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 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

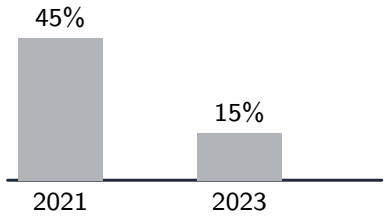
actor	example	main source of power
states	193 UN member states	territory, armies, law
intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)	the UN, the WTO, the African Union	the agreement of their members
non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	Amnesty International, Médecins Sans Frontières	information, expertise, 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]

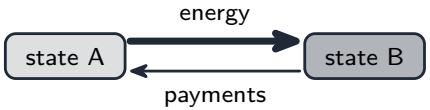


2.3 Explain **two** of Weber's types of legitimacy, with an example of each. [4]

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

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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Solutions

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

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

2.1

input legitimacy comes from the process, e.g. free and fair elections and consent; output legitimacy comes from results, e.g. security, jobs and public services

2.2

$15 - 45 = \mathbf{-30}$ percentage points; asymmetric dependence gave Russia leverage over the EU; lower dependence lets the EU impose sanctions or support Ukraine with less risk to its energy supply

2.3

any two, each explained with an example: traditional: authority from custom and history, e.g. a monarchy such as Saudi Arabia; charismatic: authority from the personal qualities of a leader, e.g. a revolutionary leader; legal-rational: authority from rules and procedures, e.g. an elected government under a constitution

2.4

IGO: made up of states; power comes from the agreement of members; e.g. the UN Security Council can authorize sanctions or force, but the five permanent members have a veto; NGO: a private, non-profit group; power comes from information, expertise and public support; e.g. Amnesty International reports on human rights abuses and campaigns; comparison: IGOs can make binding decisions but depend on states; NGOs cannot force states but can shape opinion and agendas (the second and third faces of power)

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: definitions of interdependence and sovereignty; for: trade and supply chains make states vulnerable to others' decisions, e.g. EU dependence on Russian gas before 2022; dependence on a few suppliers of advanced chips; membership of IGOs pools sovereignty, e.g. EU trade policy, WTO rulings; global problems such as climate change require cooperation; against: states still choose to join and can leave, e.g. the UK left the EU in 2020; interdependence can increase a state's power, if others depend more on it (asymmetry, leverage); states reduced dependence after 2022; powerful states shape the rules of interdependence; conclusion: a clear judgement, e.g. interdependence limits what states can do in practice, but not their legal sovereignty, and it limits weak states more than strong ones

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