

# WORKBOOK

PEARSON EDEXCEL A-LEVEL

# Politics 4

GLOBAL POLITICS

- ✓ Build confidence with practice questions structured by Assessment Objectives
- ✓ Prepare for assessment with exam-style questions



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 **HODDER**  
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**24** Why do liberals and realists differ in their attitude towards the desirability of world government?

**4 marks**

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## Main ideas of the anarchical society and society of states theory

Anarchical society (society of states) theory was developed by the political theorist Hedley Bull. It is based on the principle that, since global politics is anarchic, there is no supranational authority which can compel the obedience of nation states. It also acknowledges the realist principle that nation states act out of self-interest. However, it recognises that nation states can make the rational decision to work with other nation states in order to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Therefore, it is possible to construct a relatively stable society of states based upon realist self-interest rather than liberal idealism.

### Practice questions



#### AO1 Knowledge and understanding

**25** In what ways is anarchical society/society of states theory different from a liberal interpretation of global politics?

**2 marks**

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**26** In what ways is anarchical society/society of states theory different from a realist interpretation of global politics?

**2 marks**

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#### AO2 Analysis



**27** In what circumstances can it be said that global politics conforms to anarchical society/society of states theory?

**4 marks**

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**28** Why could it be argued that contemporary global politics does not conform to anarchical society/society of states theory?

**4 marks**

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# An evaluation of the extent to which realism and liberalism explain recent developments in global politics

In order to assess the extent to which liberalism or realism has guided global politics since 2000, you should investigate the relationship between the state and globalisation. In this context, you should address the extent to which global governance (political, economic, human rights and environmental) has developed according to liberal or realist principles. The way in which nation states, the European Union (EU) and other regional bodies approach current developments in global relations should also be contextualised within a realist/liberal framework.

## Practice questions



### AO1 Knowledge and understanding

**29** In what ways was the establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002 an example of liberalism?

**2 marks**

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**30** Why is UN Responsibility to Protect (2005) an example of liberalism?

**2 marks**

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**31** How have Russia and China followed a realist foreign policy in recent years?

**2 marks**

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**32** What is the connection between liberalism and the expansion of the EU in 2004, 2007 and 2013?

**2 marks**

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### AO2 Analysis

**33** Why has the Syrian conflict (2011–) so bitterly divided realists and liberals?

**4 marks**

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**34** Why are liberals often so concerned about the rise of China?

**4 marks**

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**35** Has the way in which nation states have responded to climate change since 2015 conformed more to a realist or a liberal interpretation of global politics?

**4 marks**

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**36** To what extent are liberals more likely to favour the policies of the Biden administration (2021–) over the Trump administration (2017–21)?

**4 marks**

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**Exam-style questions**



**Paper 3 Section B**

- 1** Analyse the reasons why realists and liberals view alliance building and increased military spending by nation states so differently. In your answer you must discuss any relevant core political ideas.

**12 marks**

*Write a bullet point plan here, then use a separate sheet of paper to answer the question in full.*



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- 2** Analyse the differences which exist between realists and liberals over the role of the nation state in global politics.

**12 marks**

*Write a bullet point plan here, then use a separate sheet of paper to answer the question in full.*



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# Topic 2 The state and globalisation

## The nation state and national sovereignty

The nation state is a political community constructed on shared citizenship and nationality. According to realists the nation state is sovereign and so should possess absolute authority over everything that occurs within its borders. These principles derive from the Peace of Westphalia (1648), which emphasised the inviolability of national sovereignty. According to realists there is no authority greater than that of the nation state.

### Practice questions



#### AO1 Knowledge and understanding

1 What are Westphalian principles of state sovereignty?

2 marks

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2 What do you understand by the concept of the nation state?

2 marks

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3 How are realists sceptical of regional governance?

2 marks

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4 What is the meaning and significance of the billiard ball model of global relations?

2 marks

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#### AO2 and AO3 Analysis and evaluation

5 In what ways can a Westphalian approach to international relations be criticised?

4 marks

#### Worked example

Liberals reject a Westphalian approach to international relations because they argue that its commitment to national sovereignty does not provide an effective way of resolving global collective dilemmas such as climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. The success, for example, of climate change agreements such as Paris (2015) has been undermined by nation states not accepting externally imposed mandatory cuts in their carbon emissions. Additionally, if nation states prioritise their national security and fail to cooperate with other nation states, then global relations will always be defined by fear, suspicion and resentment. This is likely to provoke a 'security dilemma' as the build-up of arms by nation states to protect themselves leads to others doing the same, so increasing tension. A commitment

AO1 The response is firmly based in well-understood evidence. The early reference to liberalism provides appropriate context.