
DP GLOBAL
POLITICS

port folio

WWW.GLOPOIB.WORDPRESS.COM

CASE STUDY

"To become an academic expert takes years of studying. Academic experts are experts in how and what others have done. They use case studies and observation to understand a subject."

Simon Sinek

Acknowledgement: Much of the content in this booklet Individual Case Study Portfolio is based on the content developed by Eric Mitchler at <https://glopocish.wordpress.com/case-study-portfolios>



Contents

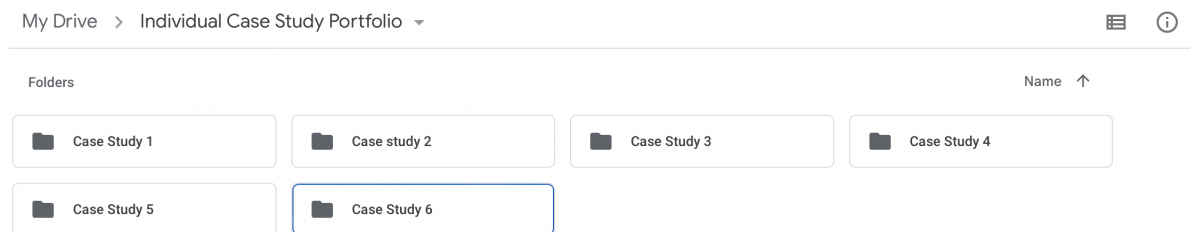
Individual case study portfolio	4
Political Issue	5
Sources	6
Analytical report	9
Assessment rubric	10
Useful resources	11

Individual Case Study Portfolio

One of the unique features of the DP Global Politics course is its open-ended nature. While the syllabus content is prescribed - for example, you are expected to learn about the development of human rights across time and space - the examples and case studies that you study are not prescribed. This means you have a great deal of freedom in choosing how you make links between the prescribed content and the world around you.

Throughout the course, we will explore several case studies collaboratively to put the course content into context but it is vitally important that you actively follow international events and political issues as part of your independent study. In order to help you do this, you are required to develop an individual case study portfolio (ICSP) over the next two years that will consist of **five** different case studies.

Your ICSP should be set up as a google drive folder that will be shared with me and each individual case study should be in a sub-folder within the ICSP folder (as shown on the image below).



At the end of the trimester (except T3 G12) you will submit your case study for assessment and this will contribute to your summative grade for the trimester. The assessment rubric is given on page 10.

Each case study must include:

- a clearly stated political issue
- a variety of relevant sources
- information recorded from each source
- a written analysis of the political issue
- works cited list in MLA format.

Your case study must be submitted to Managebac by the deadline each trimester.

It is important to note that for HL students, you may **not** use a a case study from your ICSP as one of your two HLX case studies as this would constitutes 'double-dipping' with regard to your trimester grade

The expectation is that you will add a **minimum** of one source per week over the course of the trimester - rather than attempting to complete the task the day before the due deadline. Case study development should be thought of as an ongoing process rather than a one-off event.

Political Issue

The aim of each case study is to identify a specific political issue that can be explored through a variety of sources collected as part of your portfolio. Remember, the IB subject guide for global politics defines a political issue as:

