

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

COURSE: IRL 426

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IRL 426: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN WEST AFRICA

Lecturers: Dr. F. Chidozie and Mr. I. Olanrewaju

QUESTIONS

1. Why can't post-independent West Africa be peaceful? Discuss this with relevant examples using the various schools of thought on conflict in West Africa.

Ans.

- Introduction
 - Explain the different schools of thought limiting the examples to West Africa
 - Western-centric School
 - Instrumentalist Approach
 - Resource-Based Conflict School
 - Conclusion
2. Do you think West African states can attain economic development without their former western colonial lords?
 3. Trace the root of conflict and upheavals in West Africa to the marginalization and political exclusion caused by colonialism.

Ans.

- Introduction
 - Explain how colonialism created an atmosphere of marginalization and exclusion
 - Explain marginalization and exclusion via citizenship politicisation and the indigeneity complex; and how they led to low Intensity communal wars
 - Marginalization and political exclusion
 - Conclusion
4. After 40 years of experience ECOWAS still hopes to take lessons on economic integration from EU? Discuss.
 5. With germane examples, support the realist perspective as it affects West Africa's integration attempts.

Ans.

- Introduction
- Conceptualize regional integration
- Realist perspective to regional integration
- Conclusion

6. Evaluate the peace-keeping efforts of ECOWAS during the civil wars that took major parts of the 1990s.
7. Why is development slow and unity impossible in West Africa?

Ans.

- Introduction
 - Conceptualize development
 - Factors affecting inter-dependence and unity in West Africa:
 - ✓ Dependency on the West
 - ✓ Neo-colonialism
 - Conclusion
8. Examine the changing security environment in the ECOWAS region.
 9. In an interdependent world, what are the challenges facing ECOWAS in a bid to galvanize an integrated trading system?

Ans.

- Introduction
 - Discuss the West Africa's interdependency and integrated trading system
 - Challenges facing ECOWAS in a bid to galvanize an integrated trading system:
 - ✓ Politics of foreign aid
 - ✓ Influx of multinational companies and so called foreign investment
 - ✓ Currency manipulation and control of currency value by the ex-metropoles
 - ✓ Military instruments
 - ✓ Cultural instruments
 - ✓ Continued division along ideological lines in Africa
 - ✓ Refusal to cooperate in African Union and ECOWAS
 - ✓ Many cases of trans-border conflicts, resource wars between states
 - Conclusion
10. Critically appraise the relevance of ECOMOG in the fight against terrorism in the region.
 11. Instrumentalist approach or Western-centric approach? Which provides the better platform for analysis of conflict in West Africa?

Ans.

- Introduction
- Instrumentalist Approach
- Western-centric School
- Pitch your tent with any/both/none; justify your stance

- Conclusion

12. Do you agree that a sudden estrangement of West Africa from their colonial powers will culminate in the former's economic prosperity?

13. Recommend the establishment of a new West Africa security monitoring force to address the regions current security challenge.

14. Failure of leadership at the individual West African states has automatically snowboarded into failure of leadership at the ECOWAS parlance. Discuss.

15. What are the factors that are responsible for the escalation of the West African development crisis?

Ans.

- Introduction
- Brief overview on the nature of the development crisis in West Africa
- Mention and discuss the issue:
 - ✓ Neo-colonialism and neo-imperialism
 - ✓ Foreign aids
 - ✓ Influx of foreign investments
 - ✓ Currency manipulation
 - ✓ Military instruments
 - ✓ Cultural instruments
- Conclusion