Exercise walk-through

4.1
HL stimulus synthesis: supported rehearsal

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Global Politics · HL

Global political challenges

- explain why some problems are global political challenges that no state can solve alone;
- analyse a challenge in five steps: define, levels, actors and interests, governance, evaluation;
- use researched cases on climate change, pandemics, forced **migration** and artificial intelligence;
- explain the links between challenges and answer Paper 3.

How to analyse a challenge

- A global political challenge crosses borders, affects many actors and causes political disagreement about who should act and who should pay.
- Analyse each case in five steps.
- 1. **Define** the challenge in one sentence. 2. **Levels** : how it appears locally, nationally and globally, and how the levels affect each other. 3. **Actors** and their **interests** : states, IGOs, NGOs, companies, movements, and the people affected. 4. **Governance** : which institutions and rules deal with it, and whether they can enforce decisions. 5. **Evaluate** the responses, using the key concepts: power, **sovereignty**, legitimacy and interdependence.

Links between challenges

- Paper 3 often asks how challenges connect.
- Use a chain:
- **Worked plan.** A sample question from the IB: *"With reference to two of the cases you have researched, examine the links between multiple global political challenges."*
- 1.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State the three defining features of a global political challenge. [3]



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2.2 Name the four craft moves the Paper 3 scaffold applies to any stimulus. [4]



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Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State the three defining features of a global political challenge. [3]



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2.1 Crosses borders (no single state contains it); defies any single state's solution (unilateral action is insufficient); structures political conflict over who decides, who pays and who benefits (3).

2.2 Name the four craft moves the Paper 3 scaffold applies to any stimulus. [4]



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2.2 Define the challenge; set its levels (local-national-global and their interaction); name the actors and their interests; analyse the governance (institutions, authority, enforcement) (4).

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 How did Paris 2015 invert Kyoto 1997's logic? [2]



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2.4 Name the two scales of the poverty-and-inequality challenge. [2]



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Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 How did Paris 2015 invert Kyoto 1997's logic? [2]



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2.3 Kyoto set binding targets on the few (developed states); Paris inverted the logic – each state sets its own nationally determined contribution, with transparency and review rather than enforcement (2).

2.4 Name the two scales of the poverty-and-inequality challenge. [2]

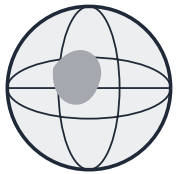


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2.4 Between states (the convergence-or-divergence of national economies) and within states (domestic inequality) (2).

Exercise 2.5

2.5 Why is the WHO's authority described as informational? [2]



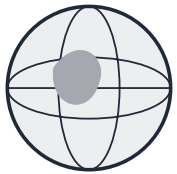
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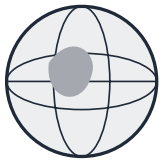
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2.5 The WHO can recommend, name and coordinate, and its information shapes legitimacy (1); but it cannot compel states – no enforcement power of its own (1).

Exercise 3.1

3.1 *(Stimulus style.)* A stimulus documents a state raising its NDC while expanding fossil extraction. Using levels, actors and governance, analyse what this pattern shows about the climate challenge. [6]



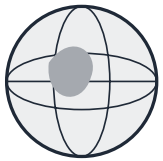
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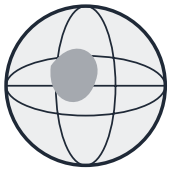
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3.1 Levels: the state performs globally (the raised pledge) while acting nationally (the extraction licences) – the levels diverge, and the local-national interest (revenue, energy) beats the global pledge (2). Actors and interests: the state balancing international standing against domestic energy politics; fossil firms with extraction investments; the global majority whose climate the totals determine (2). Governance: the Paris regime asks transparency, not cessation – the pattern is compliant within the design, which is the finding: the challenge's governance rewards pledges over performance (2).

Exercise 3.2

3.2 *(Evaluate style.)* "The Paris design's realism is also its limit." Evaluate the transparency mechanism against enforced targets for a challenge of free-rider incentives. [5]



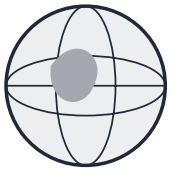
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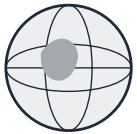
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3.2 For the transparency mechanism: universality – states that would never accept enforcement signed, so the regime's legitimacy is global (2); name-and-shame and peer review have produced ratchets of ambition in several rounds (1). Against enforced targets: enforcement would confront the free-rider core directly, but Kyoto showed the compliance cost – key emitters staying outside (2). Judgement: the design bought legitimacy at the price of bindingness; the pledge-performance gap is its measured limit, so the claim holds (accept any reasoned weighing anchored in the Kyoto comparison).

Exercise 3.3

3.3 *(Cross-challenge style.)* The pandemic closed borders while vaccine nationalism divided access. Explain how health reproduces the sovereignty-versus-rights tension from the migration field. [4]



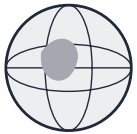
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3.3 Sovereignty's reflex in both fields: the border. In migration, states assert the sovereign right to admit and exclude; in the pandemic, states closed borders as the reflex response despite evidence of limited effect – the same logic of territorial control against a challenge that ignores borders (2). Rights' counter-logic: the person – the refugee's claim under the 1951 Convention, the patient's claim to health; vaccine nationalism divided access by citizenship, reproducing the exclusion the migration field knows (2). The tension is structural: both challenges cross borders while authority remains territorial.

Local review guidance: every paragraph names its craft move (levels, actors, governance) before its evidence; (R1 3.2) the evaluation anchors in the Kyoto comparison; (R1 3.3) a cross-field answer names the shared structure, not two stories. Authored guidance.