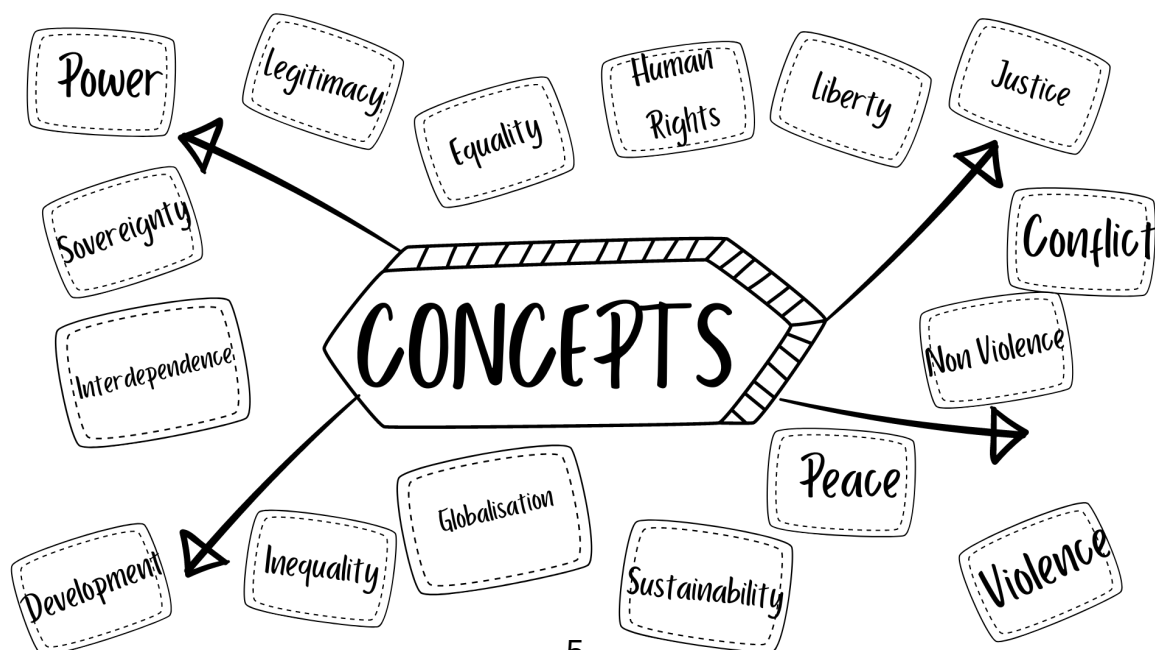
“any question that deals with how power is distributed and how it operates within social organization, and how people think about, and engage in, their communities and the wider world on matters that affect their lives. Political issues are researched in social science departments and think tanks; they populate the agendas of politicians and policymakers; they occupy the minds of executives of global corporations and local social entrepreneurs; they affect how people participate in and resist change; they are discussed in media and over coffee; they inspire oratory and art; they are deeply rooted in history and culture. Political issues are part of our daily lives.”

Your political issue must be clear, focused and capable of being explored through your chosen case study. It should be expressed in the form of a question and your analytical report should offer a balanced response to the question.

Some examples of political issues formulated as questions are:

- To what extent - and which ways - does membership of the European Union impact on **sovereignty**?
- What are the sources of state **legitimacy** in an authoritarian state such as North Korea?
- To what extent can the Black Lives Matter movement in the USA be seen as a response to structural **violence**?
- What are the challenges to **peace** building and the achievement of positive **peace** in post-conflict societies such as Northern Ireland?

It is helpful to make reference to at least one of the sixteen global politics key concepts when articulating your political issue.



Sources

Each case study in your ICSP should include a variety of different sources of information. These may include - but are not limited to - news media, academic analysis, data/statistics, official government sources, interviews, lectures etc.

All sources should be included in the google drive folder for the case study.

You are already well aware - or, you certainly should be - of the importance of staying abreast of contemporary global affairs by regularly reading a reliable news source. The assumption throughout this course is that you are doing so - and there is a clear correlation between regular reading and the higher grades achieved over the eight years I have taught this course. So, you're regularly reading the news. That's good and it's certainly a start but, in and of itself, it is not enough just to do this and assume you will pick up enough information about the prescribed case studies.

Why not? Well, to answer that question we need to consider the nature of the news media. We don't need to go Super Trump here and start shouting about fake news but, the bottom line is, most news organisations are selling news as a product. This doesn't mean they are lying but it does mean that almost all - if not all news - has an inherent bias.

The Guardian, for example, is a left of centre newspaper which is a clear political bias. The Daily Telegraph, on the other hand, has a clear right wing bias. This is not a problem provided you take this into account when reading what they say. Equally, newspaper columnists and opinion columns are often written by those with a particular agenda. Check out the author of the article. Who do they work for? What biases or prejudices might they have.

