Exercise walk-through

4.2
HL: challenges of identity, borders, security and technology

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.

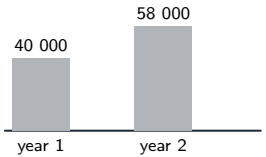
Key terms

- **Global political challenge**: a problem that crosses borders and cannot be solved by one state alone.
- **Collective action problem**: a situation in which all would gain from **cooperation**, but each **actor** has a reason to let others bear the cost.
- **Nationally determined contribution (NDC)**: a country's own pledge under the Paris Agreement to cut emissions.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Explain why **technology** is a **global political** challenge. [2]

2.2 A table (illustrative values) shows asylum applications in a country: 40,000 in year 1 and 58,000 in year 2. Calculate the percentage increase, and explain **one** reason why numbers alone do not explain the politics of borders. [3]



Exercises 2.1·2.2

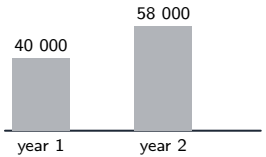
2.1 Explain why **technology** is a **global political** challenge. [2]

2.1

technology companies and states compete for control of data, platforms and AI, and their rules affect people in many countries; no single state can set the rules alone, so there is political conflict over who governs technology

---

2.2 A table (illustrative values) shows asylum applications in a country: 40,000 in year 1 and 58,000 in year 2. Calculate the percentage increase, and explain **one** reason why numbers alone do not explain the politics of borders. [3]



2.2

$(58\,000-40\,000)/40\,000\times100 = \mathbf{45}\,\%$; how people see the numbers depends on perspective and identity: some see a humanitarian duty, others a threat; governments' responses depend on politics, e.g. elections, not only on the size of the flow

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 For an **identity** case study you have studied, explain how **legitimacy** and **human rights** apply. [4]

2.4 Compare a **security** case and a **technology** case you have studied. [6]

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 For an **identity** case study you have studied, explain how **legitimacy** and **human rights** apply. [4]

2.3

case named with detail, e.g. the Rohingya: denied citizenship under Myanmar's 1982 law; mass flight to Bangladesh in 2017; human rights: the right to a nationality and to life and security were violated; legitimacy: the government claimed to defend the nation, but lost legitimacy abroad; a genocide case was brought at the International Court of Justice by The Gambia (2019)

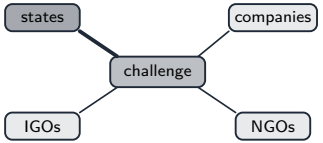
2.4 Compare a **security** case and a **technology** case you have studied. [6]

2.4

both cases identified with detail; a similarity explained, e.g. both involve non-state actors (hackers, companies) as well as states; a difference explained, e.g. security is about harm, technology about rules and control; key concepts applied to the comparison, e.g. sovereignty over data and networks; what the comparison shows about global politics

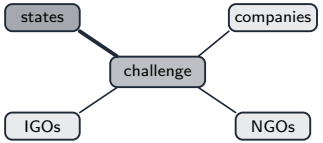
Exercise 3.1

3.1 *(Paper 3 style.)* With reference to **two** case studies from **different** challenges (identity, borders, security or technology), evaluate the claim that states remain the most important actors in responding to global political challenges. [15]



Exercise 3.1

3.1 *(Paper 3 style.)* With reference to **two** case studies from **different** challenges (identity, borders, security or technology), evaluate the claim that states remain the most important actors in responding to global political challenges. [15]



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: two cases from different challenges, each with detail; for states: they control borders, laws and armies, e.g. EU states decide asylum rules; states regulate technology, e.g. the EU's GDPR (2018) and AI Act (2024); against: non-state actors shape outcomes: technology companies control platforms and data; NGOs rescue migrants at sea and report abuses; IGOs and courts, e.g. the ICJ case on the Rohingya, the UNHCR; concepts applied: sovereignty, power, legitimacy; comparison of the two cases; conclusion: a clear judgement