Exercise walk-through

2.4
The Paper 2 essay

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Global Politics · HL

Thematic studies

- explain **human rights**, how they are protected, and the debate between **universalism** and relativism;
- explain the meanings of development and **sustainability** and how they are measured;
- explain the causes of conflict, the kinds of peace and the rules on the use of force;
- write a Paper 2 essay with a thesis, real cases, a counter-argument and a judgement.

Peace and conflict

- **Conflict** can be **interstate** (between states) or **intrastate** (inside one state, such as a civil war).
- Since 1945 most wars have been **intrastate**, and many have outside states involved.
- The peace researcher Johan Galtung distinguished **negative peace**, the absence of direct violence, from **positive peace**, the presence of **justice**, fair institutions and cooperation.
- He also described **structural violence**: harm caused by unfair social structures, such as poverty or discrimination, even when no one is fighting.

Writing a Paper 2 essay

- The essay plan is the same as in history: a clear thesis, two or three arguments with named, recent cases, a counter-argument and a judgement.
- Use the theme's concepts by name.
- **Worked essay plan.** A sample question from the IB: *"To what extent is addressing **structural violence** increasingly important to achieving lasting peace?"*
- 1.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Unpack this question: “To what extent is the legitimacy of a state dependent on its protection of human rights?” Name the command term, **two** key concepts and **one** limit of the question. [2]

2.2 Rewrite this weak piece of evidence into a strong one: “Some peacekeeping missions fail.” [3]

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command term “to what extent”: a judgement on how far, with arguments on both sides; concepts: legitimacy and human rights; limit: it is about states, not other actors

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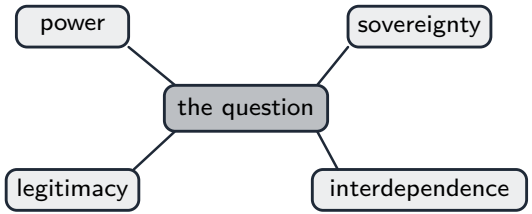
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a named mission; a place and year; a precise detail showing the failure, e.g. “In Rwanda in 1994, about 2,500 UN peacekeepers had no mandate to use force to stop a genocide in which about 800,000 people were killed.”

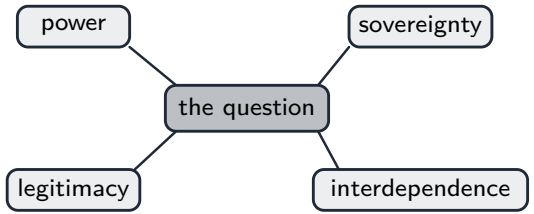
Exercise 2.3

2.3 Explain how **two** of the four key concepts can be used in an essay on "development and sustainability". [4]



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any two, explained: power: richer states and MNCs shape trade and climate rules; sovereignty: states decide how to use their own resources, e.g. forests; legitimacy: governments gain or lose support through development results (output legitimacy); interdependence: emissions in one country affect all; supply chains link producers and consumers

Exercise 2.4

2.4 Write **one** argument paragraph, with a counter-point, for: "Non-state actors are now more important than states in global politics." [6]

Exercise 2.4

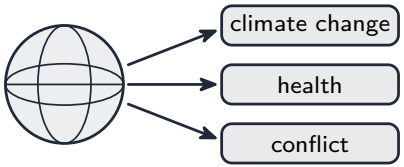
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a clear point linked to the question; a key concept used; a specific example with detail, e.g. a large technology company’s control of information, or an NGO campaign such as the 1997 landmine ban treaty; explanation of how it supports the point; a counter-point, e.g. states still make law, control armies and decide treaties; a mini-judgement

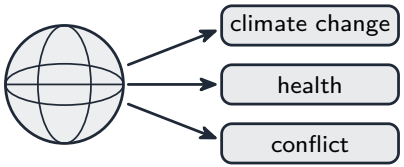
Exercise 3.1

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* "International organizations have little power to solve global problems." Discuss with reference to **two** global problems. [15]



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3.1

Mark with the markbands: [13-15] clearly focused on the question, accurate and relevant knowledge and real-world examples used as evidence, concepts applied, well-developed critical analysis, different perspectives evaluated, a reasoned conclusion; [10-12] focused, mostly accurate knowledge, analysis with some evaluation; [7-9] some focus, relevant knowledge, mostly narrative or description with limited analysis; [4-6] little focus, limited knowledge, mostly narrative; [1-3] little understanding of the question. Points that may be included: definitions: international organizations, power; thesis that answers the question; problem 1, e.g. climate change: the Paris Agreement (2015) set goals, but each

Full solution on next slide

Full solution 3.1

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