6.2 The State and Globalisation: Test Pack

about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Define a nation-state in the study of global politics.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Distinguish a state from a nation when analysing political communities in global politics.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Distinguish legal sovereignty from political sovereignty when examining a state's freedom to act.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Explain the difference between economic, political and cultural globalisation, giving one illustration of each form.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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5 Explain one advantage and one disadvantage of state sovereignty for responding to cross-border environmental harm.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 In Miller I (2017), the UK Supreme Court held that ministers needed parliamentary authorisation before triggering Article 50. The 2016 EU referendum had favoured leaving. Consider the hypothetical claim: 'A government facing pressure to leave an international arrangement has unlimited legal power and can guarantee an economically cost-free departure.' Explain why this claim confuses legal authority with practical constraints, applying the dated case and one possible economic constraint.

(Total for Question 6 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.2 The State and Globalisation: Test Pack

Question 1

An autonomous political community held together by citizenship and nationality; accept equivalent wording without requiring ethnic uniformity. **B1**

Answer: An autonomous political community linked by citizenship and nationality.

Question 2

A state is a political organisation exercising authority over a population within a territory. **B1**

A nation is a community linked by a shared sense of identity; it need not possess a state of its own. Accept an accurate distinction without claiming every state contains only one nation. **B1**

Answer: A state exercises territorial political authority. A nation is a community with a shared identity, which may seek or possess its own state.

Question 3

Legal sovereignty concerns the legal right or authority to make decisions. **B1**

Political sovereignty concerns the practical ability to exercise that authority; accept effective control or capacity. **B1**

Answer: Legal sovereignty is the right to exercise authority; political sovereignty is the practical ability to do so.

Question 4

Economic: increased cross-border economic integration, illustrated by international supply chains, trade or capital flows. **B1**

Political: growing importance of international organisations or cross-border political cooperation, illustrated by states agreeing common rules. **B1**

Cultural: transmission of ideas, meanings or values across borders, illustrated by audiences sharing music or media. Credit overlap where the distinction remains clear. **B1**

Answer: Economic globalisation integrates economies through trade or capital flows, such as international supply chains. Political globalisation increases cross-border rule-making and cooperation, such as states agreeing common environmental rules. Cultural globalisation spreads ideas and values, such as music reaching audiences across borders.

Question 5

Advantage identified: independent authority allows policies responsive to domestic needs or electorates. **B1**

Advantage developed: the government can select and implement a locally appropriate policy, with a clear line of accountability. Accept equivalent developed advantages. **B1**

Disadvantage identified: each state's independent choices can obstruct collective action over cross-border pollution. **B1**

Disadvantage developed: benefits spill across borders while costs fall domestically, encouraging delay or free riding and limiting any one state's solution. Accept other coherent disadvantages. **B1**

Answer: Sovereignty lets a government choose an environmental policy suited to local needs and answer to its electorate for that choice. However, separate national decisions can produce free riding: a state may avoid costs while benefiting from others' reductions, weakening collective protection.

Question 6

Identifies that Miller I (2017) required parliamentary authorisation, so ministers could not use prerogative power alone to trigger Article 50. **B1**

Explains that the 2016 referendum created political pressure but did not itself supply ministers with the required legal authority. **B1**

Distinguishes the state's capacity to change an international relationship through lawful domestic procedures from an executive's unlimited freedom to act; Miller I did not prohibit withdrawal. **B1**

Identifies one possible practical constraint, such as firms' dependence on cross-border supply chains or trading partners' willingness to agree favourable terms; no precise economic outcome is required. **B1**

Explains why that constraint can make departure costly or reduce bargaining freedom without automatically removing legal authority. Do not credit the claim that the referendum alone authorised notification, that Miller I banned withdrawal, or that dependence proves sovereignty has disappeared. **B1**

Answer: The 2016 vote exerted political pressure, but Miller I (2017) required Parliament to authorise Article 50 notification. The case limited ministers' route to withdrawal rather than legally forbidding the state from withdrawing. Even when lawful authority exists, trading partners may reject favourable terms and firms may face supply-chain disruption. These possible costs constrain choices without by themselves eliminating legal authority.

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