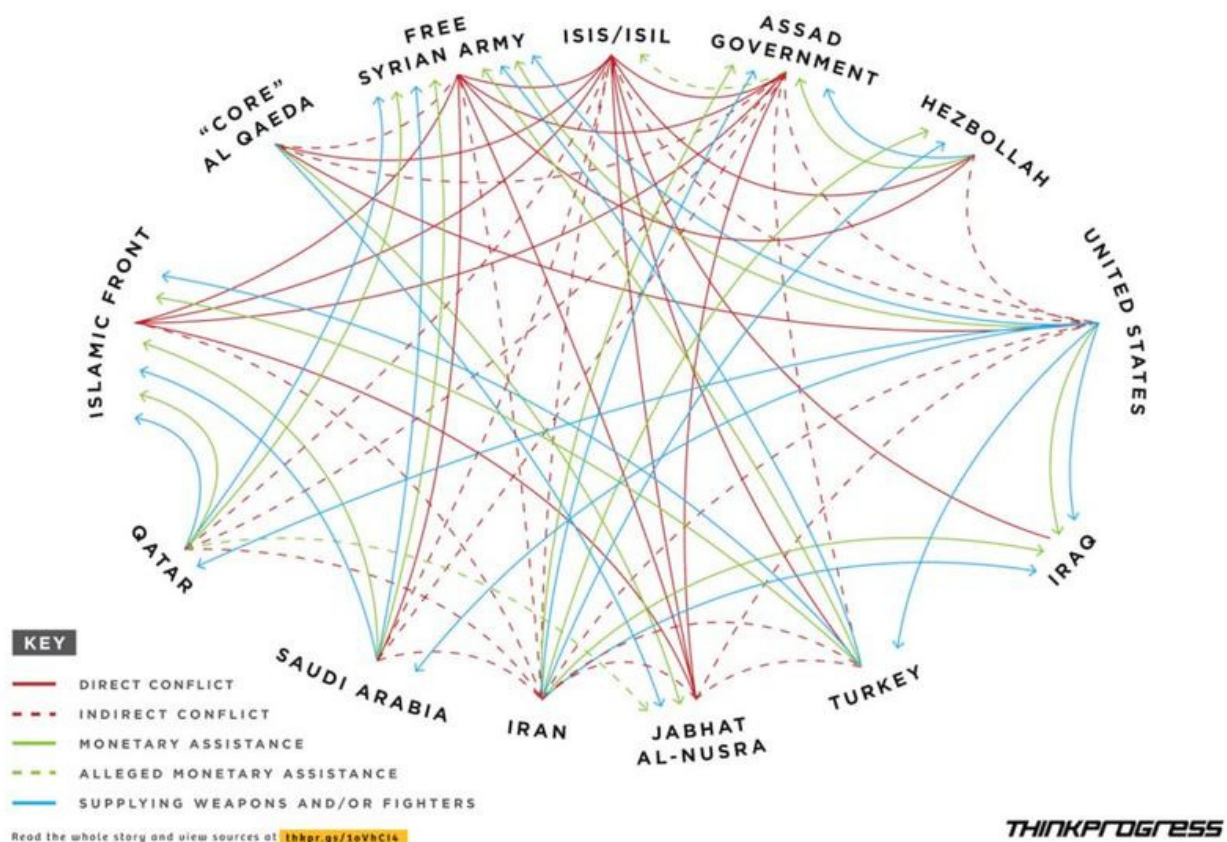
The next thing you need to bear in mind is that, as well as looking at news sources from across the political spectrum, you should also remember that there are masses of more specialist sources out there that provide a more in depth look at some of these case studies and the issues associated with them - the Council for Foreign Relations at www.cfr.org is a great example - and you can find a more comprehensive list of sources at the end of this booklet.

