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

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

**KEY WORDS** identity • borders • security • technology • asylum

## Objective

Study the other four **global political challenges** for the HL extension, **identity**, **borders**, **security** and **technology**, each through a case study, and practise comparing cases from different challenges.

**You must be able to:**

- explain why each challenge is political and global
- analyse a case study with the key concepts
- compare two cases from different challenges
- interpret stimulus data on migration or technology
- evaluate the responses of different actors

## 1 Key knowledge and worked examples

### Four challenges and example cases

| challenge | why it is political | example case |
|---|---|---|
| **identity** | who belongs, and whose language, religion or culture is protected | the Rohingya in Myanmar and Bangladesh |
| **borders** | who may cross, and who controls territory | migration across the Mediterranean to the EU |
| **security** | how states and people are kept safe, and from what | cyber-attacks on hospitals and power grids |
| **technology** | who controls data, platforms and AI, and who sets the rules | the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and its AI Act (2024) |



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### Use the same questions for both cases

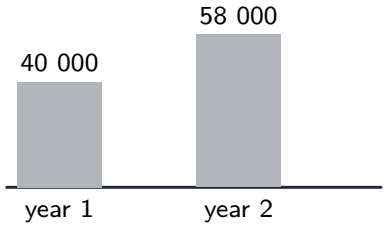
Use the same questions for both cases (actors, interests, power, concepts), then say what is **similar** and **different**, and what the comparison shows about global politics. For example, both the Rohingya case and Mediterranean migration involve **sovereignty** and **human rights**, but in the first the state is the main source of harm; in the second, the main issue is how other states respond.

**Worked example.** The UNHCR reported over 100 million forcibly displaced people worldwide by mid-2022, a figure that kept rising afterwards. Concepts: **sovereignty** (who may enter), **human rights** (the right to seek asylum, UDHR Article 14), **interdependence** (conflict in one region creates movement into others).

## 2 Practice

**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]

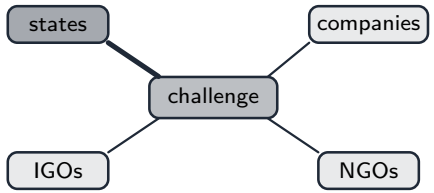


**2.3** For an **identity** case study you have studied, explain how **legitimacy** and **human rights** apply. [4]

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

## 3 Exam-style questions

**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]








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## Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

**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**

$(58\,000-40\,000)/40\,000\times100 = \mathbf{45}\,\%$; 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

**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**

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

**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



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