Power, sovereignty and legitimacy

IB DP Global Politics SL core unit full package

1. The core at a glance

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IB Global Politics SL core (shared with HL): power, sovereignty, legitimacy and interdependence, plus the source-analysis craft the stimulus papers demand.

Must-know: power relational with three faces (decide, set the agenda, shape preferences); hard, soft and smart power; sovereignty internal, external, Westphalian, bundled, challenged above, below and within; legitimacy Weber-traditional, charismatic, legal-rational, tested by performance; interdependence symmetric and asymmetric - dependence as leverage.

2. The four concepts

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Power: the ability to influence outcomes, relational, three faces; hard compels, soft co-opts, smart blends - and power is capacity in a context, not a score. Sovereignty: supreme authority in a territory (Westphalia 1648), with internal, external and non-intervention components; challenged from above (institutions), below (separatism, non-state actors) and within (failure); bundled - pooled, leased, lost by degrees.

Legitimacy: recognition that makes authority rightful - Weber's traditional, charismatic, legal-rational; rested on consent and tested by performance, with the authoritarian dilemma when it fails. Interdependence: outcomes linked; symmetric when mutual, asymmetric when one side bears rupture more cheaply - the leverage of sanctions, chokepoints and clearing.

3. Reading political sources

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Every source: the CLAIM it asserts, the EVIDENCE it offers, the PERSPECTIVE it speaks from - and how the perspective shapes the claim. OPVL adapted: origin and purpose explain the angle; value and limitation are relative to the question; silences - what is not mentioned - are evidence too.

The papers reward concept-to-case discipline: define in a sentence, apply to the named actors and institutions, weigh the counter-view - argue, weigh, judge, the same spine as every essay in the course.

Check yourself

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Power relational; the three faces; hard/soft/smart with one example each.

Sovereignty four components; three challenge directions with a named case each; the bundling insight.

Weber's three types; consent and performance; the authoritarian dilemma; international legitimacy by recognition.

Symmetric vs asymmetric interdependence; dependence as leverage; claim, evidence, perspective, silence on any source.