

COVENANT UNIVERSITY  
NIGERIA

*TUTORIAL KIT*  
*OMEGA SEMESTER*

PROGRAMME:  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COURSE: IRL 324

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# IRL 324: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Lecturers: Dr. S. Folarin; Mrs. D. Udoh and Miss. D. Olufelo**

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Identify and discuss the major thrusts of the realist theory in international politics.
2. Attempt a critique of the realist theory, placing emphasis on its limitations.
3. Which is more dangerous for international politics: liberalism or realism?
4. 'The wealth and poverty of nations results from the global process of exploitation'. Discuss using any theory of your choice.
5. Highlight and discuss the major tenets of feminism.
6. 'Integration theory is a problem solving mechanism which is predicated on the notion that nation states in the international system can establish limited membership of organizations to meet their common needs'. Discuss
7. Illustrate how human nature and individual instincts have altered international politics and foreign policies of states making reference to both historical and contemporary issues.
8. Identify and discuss the major thrusts of liberalism.
9. In which region of the world would you argue the security dilemma is mostly pronounced? Does IR theory suggest any effective methods by which the dilemma could be alleviated?
10. Explain and illustrate with examples the frustration-aggression theory of conflict and war.
11. Write short notes on the three levels of analysis in the study of international politics.
12. Role conception (identity) and interest are mutually exclusive motivations in international affairs. Discuss with reference to Nigeria's role and activities in West Africa.
13. What are the implications of regionalism for global co-operation?
14. Does the triad of economic interdependence, democracy and international institutions provide a stable platform for peace among states?
15. What are the basic thrusts of constructivism?
16. Discuss and illustrate the weaknesses of the liberal theory in light of the evolving events in the international system.
17. What are the shortcomings of behaviouralism?
18. How does the perceived role of a nation affect its foreign policy goals?
19. Discuss any three theories of war.
20. Discuss extensively the Systems Theory with reference to David Easton.

## **MODEL ANSWERS IN ALTERNATE SEQUENCE (ODD NUMBERS)**

1. Students are expected to discuss the main arguments of the realists with emphasis on power and the centrality of the state in the international system.

3. It is expected of students to briefly examine the two then, argue for the theory that is most suitable for international politics.
5. Feminism is a movement and idea that seeks to establish equal opportunities for women. Students are required to expand this and backup with examples.
7. Students are required to explain how the personality of leaders and human nature affect the formation of foreign policy.
9. Students may pick any region and theory of their choice (preferably regional integration theory) and demonstrate their understanding of the theory.
11. The levels of analysis are: the individual, systemic and state levels of analysis.
13. Students are required to draw a link between regional integration and global co-operation (using liberalism as a theoretical foundation for their arguments).
15. Economic interdependence, democracy and international institutions are the basic ideas of liberalism. Students are expected to argue whether these guarantee a peaceful system of states with relevant examples.
17. One of the criticisms is the inability to predict human beings. Behavioralism seeks to examine the behavior and actions of individuals (rather than the characteristics of institutions such as legislatures, executives, and judiciaries) and groups in different social settings and explains this behavior as it relates to the political system.
19. These theories include the realist, frustration-aggression, biological, psycho-cultural and relational theories.