Your case study folder should also include evidence of information recorded from each of your sources. This is important because it is not enough simply to read about the different case studies and leave it there. Hopefully this does not surprise you but reading, in and of itself, is not learning. That said, reading is an essential part of the process of turning knowledge into true understanding. However, in order for this to happen you must take the information you have read and do something with it. You must make the process active.

So, what to do with your new found knowledge? Well, it doesn't actually matter provided that you do something. This is where your personal learning preferences come in to play but here's a few ideas:

- Create bullet pointed lists of the key points you have encountered in your research
- Create a timeline of significant events that occur over the relevant time period of your case study
- Show the relationships and interactions of the relevant political actors in a 'tangled web' diagram such as the one shown below
- Venn diagrams can be useful for showing how different ideas and political concepts fit into different case studies simultaneously
- Develop questions based on what you know and what more you need to find out
- Record your own podcasts - you might hate the sound of your own voice but who cares? Nobody has to listen to it apart from you unless you decide otherwise.
- Spider diagrams and mindmaps can be really useful tools for visualising large amounts of information and seeing the links between them
- Use graphic organiser templates such as the one on the following page to help you summarise key information. Blank copies of graphic organiser templates can be downloaded from GloPoIB.

THE TANGLED WEB IN THE FIGHT FOR SYRIA'S FUTURE



Example of a tangled web diagram showing relationships between political actors

Generic Case Study Graphic Organiser

Timeline

Summary

Levels of analysis

perspectives

Actors

Relevant concepts

Links to similar case studies

Analytical Report

Each trimester you will need to upload an analytical report of 500-800 words that answers the question you developed around the political issue and uses knowledge and perspectives from your selected sources.

Your analysis should show clearly how your chosen political issue is manifested in real world events and situations. You should make reference to relevant key concepts as well as referring to prescribed subject content and it is expected that global politics terminology will be used accurately throughout.

MLA style in-text citations should be used to reference your sources appropriately.

Your analytical report should be uploaded as a pdf to managebac by stated deadline and must include a hyperlink to your google drive case study folder. The completed report should include an MLA list of sources cited.

If you need help with MLA formatting and referencing, check out the MLA style guide [here](#). You may also find it useful to use a website such as www.citethisforme.com

Assessment Rubric

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is very limited knowledge of global politics demonstrated • Examples are minimal or not relevant to the analysis of the political issue • Key concepts are not used in the analysis of the political issue • The response is mainly descriptive
6-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some relevant knowledge of global politics is demonstrated • Examples are included but their relevance to the final analysis is unclear • The portfolio demonstrates limited understanding of the key concepts of the course • Different perspectives on the political issue are not considered
11-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The portfolio is mostly based on relevant and accurate knowledge of global politics and relevant examples are given which support the final analysis • The portfolio demonstrates some understanding of the key concepts of the course • Different perspective on the political issue are considered
16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The portfolio demonstrates relevant and accurate knowledge and understanding of global politics and relevant examples are used in a way that strengthens the analysis of the political issue • The portfolio demonstrates a good grasp of the key concepts of the course • Different views on the political issue are explored
21-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive knowledge and in-depth understanding of global politics is applied in the portfolio consistently and effectively, with examples integrated in the final analysis • The portfolio demonstrates an excellent grasp of the key concepts of the course • Different views on the political issue are explored and evaluated

Useful Resources



Gapminder is an incredibly useful resource that aims to provide a statistics based view of the world. You can download a copy of the gapminder software for your own offline use.



Reliefweb is a leading source of information on humanitarian issues provided by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)



Uncompromising analysis of critical global trends with some excellent free resources and articles



A wide range of news and opinion across the foreign policy spectrum. See your teacher for our subscription details

COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Council on Foreign Relations should be one of the first places you head to when looking for background context along with more detailed analysis of global events.



A non-profit, non-partisan forum for the public and foreign policy and international relations experts to discuss and debate global issues

The Economist

Some excellent analysis of a wide range of issues. See your teacher for our subscription details



A really useful sight that offers right wing, left wing and centre ground analysis of different political stories and issues of the day

This list of sources is only a starting point and you will naturally find additional sources of your own...

