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# Global politics

## Higher level and standard level

### Paper 1

19 May 2025

Zone A afternoon | Zone B afternoon | Zone C afternoon

1 hour 15 minutes

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#### Instructions to candidates

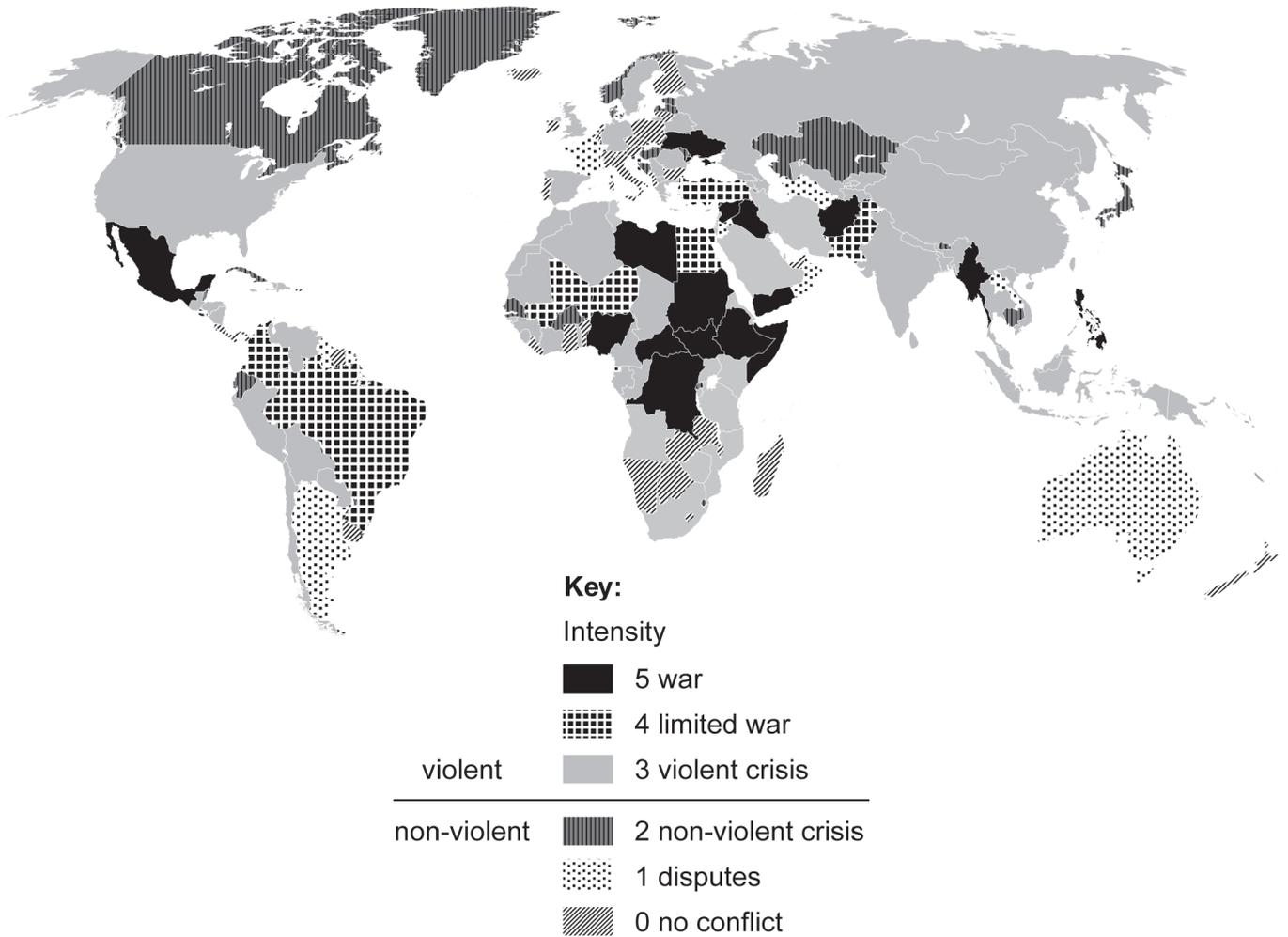
- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[25 marks]**.

### Unit 1: Power, sovereignty and international relations

Read all the sources carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

#### Source A

Adapted from a diagram showing the scale of national and international conflicts in 2017. The Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research.



**Source B**                    Adapted from “The UN Security Council was designed for deadlock—can it change?”, an online article published on the *United States Institute for Peace* (2023).

