

The 7 areas of IB Global Politics

Similar examples

- Look for an interesting case that is similar somehow to the main case that you're using.
- Compare your cases. Explain the similarities.
- Contrast your cases. Explain some of the differences.
- Draw on your insights from comparing and contrasting to make sense of what is going on in the main case and perhaps note why one situation was more successful than another.
- To do you this, draw on the contemporary cases you have analyzed in class and others you're aware of.

Perspectives

- There are two sides to every story, at least. Share these perspectives, to help us understand the case (or to answer the question). Share how various groups and individuals are seeing things differently.
- Try to pull in insights from powerful and less powerful groups and individuals.
- Be careful to not simply guess at how people feel or how they see things. Often how people see things is not what you would expect –which is really the point.
- Quotes are very powerful here.
- In your case study research, look for the perspectives of groups which often might be overlooked. For example, **poorer individuals, historically-disadvantaged groups, or representatives from gender, ethnic, or religious groups.**)

Foundational theories

- Our major foundation theories are: **Realism, Liberalism, Relativism, Universalism, and Capitalism.**
- (Note: We're framing this slightly differently than the course guide, for clarity. The course guide puts the Critical Theories and Theoretical Foundations together in one group even though the critical theories are there to critique the theoretical foundations. Our way, here, is easier to follow.)

Levels of analysis

- You already know that the levels of analysis in Global Politics are: **Global, International, Regional, National, Community, Local.**
- Choose one or two of these levels, and explore your question or case on those levels.
- How you will do this really depends on the question you are answering. However, often it is useful to explain how the effects (or possibilities) on one level are quite different from the effects (or possibilities) on another level.

Course concepts

- This one is about using course vocabulary
- You can directly link to any of the 16 concepts in the course (**Power, Sovereignty, Legitimacy, Interdependence, Justice, Human Rights, Liberty, Equality,**

Development, Globalisation, Inequality, Sustainability, Peace, Conflict, Violence, and Non-violence). For example, “This case is an example of conflict...”

- Or you can link to any of the keywords or theories contained in the concept chapters. For example, “Galtung’s conflict triangle can be used to understand the explains the three elements of violence which can be seen in this case...)

Critical theories

- Our major foundation theories are: **Communitarianism, Constructivism, Feminism, Marxism, Post-Colonialism, Environmentalism**
- The point of these is to criticize the insights from the Foundation Theories (like realism and liberalism).
- Critical Theories can take a bit more time to come to understand fully. It’s easy to make mistakes when trying to explain them, so do take some time to read up on them and have some good conversations about them before you try to use them in a test.

Global Political Challenges

- Our GPCs are: **Environment, Poverty, Health, Identity, Borders, and Security**.
- HL students will be more familiar with these because they are the focus of the Higher Level Extension presentations in HL. SL students don’t (technically) need to learn them or use them. But HL students can often make an insightful link to a GPC to help them answer a question or better understand a case.
- For example, you might point out that a specific conflict, such as the “Yemeni Civil War (2015–present)” has had significant effects not only on security, but also on the health of children.

Some People Feel Like Cuddling Cute Cats

Some	S	<u>S</u> imilar Examples
People	P	<u>P</u> erspectives
Feel	F	<u>F</u> oundation Theories
Like	L	<u>L</u> evels of analysis
Cuddling	C	<u>C</u> oncepts
Cute	C	<u>C</u> ritical Theories
Cats	C	Global Political <u>C</u> hallenges

