and authority

Question 3

Using relevant examples, differentiate between Non-governmental organizations and Inter-governmental organizations

Solution:

The following are the characteristics of Non-governmental organizations (organizations whose members cut across different strata of the society)

- They have considerable sizes and resources and often interact with states, MNCs and other NGOs.
- These are increasingly being recognised in international organisations as legitimate actors along with states, though not on equal terms
- Some have political purposes, others humanitarian, economic, technical, etc
- They usually form powerful networks that have dominant influences over policies of governments
- Examples include: the organs of the Catholic Church, Green Peace, Doctors without Borders, International Olympic Committee, International Studies Association, Amnesty International, Red Cross, ICRC etc

The following are the characteristics of Inter-governmental organizations (organizations whose members are only national governments)

- Vary in size and could be regional or global in membership
- Functions depend on the variety of perspectives they adopt in the international system
The numbers are said to have exceeded the number of states in the international system
- Examples include: the UN and its agencies, World Bank, IMF, OPEC, WTO, ILO, WHO, NATO, AU International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), etc

Question 5

Define terrorism. What do you consider to be the threats of contemporary forms of terrorism?

Solution:

Definition of terrorism: It is a deliberate employment of violence or the threat of the use of violence by sovereign states as well as some national groups assisted by sovereign states in order to attain strategic and political objectives by a violation of law.

The following are the threats of contemporary forms of terrorism:

- The safety and welfare of individuals
- Economic development and the international business community
- Survival of democracy
- Destruction of monuments and properties
- Disruption of the flow of foreign investment
- Demoralization of security forces
- Tourism sector is adversely affected by terrorism
- Polarization of international organizations

Question 7

Define power in the international system and discuss the components of national power

Solution

Power is the capacity or potential to cause change in or influence other's behaviour and attitudes. Power, within this context means transformative capacity; the capacity to intervene in a given set of events so as in some way to alter them. Power is the ability of one actor in social, political or economic relationship to influence the behaviour of other actors by either getting them to do what they would not otherwise have wished to do, or preventing them from doing what they would have preferred to do. Power in a more realistic sense, is anything that establishes and maintains the control of man over man, covers all social relationship which serve that end, from physical violence to the most subtle psychological ties by which one mind controls another. Power is both a resource and a capacity.

The components of national power may be thought of analytically in terms of three concentric circles. The inner-most circle consists of elements that are more or less material in character, in addition to being relatively permanent. The most important elements therein are geography and natural resources. The next circle in our concentric circle paradigm of national power groups together definitely less permanent components such as industrial strength and military capacity. The last circle in our paradigmatic model assembles together human and political elements. The student is expected to elaborate on these elements of national power

The conclusion attracts the remaining

Question 9

Define actors in the international system and discuss the roles of the various actors.

Solution

Actors are the decision makers in international system whose interactions in relation to others directly or indirectly influence the outcome of foreign policy. They are active and not passive units in the international system. They are all involved in contest and cooperation in the bid to maintain the balance in the international system. The conflictual relations are very important because conflicts help to promote communication which is the primary purpose of group relations. The internal stage is crowded with actors, big and small who are intimately interwoven in a complex relationship.

Actors can be divided into state and non-state actors: state actors are no doubt the most important actors in international system whose dominant roles have given way for primary roles because of

the increasing pressure and challenges from other non-state actors in contemporary international system. The most concrete expression of the receding role of the state in the international system is the attack on the concept of sovereignty which grants absolute powers to the autonomy of the state. Consequently, we have the concept of failed state and the concept of rogue state, further de-meaning the sovereignty of states.

Examples of non-state actors are sub-state actors (which are groups and interests within states that influence state policies); trans-national actors (which are actors that operate across state borders, doing business of buying and selling and investment); non-governmental organization (which exert considerable pull and tug at the international relations everyday); and international organization (which play mediatory and reconciliatory roles among and between state and non-state actors in the international system).

Question 11

Identify and discuss the factors that limit the sovereignty of states in contemporary international system.

Solution

- The sporadic rise in the number of international organisations
- The rise in the activities of non-state actors in the international system
- The increasing profile of individuals as global citizens
- The recognition of Human Rights as the principal requirement or responsibility of states
- The full subscription of the principles of international law by civilized nations of the world
- Technical collapse of boundaries dividing nations giving rise to easy transfer of technology, goods and services
- Zero tolerance for dictatorship and its attendant repression, oppression, harsh reprisals, mass murder, forced deportations and other international crimes against humanity
- The concluding remarks will attract the remaining.

Question 13

Discuss the dangers of terrorism in contemporary international system. What are the remedies?

Solution: Dangers of terrorism

- Safety and welfare of individuals are under threat
- Economic and business relations are hindered because of the strict financial scrutiny of all international financial transactions
- Democracy is threatened given the local disturbances and national security threats
- Destruction of life and property giving rise to breakdown in infrastructures and consequent budget deficits for many countries.
- Investors are scared away from potential terrorist countries which affects development of economies
- Tourism is hindered in many countries of the world that rely on the sector as a major foreign revenue earner
- Demoralisation of security forces across countries of the world leading to low recruitment and retention among many serving military and paramilitary officers.

- Division in international organisations among pro and anti-terrorist groups leading to delayed passage of bills and animosity.

Remedies to terrorism

- The first remedy recommended by western societies is ‘fire for fire’ approach.
- Improvement of intelligence capacity and security procedures at all entry and departure units.
- Strict monitoring of all international financial transactions.
- Severance of diplomatic ties with countries that are sympathetic to terrorist organisations.
- Massive clamp-down on weapons of mass destruction and checks on the proliferation of nuclear facilities.
- Justice in the international system in form of correcting the structural imbalances in the system.

Question 15

Using Hans Morgenthau’s definition of power, arrange the types of power in their order of importance.

Solution

Hans Morgenthau defined power from the realist perspective as anything that establishes and maintains the control of man over man, covers all social relationship which service that end, from physical violence to the most subtle psychological ties by which one mind controls another (5 marks). The following are the types of power to be arranged as it suits the student’s argument: marks will be awarded for the analysis of each of these types of power. The concluding remarks will attract the remaining marks

- Physical power
- Expert power
- Reverent power
- Legitimate power
- Coercive power
- Reward power
- Economic power
- Political power

Question 17

17 Discuss the global interactive processes in contemporary international system and show their contradictions.

Solution: the global interactive processes are:

- Political engagement (4 marks)
- Economic engagement (4 marks)
- Social-cultural engagement (4 marks)
- Humanitarian engagement (4 marks)
- Environment engagement (4 marks)

The remaining 3 marks will be awarded for flow of language and concluding remarks

Question 19

19 Identify and discuss the contemporary relevance of the principles that governed warfare in the ancient Greek-City state system.

Solution:

- Non combatants were shielded from the conflict theatres or combat zones (4 marks).
- A disarmed soldier was not permitted to be killed but taken as prisoner of war (4 marks).
- Prisoners of war are not to be tortured or subjected to cruel interrogation techniques but must be catered for and prepared for exchange after the war (4 marks)
- Civilians were never to be forcefully conscripted as soldiers against their will (4 marks).
- Child soldier was prohibited and strict punishment followed violation of such a rule (4 marks).

The concluding remarks will include a mention of the fact that all the above rules have been translated into the Geneva Convention (3 marks).