The world is very slow in reacting to the main challenges of our time. Climate change, global conflict, and other defining issues are not being addressed. The United Nations Security Council<sup>1</sup> (UNSC) has the power to make decisions all other states have to accept. Despite this, the five permanent member states<sup>2</sup> of the UNSC are focused on their national interests. To that end, they are prepared to use their veto<sup>3</sup> to prevent decisions that are in conflict with their own interests, even if all other 192 UN member states have gathered to support it.

By design, the UNSC cannot address some of the biggest issues of war and peace in the world. It was designed to be unfair, giving the five permanent member states the strongest role in international peace and security, marginalizing whole regions and continents. Small island states such as the Maldives, which stand to lose the most because of climate change, cannot hope to have their voices heard in such a forum. As long as so much power is centered with only a few UN member states, many global challenges will not be addressed.

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<sup>1</sup> the United Nations Security Council: a body of the UN whose primary responsibility is maintaining international peace and security

<sup>2</sup> permanent member states: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and Russia

<sup>3</sup> veto: the right of the five permanent member states to vote against a decision by the United Nations Security Council and for such a decision to automatically fail regardless of how other members vote

**Source C**                    Adapted from “Why international cooperation is failing—and why it can still work”, a blog post on the *Research Institute for Sustainability* (2022).

Everyone agrees that overcoming the climate crisis depends on countries working together. Yet international cooperation repeatedly fails [...] the Conference of the Parties<sup>4</sup> (COP) negotiations in Egypt are just one example. Following on from 26 earlier rounds of negotiations focused on targets, ideas, and tools, this summit is described by the Egyptian presidency as the “implementation COP”. The COP promised to tackle the biggest climate issues we are facing with specific actions.

Despite these expectations, the COP has failed to deliver on its main promises due to power struggles between member states. There have also been accusations that the strong influence of the fossil fuel industry has held back progress. Many of our climate issues could be solved with simple solutions. The problem is not that we do not have the technology and resources, but that access to these resources and power are unequally distributed. A relatively small number of global actors, including multinational corporations, control a significant amount of the global resources needed to tackle climate change. If resources were more fairly distributed, many of the world’s problems could be resolved.

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<sup>4</sup> the Conference of the Parties: a global forum to discuss climate change

**Source D**

Adapted from “The use of military diplomacy in great power competition”, an online post written by Dr Thomas Kalinowski for *The Brookings Institution* (2022).

Military cooperation is essential to the global order and has been a vital tool of US foreign policy. This form of cooperation has been central to strengthening the strategic alliances between Europe and the US. This strategy of cooperation has launched the US into the role of a single superpower.

Moreover, in states with whom the US has strong military cooperation (for example Japan, South Korea, Germany), stronger economic connections have been formed. Sales of goods such as military gear and equipment significantly has increased. Military cooperation has made the world a more secure place. In addition, it has helped with specific issues. For instance, development aid and military cooperation in developing areas have helped reduce migration.

The only problem is that a lot of US military and economic cooperation is taking place carelessly and without strategic planning. To maintain its position and achieve its national interest, the US needs to continue committing to the growth of security and stability abroad.

1. Identify what Source A says about conflict. [3]
  2. With explicit reference to Source B **and one** example you have studied, explain the impact of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). [4]
  3. Compare and contrast how Source C **and** Source D view cooperation in global politics. [8]
  4. Using all the sources **and** your own knowledge, evaluate the view that global governance is the most effective method of preventing conflict. [10]
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**References:**

- Source A** Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC), 2017. All Conflicts (Global / National Level), [image online] Available at: <https://hiik.de/data-and-maps/static-maps/?lang=en>. [Accessed 2 April 2024]. Source adapted.
- Source B** Dayal, A. & Dunton, C., 2023. The UN Security Council was designed for deadlock—can it change? *United States Institute of Peace*, [online] 1 March. Available at: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/03/un-security-council-was-designed-deadlock-can-it-change> [Accessed 2 April 2024]. Source adapted.
- Source C** Kalinowski, T., 2022. Why international cooperation is failing—and why it can still work. *RIFS Potsdam*, [online] 20 October. Available at: <https://www.rifs-potsdam.de/en/blog/2022/10/why-international-cooperation-failing-and-why-it-can-still-work> [Accessed 2 April 2024]. Source adapted.
- Source D** Ebitz, A., 2019. The use of military diplomacy in great power competition. *The Brookings Institution*, [online] 12 February. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-use-of-military-diplomacy-in-great-power-competition/> [Accessed 2 April 2024]. Source adapted.