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ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2012

M.Phil./Ph.D.

Total Pages: 12

**INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION,
DIPLOMACY & DISARMAMENT AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY**

[Field of Study Code : INPP (110)/ORGP (111)/DADP (112)/POGP (113)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

- Note :**
- (i) This question paper consists of Five Sections—A, B, C, D and E.
 - (ii) Attempt *any two* questions from Section—A and *any three* from *only ONE* of the other Sections, i.e., Sections—B, C, D or E.
 - (iii) **Take care to answer questions only from the Section corresponding to the Division of Study into which you are seeking admission.**
 - (iv) In all, **five** questions need to be attempted.
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 - (vi) All questions carry equal marks, i.e., 14 marks each.

SECTION—A

1. What is 'hegemony'? Explain the conceptions of hegemony propounded by Gramsci.
2. "Foreign policy is only an extension of domestic policy." Critically examine this statement in the light of Nehru's footprint on evolution of India's foreign policy.
3. Why is 'corruption a core issue in Indian politics'? What, in your view, would be the best way to check the menace?
4. What do you understand by social churning? Analyze the phenomenon in the context of contemporary India.

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5. Elaborate on the role of social reform movements in India prior to Independence. Illustrate your views with examples.
6. What is 'fiscal deficit'? Why is it considered a matter of worry to national economies? Assess the impact of slashing the fiscal deficit.
7. Why is Halford MacKinder called the father of geopolitics? Critically examine his 'heartland theory' and its continuing influence in the contemporary discourses.
8. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Iran-Pakistan-India Oil Pipeline
 - (b) Sea Lanes of Communications (SLOCs)
 - (c) Rain Shadow Area
 - (d) Tropical Cyclones
 - (e) Geostrategy

SECTION—B

(International Politics)

9. What is meant by 'soft-balancing'? Outline the arguments made by proponents and critics of the soft-balancing proposition and assess it using some of the standard cases that are used to illustrate the thesis.
10. Write an essay about the theoretical relevance of regions in global politics.
11. What is the 'democratic peace' thesis? What are some of the key criticisms against the proposition?
12. What are international regimes? What do the proponents of regimes claim? Do you agree with these claims?
13. Are international institutions the answer to the problem of war? Substantiate with reference to relevant theories and cases.
14. What role do norms play in international politics? Explain how different theoretical approaches understand the role of norms.

SECTION—C

(International Organization)

15. According to liberal scholars, international institutions are useful to promote cooperation. Elaborate.
16. Write an essay on the action taken by the League of Nations in response to the Italian Conquest of Abyssinia in the years 1935–37. Do you see any contemporary relevance in that historical episode?
17. Analyze the problems the United Nations has experienced in its peace operations in Africa after the end of the Cold War. Give suggestions for improvement of its performance in this regard.
18. Write an essay on the powers of the International Monetary Fund exercises over the borrowing countries and assess the continuing relevance of the organization.
19. Trace the constitutional and policy issues associated with the European Union. Is that organization adequate in mitigating the financial and environmental problems in the era of globalization?
20. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Membership as an issue in the League of Nations
 - (b) United Nations Security Council action against Libya in 2011
 - (c) Most favoured nation principle in the World Trade Organization regime
 - (d) Politics and principles of the international administration

SECTION—D

(Diplomacy and Disarmament)

21. What is 'negotiation'? To what extent do 'cultures' and 'personalities' influence negotiations? Explain with illustrations.
22. What are the causes of war? Analyze various theoretical perspectives. Which of these, in your opinion, is the most convincing?
23. How would you conceptualize security? What explains the broadening and deepening of the notion of security in recent times? Discuss.

24. What do you understand by conflict transformation? Evaluate the effectiveness of mediation in conflict transformation strategies by providing suitable illustrations.
25. Is nuclear energy indispensable for India's energy requirements? Engage with the debate with reference to the Koodankulam nuclear issue.
26. Examine the phenomenon of nuclear terrorism. Analyze its long-term consequences.

SECTION—E

(Political Geography)

27. "Geopolitics is a plurality of representational practices." Critically examine the statement.
28. Critically examine Walter Christaller's Central Place theory and its linkages to Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.
29. Nicholas Spykman's Rimland theory was an antidote to Halford MacKinder's heartland thesis. Discuss Spykman's legacies in contemporary geopolitics.
30. Evaluate the evolving nature of and interrelationships amongst Territory, State and Society.
31. Geopolitics has an impact on environment. Elucidate by using examples in contemporary debates.
32. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Shatterbelts
 - (b) Aquifers
 - (c) Cirques
 - (d) Pleistocene Epoch

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ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2011

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SECTION—A

1. Evaluate the impact of economic reforms on Indian society.
2. What is power? Elaborate on the various dimensions of power.
3. What are Special Economic Zones? Why are they controversial in India?
4. Critically examine the thesis of Thomas Hobbes on the origin of State.
5. The Gupta empire is considered as the 'classical age' of the Hindu and Buddhist art and literature. Explain.

