

Markscheme

May 2025

Global Politics

Higher level and standard level

Paper 1

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Unit 1: Power, sovereignty and international relations

Bulleted lists in this markscheme indicate likely points that candidates may include in their answer: they are not exhaustive, and examiners should credit other valid points not listed.

1. Identify what Source A says about conflict. [3]

Possible answers include:

- Conflicts are primarily taking place in developing countries. For example, Source A shows that a large part of Africa has numerous conflicts.
- Source A illustrates that, when considering the very nature of conflict, it can be violent and non-violent.
- Source A shows that violent conflict is a global issue as it is taking place in almost all of the continents.
- Source A shows that Europe and Australia seem to have less violent conflict compared to the other continents.
- Source A shows that there can be a different range and gradation of conflicts ranging from entirely non-conflict disputes to very violent conflicts such as wars.

Award [1 mark] for each relevant point up to a maximum of [3 marks].

Other relevant points not listed can also be rewarded.

2. With explicit reference to Source B **and one** example you have studied, explain the impact of intergovernmental organizations. [4]

Answers from Source B can include:

- Source B believes that intergovernmental organizations such as the UNSC have contributed to international gridlock as countries there prioritize their national interests instead of resolving international challenges.
- Source B claims that intergovernmental organizations create a climate where the voice of small states, such as the Maldives, are not recognized and that there is a strong power imbalance.
- Source B stresses that intergovernmental organizations are another forum that enables powerful states to maintain their power. The use of veto power enables the permanent member-states of the UNSC to maintain their power.

Answers from own knowledge can include:

- Intergovernmental organizations have led to an increase in trade and cooperation between states. There is an increasing number of examples of cooperation between states in regional blocs, such as the EU.
- The world today is becoming increasingly interconnected, and states are delegating parts of their authority to intergovernmental organizations, such as ASEAN.
- International legislation and responses to global crises are more unified as a result of the actions of organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).
- As a result of the work of intergovernmental organizations, information is more widespread as topics discussed in international forums such as the UN then reach a much wider audience.
- Intergovernmental organizations have largely failed to prevent wars through sanctions.

Other relevant points not listed can also be rewarded. Candidates are not expected to make four separate points in order to achieve full marks. For each valid point a maximum of [2 marks]

may be awarded, up to a total of [4 marks]. If there is no reference to another example studied award a maximum of [3].

3. Compare and contrast how Source C and Source D view cooperation in global politics [8]

Potential points of comparisons include:

- Both sources place emphasis on cooperation as a vital tool of international relations, with Source C discussing climate negotiation and Source D discussing the importance of military cooperation.
- While both sources generally stress the need for cooperation, both offer some criticism of it. Source C states that international cooperation is repeatedly failing, while Source D states that overseas engagements are taking place without strategic planning.

Potential points of contrast include:

- Source C believes that international cooperation is not effective and that COP is an example of how international cooperation is failing, while Source D believes that military cooperation is central to the global order.
- The sources disagree about how equitable cooperation should be. Source C focuses on finding more equitable distribution of resources to mitigate the impact of climate change, while Source D focuses on how the use of cooperation has strengthened the US.
- The levels of analysis from which cooperation is considered differ in the sources. Source C has a very international perspective and makes reference to the inequality between different powerful actors, while Source C focuses on a national perspective and primarily considers the viewpoint of the US.
- The aims and consequences of cooperation differ between the sources. Source C requires global cooperation to solve major challenges such as climate change, while Source D focuses on how development aid and cooperation have helped reduce migration.

Award [2 marks] per effective point of comparison and contrast up to a maximum of [8 marks]. For an [8 mark] response expect detailed contrast and comparisons but do not expect all of the points above, and allow other valid points. Points of comparison and contrast do not need to be balanced, as long as each command term is addressed at least once in the answer.

4. Using all the sources **and** your own knowledge, evaluate the view that global governance is the most effective method of preventing conflict.

[10]

Question 4 is assessed according to the markbands that follow, in conjunction with these marking notes.

