6.1 Theories of Global Politics: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all 12 questions. Allow 30 minutes. This topic practice pack is not a complete examination paper.

1 Evaluate the extent to which realism provides a more convincing explanation than liberalism of conflict and cooperation in global politics since 2000. Use dated evidence and consider society-of-states arguments in reaching your judgement.

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(Total for Question 1 is 30 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.1 Theories of Global Politics: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 0 No rewardable material.	**0**
Level 1 Basic knowledge with limited analysis; assertions or an unsupported judgement.	**1-6**
Level 2 Some accurate knowledge and emerging analysis; limited evaluation and a partly supported conclusion.	**7-12**
Level 3 Mostly accurate knowledge and focused analysis of competing arguments; some substantiated evaluation and a reasoned conclusion.	**13-18**
Level 4 Accurate, relevant knowledge with developed comparative analysis; sustained evaluation and a well-supported judgement.	**19-24**
Level 5 Precise, well-selected knowledge and coherent comparative analysis; sustained weighing of rival explanations leads to a fully justified judgement.	**25-30**

Indicative content:

- AO1: 10 marks; AO2: 10 marks; AO3: 10 marks. Use best-fit levels. Indicative content is not exhaustive and no particular conclusion is required.
- Realist case: Ukraine in 2022 demonstrates the continuing use of military force by states. Lack of a supreme enforcing authority makes reliance on institutional protection hazardous. Distinguish evidence of war from proof that war is inevitable in every relationship.
- Liberal response: Paris in 2015 demonstrates negotiated cooperation over a shared problem. Institutions can lower barriers to coordination and repeated interaction can support trust. Agreement alone cannot establish implementation success.
- Realist qualification: Paris may reflect converging interests rather than institutions overcoming state power; cooperation is compatible with realism. Liberal qualification: a theory that predicts reduced risk rather than universal peace is not disproved by a single war.
- Society-of-states arguments explain how common rules, reciprocity and diplomacy can coexist with anarchy. Ukraine exposes the limits of rules, but a violation does not establish that rules never influence behaviour.
- Complex interdependence makes economic and environmental issues significant alongside military security. Mutual costs can encourage restraint but do not guarantee it; compare explanatory reach across policy areas.
- Weigh criteria such as capacity to explain conflict, sustained cooperation and variation across issues. The limited case set cannot by itself establish a universal causal claim. Credit other accurate dated developments since 2000.
- A defensible conclusion can favour realism for security, liberalism for institutional cooperation, society-of-states arguments for coexistence, or one theory overall. Award equally for opposing defensible interpretations when supported by accurate evidence, analysis and reasoned evaluation.

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