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6. The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) was one of the most destructive wars in the European history. Why?
7. Discuss the problems related to urbanization in developing countries.
8. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Biosphere
 - (b) Coral Reef
 - (c) Dew Point
 - (d) Permeability
 - (e) Richter Scale

SECTION—B

(International Politics)

9. What do available theories of International Politics tell us about the core driving elements of contemporary world politics? Which are some of the prevailing theoretical explanations according to you is most persuasive and why?
10. What do you understand by the term Liberalism? What are some of the fundamental claims of Classical Liberalism and how does Neoliberal Institutionalism differ or represent an advancement over these claims?
11. What do you understand by the terms unipolarity, bipolarity and multipolarity? Which of these descriptions come closest to characterizing the post-Cold War international order? Substantiate your argument.
12. What does the term 'rising power' convey in international politics? What are the criteria that mark off these powers from other powers in the international system? Which are the important States according to you that best fit this label today and why?
13. What do you understand by the term Critical Theory? What, according to you, are some critical approaches to the study of International Relations and in what respect do they differ from mainstream approaches? Explain using an illustration.
14. Write short notes on any *two* of the following concepts :
 - (a) Democratization
 - (b) Anarchy
 - (c) Institutions
 - (d) Soft Power
 - (e) Security Dilemma

SECTION—C

(International Organization)

15. International Organization are actors in their own right in the international politics. Discuss.
16. Examine the contributions of Woodrow Wilson to the development of international organizations in the early twentieth century.
17. Trace the politics of membership at the United Nations. How has the universality of its membership both helped and hampered the functioning of the General Assembly?
18. Give reasons why the World Trade Organization is the most powerful economic institution today.
19. Regional organizations are less relevant in the era of globalization. Do you agree? Build your arguments by choosing any one regional organization.
20. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Concert of Europe in the 19th century
 - (b) International Criminal Court
 - (c) Non-permanent Members of the UN Security Council
 - (d) Decision-making in the Bretton Woods organizations in theory and practice

SECTION—D

(Diplomacy and Disarmament)

21. What do you understand by coercive diplomacy? Examine its usefulness and limitations by providing appropriate illustrations.
22. Analyze the desirability and feasibility of nuclear disarmament in contemporary global order.
23. Critically examine the 'war on terror'. Would you consider it as a 'just war'? Discuss.

24. How would you conceptualise peace? Why is it difficult to achieve peace in international relations?
25. What are the factors that have contributed to the emergence of India as a significant player in the international system? Explain.
26. What is human security? In what way is it different from traditional understanding of security?

SECTION—E
(Political Geography)

27. What is Critical Geopolitics? How does it explain phenomena and events in international relations?
28. Friedrich Ratzel is the founding father of Political Geography. Comment.
29. What is Sea Power? Explain the general conditions that have an effect on Sea Power.
30. What is meant by the Geopolitics of Energy? Explain with special reference to India.
31. Importance of boundaries in the world has declined due to globalization. Comment.
32. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Malacca Straits
 - (b) Falkland/Malvinas
 - (c) South China Sea
 - (d) Gateway States
 - (e) Eyjafjallajökull

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SECTION—A

1. What is the Gandhian conception of politics? Is it relevant to addressing contemporary global questions such as Climate Change and Terrorism? Substantiate.
2. Which factors in your assessment best explain the rise and fall of great powers in human history?
3. Critically examine the development of river systems and associated landscapes. Give appropriate illustrations.
4. Examine the inadequacy of the region concept. Give examples.

5. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :

- (a) Faults
- (b) Caverns
- (c) Geysers
- (d) Braided rivers
- (e) Moraines

6. What are international regimes? Define and discuss the concept using at least one well-established regime as an example.

7. How did the structure of the world change after the Cold War?

8. What role does geoeconomics play in contemporary international relations?

SECTION—B

(International Politics)

9. What do you understand by the term 'theory'? How do theories of international relations help us understand the world we live in?

10. What are the key tenets of Neo-realism? How is it different from Classical Realism?

11. What is Critical Theory? How does it differ from mainstream theories of International Relations?

12. What issues do Feminist scholars studying international relations address?

13. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :

- (a) Constructivism
- (b) Non-traditional security
- (c) National interest
- (d) Multilateralism
- (e) Hegemony

14. What do you understand by the term 'democracy promotion'? Is there an Indian stance on global democracy promotion? Explain.

SECTION—C

(International Organization)

15. Discuss the salient provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.
16. How successful has the United Nations been in discharging its function of maintaining international peace and security? Critically discuss with the help of specific examples.
17. "Conceivably, the world might be organized exclusively in regional compartments, or along strictly global lines; practically the two organizational concepts may and do receive simultaneous application, and the real questions relate to the balance between them ..." (*Inis Claude*). Examine the tensions between regionalism and universalism based on the above statement, using suitable examples of regional and universal organizations.
18. Critically discuss the dispute settlement system of the World Trade Organization.
19. Discuss the expanding role of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in the international arena, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.
20. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) The Treaty of Lisbon, 2007
 - (b) UN Millennium Development Goals
 - (c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 - (d) Weighted Voting in the Bretton Woods Institutions
 - (e) Structural Adjustment Programmes of the Bretton Woods Institutions

SECTION—D

(Diplomacy and Disarmament)

21. Do you think that outstanding disputes can be resolved by bilateral talks between India and Pakistan or is the involvement of a third party imperative to break the deadlock?
22. Review briefly with critical analysis of suitable illustrations the state of Sino-Indian diplomatic interactions in the past decade.
23. Can the six parties talks provide a lasting solution to the North Korean problem pertaining to nuclear proliferation?

24. Evaluate the international diplomatic intervention in Afghanistan.
25. Write a brief essay on negotiations focussing on anti-personnel mines.
26. Why has engaging the military rulers in Myanmar brought no tangible results towards the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and restoration of democracy?

SECTION—E

(Political Geography)

27. What is Political Geography? How has it evolved to be relevant for the better understanding of international relations dynamics?
28. What is Geostrategy? Critically examine the inadequacies of the ideas of its main contenders.
29. What is meant by the Geographical Pivot of History? Critically examine the main features or components of this thesis.
30. What is Archipelagic concept and its importance, and impact on maritime boundary matters?
31. What is meant by the 'geopolitics of the world's natural resources'? Discuss it with appropriate examples.
32. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Rimland
 - (b) Exclaves
 - (c) Escarpment
 - (d) Petsamo Treaty
 - (e) Ouagadougou