Source material may include, but is not limited to:

Source A

- Most of the world is experiencing violence of different intensity, indicating that global governance is not effective in preventing conflict.
- While many areas around the globe do face intense conflict, Source A also does show many areas such as Australia that do not face any conflict at all. This shows that global governance is partially effective in preventing conflict.
- Source A states that conflicts could happen at national and international level – global governance may be more suited to dealing with conflicts at the international level.

Source B

- Source B shows that the UN Security Council is the main body expected to ensure peace and security, highlighting the importance of global governance.
- Source B shows that gridlock has prevented the UN Security Council from making decisions and cooperating, thus illustrating that global governance is not effective in conflict prevention.
- Source B highlights the complexity of global governance, as state actors still prioritize their interests even when making decisions that have global consequences.

Source C

- Source C shows how COP has not been a good framework to resolve climate change. Given the role all major stakeholders have had in COP negotiations, it indicates the failure of global governance in resolving conflict related to climate change.
- Source C shows the conflict between numerous stakeholders in resolving climate change, such as the influence of the fossil fuel companies, indicating the presence of non-violent conflict between different actors.
- Source C makes the point that if global governance is to be effective, it must be based on a more equitable distribution of power and resources.

Source D

- Source D doesn't really place emphasis on global governance, but on what role the US should have in ensuring cooperation. As a result, it expects a nation state, rather than global governance to have a larger role in preventing conflict.
- The source specifically makes reference to the US as a "superpower", undermining the cooperative nature of global governance in resolving conflicts.
- Source D advocates more for the positive impact of military cooperation, rather than advancing the concept of global governance in resolving conflicts.
- Source D claims that military cooperation between some of the states involved in global governance helps in other areas such as achieving economic development. As a result of such actions, conflict could be minimized.

Own knowledge could include, but is not limited to:

- While there still are some conflicts, global governance has generally been successful in preventing global conflicts. Most conflict today are between states, such as the war between Russia and Ukraine, rather than global conflicts.
- There are many other aspects preventing conflicts aside from global governance. The proliferation of nuclear weaponry has made wide-scale conflicts almost impossible as there is awareness about the danger of a larger conflict.
- Positive peace is the most effective way of ensuring that there is no long-term conflict. By resolving all of the underlying causes of conflict, conflict could be more effectively prevented.
- The success of international institutions has encouraged regional cooperation as well. For example, the European Union has succeeded in expanding the interest of states to cooperate with the hopes of achieving stronger economic development. In achieving stronger integration, global governance has helped to minimize conflict.
- The tools global governance relies on are more important than the concept of global governance. Sanctions, interventions and other practical tools are essential in preventing conflict.

If only source material or only own knowledge is used, the response can only be awarded a maximum of [6]. To achieve the maximum [10], responses must refer to all four sources.

Do not expect all of the above, and reward other relevant points not listed.

Markbands for question 4

Marks	Level descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little relevant knowledge and a very limited awareness of the demands of the question. • There is little or no attempt to synthesise own knowledge and source material. • Responses at this level are often largely descriptive and contain unsupported generalizations.
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited awareness of the demands of the question or the question is only partially addressed. • There is some knowledge demonstrated, but this is not always relevant or accurate, and may not be used appropriately or effectively. • Responses at this level are often more descriptive than evaluative.
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers show some awareness of the demands of the question. • Knowledge is mostly accurate and relevant, and there is some limited synthesis of own knowledge and source material. • Counterclaims are implicitly identified but are not explored.
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers are focused and show good awareness of the demands of the question. • Relevant and accurate knowledge is demonstrated, there is some synthesis of own knowledge and source material, and appropriate examples are used. • The response contains claims and counter claims.
9–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers are clearly focused and show a high degree of awareness of the demands of the question. • Relevant and accurate knowledge is demonstrated, there is effective synthesis of own knowledge and source material, and appropriate examples are used. • The response contains clear evaluation, with well-balanced claims and counter claims.
