**International Relations**

**Sample Introductions**

**1.**

Global trade has been witnessing a long and winding road for centuries. From the early days of barter and exchange of goods to the complex systems of current times, the world has come a long way. The year 1947 was a monumental one owing to the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for exchange of goods in order to promote free trade among countries.

The year 1947 marked the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for exchange of goods in order to promote free trade among countries.

**2.**

International trade has had a long and winding process since the seventeenth century. From mercantilism in the seventeenth and eighteenth century to classical liberalism in the nineteenth century, to protectionism during the interwar years and to the postwar establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the system of global trade has come a long way. The shift towards classical liberalism engendered the so-called “invisible hand” of the market, which aimed at allowing market to determine prices and allocate resources without interference from state. This led to the dismantling of trade barriers and an unprecedented growth of international trade.

This opening up of market led to a boom in international trade.

**Readings**

1. **Definition and Scope of International Relations:**

The interaction of states with each other, with non-state actors, international organizations and certain subnational entities such as bureaucracies, political parties and interest groups.

**Scope of International Relations**

1. International Security: The study of war, conflict, and peace between and within states. This includes issues such as arms control, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and humanitarian intervention.
2. International Political Economy: The study of the intersection of politics and economics in the international system. This includes issues such as trade, finance, globalization, and development.
3. International Law: The study of the legal frameworks that govern relations between states and other actors in the international system. This includes issues such as international human rights law, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law.
4. International Organizations: The study of the role of international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund, in shaping global politics and governance.
5. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: The study of the processes and strategies used by states to pursue their interests in the international system, including issues such as negotiation, alliance formation, and crisis management.
6. Globalization and Regionalization: The study of the economic, political, and cultural processes that are transforming the world into an increasingly interconnected and interdependent system.

**Reasons of Historical Development of International Relations**

1. Emerged Post World War-2 largely in the West and in the United States.
2. In the West, owing to growing demand to find less-dangerous and more-effective means of conducting relations between peoples, societies, governments, and economies, the field largely emerged.
3. Further, a surge of writing and research inspired by the belief that systematic observation and inquiry could dispel ignorance and better serve human interests.
4. **The Concept of Nation-State: Origin, Scope, and Features**

Nation-state is a compound noun made from two separate political entities. A ‘nation’ is a group of people **sharing common values** such as language, religion, territory, ethnicity and culture. Further, a state is a community formed by people **exercising permanent power** within specific territory. Hence, a nation-state is a territorially bounded sovereign identity that is ruled in the name of a community of citizens who identify themselves as a nation.

**Origin of Nation-state:**

1. **Peace of Westphalia (1648)** which recognizes two principles for a nation to be called as a nation-state: the principle of state sovereignty recognizing states to govern their respective territories without external interference; and, the principle of national sovereignty, which is often regarded as popular sovereignty chiefly in democratic countries.
2. **French Revolution** in the late eighteenth century also propagated the very concept of nation-state system across colonial territories it controlled since it emphasized the importance of popular sovereignty and democracy as key elements of its governance model.

**Features of Nation-state System:**

1. Sovereignty in both internal and external matters.
2. Nationalism
3. Territorial integrity
4. Sovereign equality of all nation states

**Challenges to Nation-state System:**

1. Globalization
2. Rise of fundamentalism challenged the very concept of diversity and choice of states.
3. Rise of ethnocentrism, which means evaluation of other cultures based on preconceptions originating in the standards and customs of one’s own culture.
4. Emergence of Irredentism and Balkanization challenge the territorial integrity of a nation-state, e.g. Balkanization of Ottoman Empire after WWI.
5. Decentralization or Devolution
6. Sub-nationalism or Transnational actors
7. Regional Groupings
8. Terrorism
9. Immigration
10. **The Concept of International Civil Society**

The concept of International Civil Society refers to the idea that there is a system of states sharing common values and norms, and are bound together by a set of rules and institutions.

