6.5 Power and Developments: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all 12 questions. Allow about 15 minutes. The short questions build knowledge for essay work. Date evidence, define your criteria and support classifications and judgements. No calculator is needed.

1 In global politics, define hard power and identify one economic instrument through which a state can exercise it.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 In global politics, define soft power and identify one way cultural activity might generate it.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Distinguish a great power from a superpower in global politics, then name the superpower example explicitly identified in Issue 4.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 The May 2026 Issue 4 specification names Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as BRICS examples. Identify any two and explain why that printed list cannot establish the complete membership in October 2026.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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5 In a comparison of international orders, state what unipolarity, bipolarity and multipolarity each mean.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

6 Explain one distinction between a liberal economy and democracy, and one way the rule of law can support either economic or political development.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.5 Power and Developments: Test Pack

Question 1

Defines influence through military or economic coercion or material inducement, oe. **B1**

Identifies an economic instrument, such as sanctions, conditional payments or trade restrictions. **B1**

Answer: Hard power influences behaviour through military or economic pressure or inducement. Economic sanctions are one instrument.

Question 2

Defines influence through attraction or co-option rather than coercion, oe. **B1**

Identifies a cultural mechanism capable of creating attraction, such as cultural exchanges or popular cultural exports. **B1**

Answer: Soft power shapes preferences through attraction. Cultural exchanges may build admiration and willingness to cooperate.

Question 3

Great power: significant capacity to influence affairs globally. **B1**

Superpower: pre-eminent position among great powers with exceptional global projection; simply saying bigger is insufficient. **B1**

Identifies the USA as the named superpower example. **B1**

Answer: A great power can exert global influence. A superpower has exceptional global reach and a dominant position among great powers. Issue 4 names the USA.

Question 4

Identifies one of Brazil, Russia, India, China or South Africa. **B1**

Identifies a second distinct named example. **B1**

Explains that a specification example list cannot establish complete contemporary membership; dated membership evidence is needed. Credit recognition of expansion without requiring an unsupported full roster. **B1**

Answer: For example, Brazil and India. These are the specification's named examples, not a dated and verified October 2026 membership register; subsequent membership changes require separate evidence.

Question 5

Unipolarity: one dominant centre of power. **B1**

Bipolarity: two principal centres of power. **B1**

Multipolarity: several major centres of power, rather than merely many states. **B1**

Answer: Unipolarity has one dominant centre of power; bipolarity has two principal centres; multipolarity has several major centres. The classification concerns the distribution of power, not the number of states that exist.

Question 6

Liberal economy: substantial role for private ownership, markets or relatively open exchange. **B1**

Democracy: meaningful participation, competition and accountability; distinguishes this from economic organisation. **B1**

Identifies a rule-of-law mechanism, such as enforceable contracts, independent adjudication or constraints on arbitrary rule. **B1**

Explains how that mechanism supports investment, rights or accountability; does not equate rule of law merely with any law a ruler issues. **B1**

Answer: A liberal economy relies substantially on markets, private ownership and exchange; democracy concerns accountable government and meaningful participation. Rule of law can make contracts predictable or constrain arbitrary government, but market reform alone does not establish competitive elections or protected rights.

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