6.2 The State and Globalisation: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all 12 questions. Use dated examples and distinguish legal authority from practical constraints.

1 Evaluate the extent to which globalisation has reduced the sovereignty of nation-states. Use competing interpretations and concrete dated examples, and consider both the advantages and disadvantages of retaining state sovereignty.

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(Total for Question 1 is 30 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.2 The State and Globalisation: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**
Level 1 Limited relevant knowledge of sovereignty or globalisation; assertions and descriptions dominate, with little analysis or judgement.	**1-6**
Level 2 Some accurate knowledge and examples, with partial explanation of globalisation and sovereignty. Evaluation is limited or uneven and conclusions have little support.	**7-12**
Level 3 Clear knowledge and analysis of competing arguments, supported by relevant dated examples. Considers legal authority and practical constraints and gives a reasoned judgement, although development may be uneven.	**13-18**
Level 4 Detailed, accurate knowledge supports sustained analysis and evaluation of competing interpretations. Weighs evidence about different dimensions of sovereignty, advantages and disadvantages, and reaches a well-supported judgement.	**19-24**
Level 5 Precise knowledge, well-chosen dated examples and sustained evaluation establish criteria for judging the extent of change in sovereignty. Weighs competing interpretations, distinguishes legal authority from practical constraints and assesses advantages and disadvantages of state sovereignty. Reaches a convincing supported judgement; different supported judgements and valid examples can receive full marks. Indicative content is non-exhaustive.	**25-30**

Indicative content:

- Define the nation-state and sovereignty, then distinguish the legal right to decide from the practical ability to achieve an outcome. A conclusion depends partly on which dimension is being assessed.
- Hyperglobalisers emphasise how mobile capital and interconnected markets restrict national economic autonomy. The 2007/2008 global financial crisis illustrates exposure to cross-border shocks, but does not establish that every state lost legislative authority.
- Sceptics emphasise continuing state choices and uneven integration. The withdrawal process following the 2016 EU referendum can support an argument about continuing national agency. Miller I (2017) required parliamentary authorisation for Article 50, showing domestic constitutional rules still mattered; it did not ban withdrawal or guarantee freedom from costs.
- Transformationalists can interpret these cases as evidence of reconfigured rather than extinguished state power: legal authority persists while the costs and effectiveness of using it change across policy areas and states.
- Realists stress states and national interests; liberals emphasise interdependence and cooperation. Either can recognise constraints without claiming that state sovereignty has vanished.
- Economic globalisation can widen investment and trade opportunities while transmitting crises and making states responsive to mobile firms. Benefits and costs can be distributed unevenly within and between states.
- Political globalisation and international law can constrain unilateral decisions while enabling joint action on environmental harm or rights protection. Global governance is not necessarily world government. Detailed institutional surveys are not needed.
- Cultural globalisation can spread ideas and widen cultural choice while creating pressures towards homogenisation. Cross-border influence over identity does not by itself abolish legal state authority.
- Sovereignty can protect self-determination, domestic accountability and policy diversity. It can also obstruct joint action, enable free riding or shield abusive rulers from external pressure. Humanitarian or forcible intervention can challenge territorial control; its legality, legitimacy and practical effect require separate assessment rather than an assumption that all intervention is lawful.
- One defensible judgement is that globalisation substantially reduces effective sovereignty because cross-border financial and environmental dependence narrows feasible choices even when legal powers remain. Another is that states remain decisive because constitutional authority and the power to choose commitments endure. A third is uneven transformation across states and issues. No preferred conclusion is required; credit any coherent, evidenced judgement and alternative accurate dated examples.

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