6.4 Global Governance: Human Rights and Environmental: Test Pack

about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Edexcel A-Level Politics, Global Politics option. Answer all 12 questions. For extended answers, other accurate, relevant and substantiated arguments can receive full credit. Zero marks where there is no creditworthy response.

1 Define universal human rights in the context of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Identify two institutional differences between the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Explain why a student is mistaken to call the European Court of Human Rights an EU criminal court that imprisons offenders.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 Explain one difference between the authority of the UDHR and a treaty, and one role of a special UN criminal tribunal.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 Explain one strength and one limitation of the Paris Agreement, using its 2015 design to distinguish commitments from guaranteed environmental outcomes.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

6 Using the high seas as an example of global commons, explain how a tragedy of the commons can arise and how cooperation might reduce it.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.4 Global Governance: Human Rights and Environmental: Test Pack

Question 1

Rights held by every person by virtue of being human, irrespective of nationality or cultural background; accept equivalent definitions. **B1**

Answer: Universal human rights belong to all people because they are human.

Question 2

Identify any one accurate institutional difference. Examples: the ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the UN whereas the ICC is a separate treaty-based criminal court, not a UN organ; ICJ contentious cases concern states whereas ICC prosecutions concern individuals; ICJ contentious jurisdiction rests on state consent whereas ICC jurisdiction follows Rome Statute rules. Accept any other valid difference. **B1**

Identify any second distinct accurate institutional difference, from the examples above or any other valid difference. Each difference earns one mark in either order; no particular contrast is compulsory and repetition earns no additional mark. **B1**

Answer: The ICJ is a UN organ that decides contentious disputes between states. The ICC is a separate treaty-based court that prosecutes individuals.

Question 3

Correct the institutional affiliation: the Court operates within the Council of Europe system, not the European Union. Accept equivalent wording. **B1**

Correct the criminal-court claim: it determines state responsibility for Convention violations rather than prosecuting individuals for criminal guilt. Accept equivalent wording. **B1**

Correct the imprisonment claim: it cannot sentence offenders to imprisonment. Accept equivalent wording; knowledge of judgment supervision or the Convention-versus-Court distinction is not required. **B1**

Answer: The ECtHR operates within the Council of Europe system, not the EU. It determines state responsibility for Convention violations rather than individual criminal guilt. It cannot sentence offenders to imprisonment.

Question 4

Identify any accurate difference in authority between the UDHR and a treaty, for example that the UDHR is a declaration of standards whereas a treaty creates obligations for its parties. **B1**

Explain the identified difference, for example that declaring a universal standard does not itself create the same treaty obligations for every state. Accept any accurate development; do not imply that every UDHR principle lacks other legal authority. **B1**

Identify any accurate role of a special UN criminal tribunal within its mandate, such as trying individuals for specified international crimes or determining individual criminal responsibility. A named tribunal or establishment date is not required. **B1**

Answer: The 1948 UDHR sets out standards in a declaration. Treaties create obligations for their parties. A special tribunal, such as the ICTY established in 1993, prosecutes individuals under a specific mandate.

Question 5

Identify any accurate strength of the 2015 Paris design, such as transparency, successive NDCs or flexibility supporting broad participation. Accept any other valid strength. **B1**

Explain how the chosen strength supports cooperation or accountability, for example reporting and review make national action visible and support scrutiny. Accept any accurate development; no particular strength is compulsory. **B1**

Identify any accurate limitation, such as nationally determined ambition, dependence on domestic implementation or a facilitative, non-adversarial and non-punitive compliance mechanism. Accept any other valid limitation. **B1**

Explain how the chosen limitation can restrict effectiveness, for example that national plans may collectively be insufficient or may not secure the intended emissions reductions. Accept any accurate development; no particular limitation is compulsory. **B1**

Distinguish commitments from guaranteed outcomes in the explanation: for example, duties to submit successive contributions and pursue domestic measures do not guarantee achievement of each national target or sufficient collective reductions. Credit an equivalent distinction integrated into either argument, without requiring a separate concluding sentence or article numbers. **B1**

Answer: Paris's transparency framework is a strength because reporting and review make national action more visible, supporting scrutiny and accountability. Its limitation is that achieving each national emissions target is not an internationally binding result obligation: duties to submit contributions and pursue domestic measures do not guarantee sufficient emissions reductions.

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Question 6

Explain a relevant individual incentive on the high seas, for example that fishing operators gain privately from larger catches while depletion costs fall on other users. Accept an equivalent commons mechanism; a separate definition of global commons is not required. **B1**

Explain the collective consequence, for example that aggregate overfishing can deplete shared stocks even when each operator pursues a private benefit. Accept an accurate consequence of the chosen mechanism. **B1**

Identify a relevant cooperative response, such as agreed catch limits or joint monitoring and enforcement. Accept any valid measure. **B1**

Explain how the chosen response reduces the problem, for example catch limits reduce extraction or joint monitoring and enforcement discourage free-riding. Accept any accurate causal explanation; multiple measures are not required. **B1**

Answer: On the high seas, fishing operators gain privately from larger catches while depletion costs fall on other users. Collective overfishing can therefore exhaust stocks. Agreed catch limits reduce extraction, while joint monitoring and enforcement discourage free-riding.

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