Exercise walk-through

1.1
Power and legitimacy: supported rehearsal

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Global Politics · HL

Legitimacy

- **Legitimacy** is the belief that a government or an action has the right to exercise power.
- Power without legitimacy must rely on force, which is costly.
- The sociologist Max Weber described three types of **authority** :
- Legitimacy can come from **consent** (people accept the government, for example through elections) and from **performance** (the government delivers security, jobs and services).

Interdependence

- It is **symmetric** when both sides depend on each other equally, and **asymmetric** when one side depends more. The less dependent side then has more power, for example the power to threaten **sanctions** .
- It encourages cooperation, because conflict becomes expensive for everyone.
- It also creates risks: a problem in one place (a blocked canal, a pandemic, a financial crisis) spreads quickly.

Common errors

- Treating power as something a state simply "has"; power is a **relationship** and depends on the situation.
- Using **soft power** to mean any non-military action; sanctions are **hard power**, because they coerce.
- Saying sovereignty is absolute; it is challenged from above (international law), below (separatist movements) and within (weak state capacity).

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define power and state why it is relational. [2]



2.2 Distinguish hard power from soft power, with one example of each. [2]



Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define power and state why it is relational. [2]



2.1 Power is the ability to influence outcomes and others' behaviour (1); it is relational because A's power exists only over B in a context – the same capacity yields different outcomes in different relationships (1).

2.2 Distinguish hard power from soft power, with one example of each. [2]



2.2 Hard power compels through force or coercion – sanctions, or military intervention (1); soft power co-opts through attraction – a country's universities, media and values drawing others to want what it wants (1).

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 Name Weber's three types of legitimacy with one example of each. [3]



2.4 State the three directions from which sovereignty is challenged, with one example of any one of them. [3]



Exercises 2.3·2.4

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2.3 Traditional: authority by custom – a hereditary monarch (1); charismatic: the leader's personal bond – a revolutionary founder whose followers obey him rather than rules (1); legal-rational: authority by rules and offices – an elected government under a constitution (1).

2.4 State the three directions from which sovereignty is challenged, with one example of any one of them. [3]

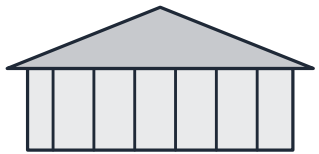


2.4 From above: institutions and treaties binding the state (a trade body's rules or a rights court) (1); from below: separatists and non-state actors claiming authority inside (1); from within: state failure leaving sovereignty nominal (1). Example of any one earns the third mark.

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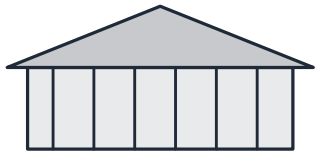
Exercise 2.5

2.5 Distinguish symmetric from asymmetric interdependence and say which one creates leverage. [2]



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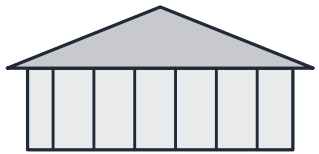
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2.5 Symmetric interdependence is mutual and balanced – both sides bear rupture comparably (1); asymmetric leaves one side able to bear the rupture more cheaply, which is exactly the leverage sanctions and chokepoints exploit (1).

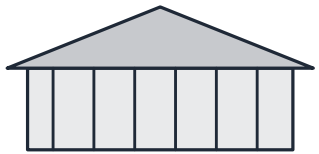
Exercise 3.1

3.1 *(Stimulus style.)* A stimulus reports a mid-sized state defying a great power's sanctions threat to join a regional trade initiative. Using power's three faces and interdependence, explain the outcome. [6]



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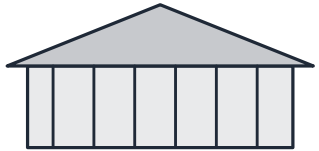
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3.1 First face: the great power could not compel – its sanctions threat was a decision-blocking instrument that failed to change the vote (2). Second face: the agenda had been reset – the regional institution reframed the initiative as sovereignty asserted, so the defection carried no cost in standing (2). Asymmetric interdependence: the initiative's banks and market gave the mid-sized state a hedge – it could bear the rupture more cheaply than the threatener assumed, so the hard power was real but unusable (2).

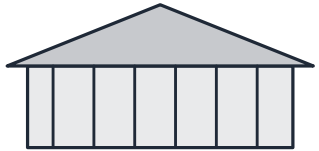
Exercise 3.2

3.2 *(Concept style.)* “Sovereignty today is bundled, not lost.” With reference to one state that pools sovereignty and one whose sovereignty is nominal, evaluate this claim. [5]



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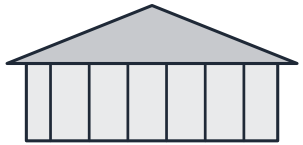
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3.2 Pooled: an EU member state shares currency, trade and court authority by treaty, accepting binding rules in exchange for market scale and collective weight – sovereignty exercised collectively, not surrendered (2). Nominal: a state whose government cannot enforce law across its territory holds sovereignty in name – external recognition persists while internal authority has collapsed (2). Evaluation: bundling captures the pooling case but risks euphemism for the nominal case, where little is left to bundle – sovereignty is best read as a bundle of rights that can be separately ceded, strained or hollowed (1).

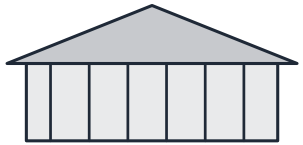
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3.3 *(Source style.)* An official communiqué states a government “acted to uphold international law”. Identify the claim, one piece of evidence a stronger source would need, and one silence. [4]



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3.3 Claim: the action was lawful and legitimate (1). Evidence a stronger source would need: the specific legal instrument relied on (authorisation, treaty article) and independent verification of the facts, not the government's own account (2). Silence: the communiqué does not state who authorised the action or what alternatives were considered; the omission of authority is itself evidence of the position being defended (1).

Local review guidance: name the face of power before each move; (R1 3.2) evaluation weighs both cases against the claim's exact word – bundled, not lost; (R1 3.3) a silence is a named absence, not a general doubt. Authored guidance.