1.2 Legitimacy, interdependence and actors

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

KEY WORDS legitimacy • interdependence • actor • leverage • intergovernmental organization • non-governmental organization

Objective

Define and apply the other two key concepts of the core: **legitimacy** (why people accept authority) and **interdependence** (how actors depend on one another), and compare the **actors** of global politics: states, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, companies and social movements.

You must be able to:

- explain Weber's three types of legitimacy with examples
- distinguish input and output legitimacy
- explain symmetric and asymmetric interdependence, and how dependence can be used as leverage
- compare the aims and power of state and non-state actors
- interpret data on dependence on imports

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Legitimacy

Legitimacy is the acceptance by people that a ruler or institution has the right to rule. Max Weber named three types:

type	basis	example
traditional	custom and history	a monarchy
charismatic	the personal qualities of a leader	a revolutionary leader
legal-rational	rules and procedures, e.g. elections and a constitution	most democracies

Input legitimacy: the right process (fair elections, consent). **Output legitimacy**: good results (security, jobs, services). A government with weak input legitimacy may

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depend on output legitimacy, and lose support when results fall.

Interdependence

Interdependence means actors depend on each other, so a change in one affects the others. It can be **symmetric** (both depend on each other equally) or **asymmetric** (one depends more), and asymmetric dependence can be used as **leverage** : the less dependent side can threaten to cut supply.

Worked example. The European Commission reports that Russia's share of EU gas imports fell from about 45 % in 2021 to about 15 % in 2023. Change $= 15 - 45 = -30$ percentage points. The EU reduced its dependence after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, buying more liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the US and Qatar.

Actors

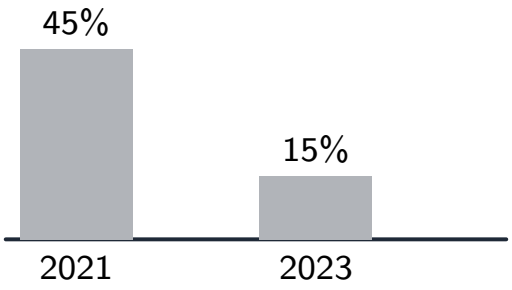
actor	example	main source of power
states	193 UN member states	territory, armies, law
intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)	the UN, the WTO, the African Union	the agreement of their members
non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	Amnesty International, Médecins Sans Frontières	information, expertise, public support
multinational companies (MNCs)	technology and energy companies	money, jobs, technology
social movements	climate strikes, Black Lives Matter	numbers, media attention

2 Practice

2.1 Distinguish **input legitimacy** from **output legitimacy**. [2]

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2.2 Russia's share of EU gas imports was about 45 % in 2021 and about 15 % in 2023 (European Commission). Calculate the change, and explain why the change matters for the EU's power. [3]



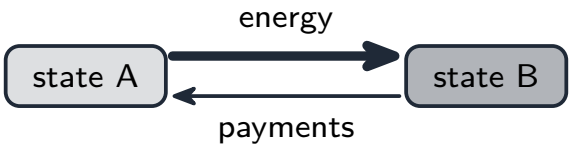
2.3 Explain **two** of Weber's types of legitimacy, with an example of each. [4]

2.4 Compare the power of an **intergovernmental organization** and a **non-governmental organization**, with **one** example of each. [6]

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3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* To what extent does interdependence limit the sovereignty of states? Refer to **two** examples. [15]



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