Historical evolution of the concept can be traced back to ancient times and the seventeenth century. Examples are written below:

1. Ancient Times: The civilizations such as Greece and Rome together form a civil society where city-states formed alliances and conducted diplomacy together.
2. Middle Ages: International civil society was largely dominated by the Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire. The Church played a key role in determining diplomatic relations with other states.
3. Westphalian System: The modern system of international civil society emerged in the seventeenth century.
4. Industrial Revolution: The Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries led to the growth of powerful nation-states in Europe, which began to compete with each other for resources and influence.
5. World Wars: The two World Wars of the 20th century had a profound impact on the international system. They led to the collapse of colonial empires and the emergence of new states, and established the United States as a global superpower.
6. Cold War: The post-World War II period was dominated by the Cold War, which divided the world into two opposing blocs led by the United States and the Soviet Union. The Cold War ended in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union.
7. Globalization: The process of globalization, which began in the late 20th century, has led to the growth of global institutions such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, and has created new challenges for the international system such as climate change and terrorism.
8. **Nationalism and Internationalism**

The concepts of nationalism and internationalism deal with relationship between the nation and the world.

**Nationalism** is a belief that states that the nation-state is the most important political unit and its interest should be prioritized over any other state in the international community. The concept emphasizes the importance of shared culture, common values and a national identity. It promotes a sense of national pride and responsibility, and can sometimes be associated with a desire for self-determination or independence. Nationalism can be both when it encourages cultural or political expressions, and negative when it leads to the exclusionary and aggressive behaviors towards other people or nations.

On the other hand, **internationalism** refers to the idea that the nation-states should work together towards common goals that global problems require collective action. The concept emphasizes the importance of cooperation, trade, diplomacy and peaceful resolution of disputes. It promotes a sense of collective responsibility and a shared humanity, and can be associated with a desire for global justice and equality. Internationalism can be positive when it encourages cooperation and promotes human rights, and negative when it leads to the imposition of foreign values and norms over other nations.

1. **Globalization**

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of people, economies, cultures and countries across the globe. It is characterized by the growing flow of goods and services, capital and technology and people across the national borders, facilitated by advances in communication, transportation and information technology. Globalization has had created far-reaching impacts on human life ranging from creating new opportunities of growth and development to enhancing cultural exchanges across the globe. However, it also has engendered new challenges such as economic inequality, cultural homogeneity and widespread environmental degradation.

1. **International Political Economy**

The study of interaction between politics and economies on the international level is called international political economy. It explores the complex relationships between states, markets and societies in shaping the global economy.

**Elaborated concept of IPE:**

1. **International trade** (relating to the exchange of goods and services between nations which includes tariffs, quotas, subsidies as well as the impact of trade on economic growth, inequality and development.)
2. **International finance** (Examines the flow of capital between countries including foreign investment, currency exchange rates and global financial institutions such as IMF and World Bank.)
3. **Globalization** (IPE seeks to the political, economic and social impacts of globalization including their impact on national sovereignty, labor markets and cultural identity.)
4. **International development** (Focuses on the economic and social progress of developing countries.)
5. **International institutions** (Role of WTO, UNO, International Criminal Court play a significant role in shaping the global economy.)

**Theories of IPE**

1. Mercantilism and neo-mercantilism
2. Economic liberalism, neo-economic liberalism and current state of global trade and trade policies of states and the WTO:

Neo-economic liberalism is an economic ideology that advocates for free trade and minimal government intervention in the market. It emphasizes the importance of private enterprise, free markets, and the rule of law as the pillars of economic growth and development.

Proponents of neo-economic liberalism argue that free trade promotes competition, leading to greater efficiency and innovation, and that it enables countries to specialize in the production of goods and services that they are most efficient at producing, leading to a more efficient global allocation of resources.

However, critics argue that neo-economic liberalism can lead to unequal distribution of benefits, particularly for developing countries that may lack the resources to compete on a level playing field with developed countries. They also argue that free trade can lead to job losses in certain industries, particularly those that are less competitive.

As per the book “The World Trade Organization: A Short Introduction” written by Amrita Narlikar:

1. The WTO was established to facilitate and regulate international trade through a rule-based trading system.
2. It is also responsible for negotiating and enforcing trade agreements between member countries. These agreements encompass a wide variety of trade issues, including tariffs, subsidies and intellectual property rights.
3. It provides a forum for member countries to resolve their trade related issues.
4. Narlikar deems WTO as a step towards promoting sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty across the globe.
5. By facilitating trade, the WTO helps create and sustain employment opportunities and businesses.

