

Global political challenges

IB DP Global Politics HL extension full package

1. The extension at a glance

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IB Global Politics HL extension: global political challenges - two studied in depth through contemporary cases, examined stimulus-based on Paper 3 and connected to the engagement project.

Must-know: a challenge crosses borders, defies single-state solutions and structures conflict over who decides; the craft scaffold (challenge, levels, actors, governance, concepts); the field kits - environment (UNFCCC 1992, Kyoto 1997, Paris 2015 with NDCs), poverty and inequality, migration, health, identity, peace and war.

2. The craft

The craft

Define the challenge; set its levels (local, national, global - and how they interact); name the actors and interests (states, institutions, firms, movements, the affected); analyse the governance (which institutions, what authority, what enforcement) - then evaluate the responses.

Paper 3 gives documents and data; the answers apply this scaffold to them, tying concepts - power, sovereignty, legitimacy, interdependence - to the named actors. The case must be contemporary: these challenges are open, not historical.

3. The field kits

The field kits

Environment: the climate commons - UNFCCC negotiation, Kyoto binding the few, Paris inverting to nationally determined contributions with transparency.

Collective-action failure, equity disputes, and non-state governors filling the enforcement gap. Poverty: between- and within-state scales; Gini and Palma; technology, trade, capture; inequality as power, not outcome.

Migration: mixed flows stressing the 1951 categories; sovereignty against rights; fragmented governance. Health: WHO authority informational; borders versus evidence; vaccine nationalism and COVAX. Identity: civic versus ethnic nationalism into legitimacy, secession, populism. Peace: new wars, remote war, hybrid rivalry, the R2P record.

Check yourself

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The three defining features; the four craft moves applied to any stimulus.

Environment: the UNFCCC-Kyoto-Paris arc with NDCs and transparency; equity; non-state governors.

Poverty, migration, health, identity, peace kits with their anchor facts.

The worked Paris framing: levels, actors, governance, and the pledge-performance judgement.