

COVENANT UNIVERSITY  
NIGERIA

*TUTORIAL KIT*  
*OMEGA SEMESTER*

PROGRAMME:  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COURSE: IRL 121

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# IRL121: ANCESTORS/EVOLUTION OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

**Lecturers: Dr. S. Folarin; Dr. J. Alabi and Mrs. D. Udoh**

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss the nature and features of the international system.
2. What are the contributions of the Greek city state to international politics?
3. Highlight and discuss the basic features of the Chou dynasty.
4. Explain the Westphalian concept of sovereignty.
5. 'The present day international system is a product of the Western civilization centered in Europe'. Discuss.
6. What were the events that led to the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire in Europe?
7. The Thirty Years' War was the deadliest and most destructive war in the history of Europe. Discuss
8. The antecedents of contemporary international organizations were laid in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe. Elucidate.
9. The contemporary international state system was birthed from the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia
10. What is Feudalism? Highlight the major features of Feudal Europe.
11. The Industrial Revolution laid foundations for the colonial system. Explain.
12. Discuss the events that led to the establishment of the League of Nations.
13. Would you agree with the realists' belief that the lack of a central government in the international system makes the system anarchical? Illustrate your answers.
14. Explain the European balance of power system.
15. Using any African empire of your choice, discuss the contributions of Africa to international relations.
16. The international system used to consist of city states, principalities, empires and feudal entities and other forms of political organization but it is now characterized by political entities defined as states. What were the historical dynamics that produced the modern state system?
17. In what way, if any, did international relations exist before the Peace Treaty of 1648?
18. Discuss the extent to which the Cold War had a structural impact on the nature of the international system.
19. Discuss the political system of Renaissance Italy.
20. What events led to the collapse of the Chou dynasty in China?

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

### **Question 1**

Students are expected to discuss the international system as one comprised of state and non-state actors. Features or characteristics include, sovereignty, absence of a central government, multipolarity etc.

**Question 3**

The Chou (Zhou) dynasty operated a feudal system. Students are required to discuss the 'Mandate of Heaven' and the contributions of Chinese philosophies like Confucianism and Daoism.

**Question 5**

Students are expected to draw a link among the empires and kingdoms which were Pre-Westphalian and connect to the present day international system.

**Question 7**

It is expected of students to discuss the nature of the war and its impact on European politics.

**Question 9**

The Treaty of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years and laid down procedures for a system of states where the principle of sovereignty was established. It led to the independence of vassal states and established them as sovereigns – free from external interference. Students are expected to understand the principles of the Treaty which also include, territorial integrity.

**Question 11**

Industrial Revolution heightened the level of production and ultimately necessitated the quest to source for more raw materials and market for surplus goods. Hence, the need to discover new territories became crucial.

**Question 13**

This is essentially a critique of the realists' belief in an anarchical system. However, with the rise of international organizations and codes of conduct to regulate the affairs of states, this assumption becomes questionable. Students should demonstrate understanding of the key points of realism which include the struggle power, in order to critique the school of thought.

**Question 15**

Students are required to pick any African country or region of choice and examine contributions or practices such as diplomacy and inter-state relations in the Pre-colonial African context and note differences or similarities, if any.

**Question 17**

Events that led to the collapse of the Zhou dynasty include the wars of expansion and consolidation of power during the Warring States Period and the conquest of the Qin dynasty (225 BC) over the Zhou dynasty. Students are to discuss the rebellion by states for political domination.

**Question 19**

A period between the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, considered to be a bridge between the Middle Ages and Modern History. Students are expected to discuss the features that mark this period such as, the great intellectual movement of humanism. Also, they are expected to discuss the nature of politics among the city states in Italy at the period in time.