Proposed reforms for the World Trade Organization:

1. Addressing Trade Inequality - analyzing power imbalance between developed and developing countries.
2. Addressing the concerns of developing countries by taking into account their interest while negotiating trade agreements.
3. Trade policies ought to be designed with poverty reduction in mind, which means considering the impacts of policies on small farmers, women and informal sector works.
4. Addressing the issues related to non-tariff barriers such as technical regulations, sanitary measures, intellectual property rights can create innumerable trade barriers for developing countries.
5. Dependence, world system, interdependence theory and the concept of globalization of markets:

Following the transformation of the world into a fully globalized society, the concept of interdependence of economies has become prevalent. Countries are becoming mutually dependent on each other for their economic and political well-being. They do global trade, share resources and invest in each other to create a network to bind themselves together. The theory of interdependence suggests that countries are more likely to maintain peaceful relationships when they are interdependent.

With the increased interconnected of economies and societies, countries across the globe have created a web of interconnectedness that makes difficult for them to pursue policies that are harmful for others.

Globalization has also provided a framework for promoting global peace and ensuring security through the process of dialogue. The establishment of global institutions such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, International Court of Justice have been playing a pivotal role by enabling countries to work together for shared goals.

1. Marxism and neo-Marxism
2. Imperialism, neo-imperialism and role of financial institutions w.r.t the recent debate of debt restructuring (Imp)
3. Colonialism, neo-colonialism and role of the UN (Imp)
4. **Global Economic Slowdown and Campaign for De-dollarization**

**Factors behind Current Economic Turmoil:**

* 1. Disruptions in global supply chain systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  2. The war in Ukraine has caused energy prices to rise, leading to a skyrocketing inflation and an economic slowdown.
  3. Rising interest rates have led to higher borrowing costs, ultimately slowing down the global economy.
  4. Geopolitical tensions such as the rising tensions between the U.S. and China over Taiwan Strait and the increasing hostility between Russia and NATO could further lead to the disruption of trade and investments.

**Campaign for De-dollarization**

1. **IPS (**Types of war, generations of warfare, peaceful resolution of disputes, role of peacekeeping institutions and their reforms, Balance of power, Elements of power of a nation**) - Also refer to “National Security & Sovereignty.docx” for further study.**

**Global Peace**

1. Democratic peace theory: This theory posits that democracies are less likely to go to war with one another, as they share similar values and are more likely to resolve their differences through peaceful means.
2. Liberal peace theory: This theory emphasizes the importance of institutions, international law, and economic interdependence in promoting peace among nations.
3. Constructivist peace theory: This theory focuses on the role of ideas and norms in shaping international relations, and argues that peaceful relations between states can be achieved through the spread of certain ideas and values.
4. Realist peace theory: This theory emphasizes the importance of balance of power and deterrence in maintaining peace among nations, and argues that states are primarily motivated by self-interest and the pursuit of power.

**Balance of Power**

The balance of power is a theory of international relations that states that peace is best maintained when no one state is too powerful. It can be maintained through:

* Alliances
* Diplomacy
* Arm races

**Elements of National Power**

These are the resources and capabilities that a nation-state possesses to achieve its various goals. They are bifurcated into hard and soft power elements.

1. **Hard Power:**
   * Military Strength
   * Economic Power
   * Political Influence
2. **Soft Power:**

* Cultural power which refers to a country’s cultural exports, language and global image.
* Human Capital
* Geostrategic location

1. Marxist peace theory: This theory posits that capitalist competition and imperialism are the main causes of war and conflict, and argues that peace can only be achieved through the overthrow of capitalist systems and the establishment of socialist states.
2. Climate diplomacy
3. **De-globalization or Regionalization**
4. Regionalization

De-globalization

Bloc Politics

BRICS

Ukraine War and Russian Resurgence on international stage

Changing Middle East

Oil Diplomacy

Declining US’ influence

1. Impacts of global politics and international relations on third world countries

Determinants of Pakistan’s foreign policy

National Interest

**Essay Topics**

1. Intercultural communication is panacea to avoid Third World War.
2. Global trade and trade policies of China.
3. Global politics and international relations.
4. Are modern wars not holy wars?
5. The introduction of new digital technologies has radically altered identities.
6. Education and Internationalism.
7. The U.N.O has failed to measure up to the demands of its charter.