

POLI 150 Short Response Prompts

Prompt 1: What do you think are the most important and challenging problems we face in the world today, and what is stopping countries from working together to solve them?

Prompt 2: What does it mean for anarchy to be what states make of it? Are states doomed to always live with a security dilemma?

Prompt 3: What does it mean for an actor in world politics to have preferences for outcomes? Provide an example. How is this oversimplifying reality, and at what cost? Given this critique, why might this abstraction still be useful?

Prompt 4: Information problems are an explanation for why states fight wars. Take this concept and apply it to a conflict that is recent or ongoing in the world today. Feel free to use examples that are not in the book, or to focus on a particular part of the world that interests you. Note: you do not have to agree with these mechanisms. Feel free to critique, just show that you understand what you are critiquing.

Prompt 5: Commitment problems are an explanation for why states fight wars. Take this concept and apply it to a conflict that is recent or ongoing in the world today. Feel free to use examples that are not in the book, or to focus on a particular part of the world that interests you. Note: you do not have to agree with these mechanisms. Feel free to critique, just show that you understand what you are critiquing.

Prompt 6: Should the United States invest more heavily in its NATO alliance, or decrease its involvement? Discuss the costs, risks, and the benefits of the whichever course of action you choose.

Prompt 7: Imagine you lead a foreign policy team trying to reduce the chance of civil war breaking out in a neighboring country, which has asked your team for advice. What advice should you give to this neighboring country? What would make you worried that the civil war (if it broke out) would spread to your country?

Prompt 8: Can states effectively prevent or deter terrorism? Why or why not?

Prompt 9: Why do governments and their leaders impose tariffs on foreign goods when they know that doing so will hurt their citizens, who are consumers? Provide an example.

Prompt 10: Which approach makes more sense to you: the factor approach (Heckscher-Ohlin) or sectoral focus (Ricardo-Viner)? Give an example of each.

Prompt 11: How does Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) influence the recipient states that accept it?

Prompt 12: Although states are thought to have a “responsibility to protect” civilians experiencing genocide, what might prevent states from engaging in such humanitarian intervention?

Prompt 13: Look at your original answer to Prompt 1. What would you change now that you have taken POLI 150? How (if at all) do you think differently about the problems you raised, and how has the material you encountered changed the way you see and evaluate potential solutions to these problems?