



*Leaders in social, political,
civics and citizenship education.*

GLOBAL POLITICS

VCE trial exam 2022

Marking guide

This teachers' guide includes questions, marking advice and high-scoring sample responses.

Marking advice for Section B incorporates a rubric, essay plan scaffolds and sample prompts.

This trial exam is intended for practice purposes only. It is not to be delivered as an assessment. It does not reflect the opinions of Social Education Victoria but is developed by experienced teachers of the study and incorporates their viewpoints, experiences and insight.

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Total for Part A 60 marks

Question 1	20
Question 2	20
Question 3	20
Question 4	20

Total for exam 80 marks

SECTION A

Question 1 (3 marks)

Explain how a non-state actor can challenge the sovereignty of **one** state.

Marking advice

Correctly identifies a non-state actor	1 mark
Provides a relevant example with specific evidence of an action undertaken by a non-state actor	1 mark
Provides a clear explanation of how the action has challenged a specific element of sovereignty within <i>one</i> state	1 mark

Sample response

The non-state actor Islamic State (IS) can challenge state sovereignty by taking control of territory within defined state borders. This has recently been demonstrated by IS's expansion in North Africa. For example, in August 2020, IS insurgents captured Mocimboa da Praia in Mozambique. This action challenged the sovereignty of Mozambique as it prevented them from exercising effective control over territory within its defined borders.

Question 2 (7 marks)

Assess how effectively the United Nations has used multilateralism in pursuit of its aims.

Marking advice

Demonstrates an understanding of multilateralism	1 mark
Correctly identifies at least two aims of the UN	2 marks
Provides specific evidence to show how the UN has successfully used multilateralism	2 marks
Provides specific evidence to show limitations of the UN's use of multilateralism	2 marks

Sample response

In relation to the conflict in Syria, the UN's use of multilateralism in pursuit of its aims have been consistently undermined by the use of veto power.

In the context of global politics, multilateralism involves a system of coordinating relations between three or more global actors in pursuit of specific objectives. In relation to the UN's first aim of promoting international cooperation to solve international problems, multilateralism did facilitate the temporary provision of humanitarian aid in Syria. For example, the UN Security Council worked collaboratively to pass Security Council Resolution 2585. This cooperation between Security Council members enabled cross border aid trucks to enter from the Turkish border crossing Bab al-Hawar in order to provide support to people living in North West Syria.

However, it is worth noting that Security Council Resolution 2585 is due to expire in July 2022, and no recent multilateral agreements have been reached by the UN to promote long term peace and stability in Syria. Broader efforts by the UN to use multilateralism to achieve its second aim of promoting peace and security, have been repeatedly met with resistance. More specifically, the use of veto power has undermined multilateral efforts to resolve the conflict and promote peace and security in the region. As of June 2022, Russia had exercised its veto power 16 times to block resolutions that were aimed at bringing an end to the conflict.

The UN's ultimate failure to resolve the conflict in Syria demonstrates how multilateralism has been largely ineffective in helping the UN to achieve its aims.

Question 3 (5 marks)

Outline how TNCs could be considered by some people to be predators, exploitative of host states, and by others as drivers of progress, skills and innovation.

Marking advice

Correct identification of one TNC	1 mark
Uses specific evidence to explain how TNCs could be considered to be 'predators, exploitative of host states.'	2 marks
Uses specific evidence to explain how TNCs could be considered to be 'drivers of progress, skills and innovation.'	2 marks

Sample response

The contrasting views on the contributions TNCs make to society are reflected in the commentary that has surrounded Apple. On one hand it is arguable that Apple is a TNC whose job creation and investment is a major driver of progress, skills and innovation. This was seen in 2018, when Apple announced that it would be investing more than \$300 million into 5G research, thereby promoting technological progress, while also investing \$350 billion over five years and creating an additional 20,000 jobs in the USA. Conversely, criticism directed towards Apple aligns with the view that some TNC's merely exploit weak labour laws in host states in order to take advantage of workers to maximise profits. For example, in 2019 China Labor Watch published a report alleging that Apple and its manufacturing partner FoxConn were profiting from worker exploitation at FoxConn's factory in Zhengzhou in order to build a new iPhone.

Question 4 (15 marks)

One of the following Asia-Pacific states must be used as the focus of all responses to Question 4: Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan or the United States of America.

a. Using a specific example, explain how idealism has influenced **one** foreign policy action of your selected Asia-Pacific state. (3 marks)

Marking advice

Demonstrated understanding of idealism	1 mark
Use of specific evidence to show specific foreign policy action	1 mark
Clear explanation of the connection between idealism and the action that was undertaken	1 mark

Suggested examples

- China – The influence of ‘the Chinese Dream’ on China’s use of trade (see below)
- Australia – Commitment to the liberal international order that led to the imposition of sanctions on Russia
- USA – Influence of ‘American exceptionalism’ and the role they have played in international peacekeeping.

Sample response

Idealism is a school of thought where policy is influenced primarily by an ideological principle. Such influence can be seen through the impact that Xi Jinping’s signature ideology ‘the Chinese Dream’ has had on China’s use of trade. The Chinese Dream involves the attainment of the ‘Twin Centenary Goals’ which involved becoming a ‘moderately prosperous society’ by 2021 and achieving ‘modernisation’ by 2049. The desire to achieve the Chinese Dream has in turn motivated China to pursue trade deals with other states in order to achieve continued economic growth. For example, China signed a Free Trade Agreement with Cambodia in October 2020 that is expected to boost bilateral trade to \$10 billion by 2023 and also assist with the attainment of modernisation by 2049.

Question 4 (continued)

b. Explain the impact your selected Asia-Pacific state's use of aid has had on a regional relationship.
(3 marks)

Marking advice

Reference to specific evidence to show use of aid	1 mark
Explanation of impact on regional relationship and use of evidence to show impact	2 marks

Note – the regional relationships must be drawn from one of the states classified by the study design as being within the Asia Pacific region.

Suggested examples

- China – China provided Fiji with \$USD 1.9 million worth of medical aid in 2020 (see below)
- Australia – Australia's \$AUD 304.7 million COVID-19 response package with Timor-Leste
- USA – In 2021 USAID allocated \$USD 19 million in humanitarian aid to the Philippines in response to Typhoon Rai

Sample response

China has used aid within the South Pacific to strengthen its relationship with Fiji. For example, in March 2020, in response to the Covid pandemic, China provided Fiji with medical supplies and the equivalent of \$USD 1.9 million US dollars in aid. As a reflection of the positive impact this use of aid had on China's regional relationship with Fiji, the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently stated in May 2022 that China was Fiji's 'reliable friend and partner.'

Question 4 (continued)

c. Outline **two** interpretations of your selected Asia-Pacific state's national interest of economic prosperity. (4 marks)

Marking advice

Uses evidence to outline one interpretation	1 mark
Attributes that interpretation to a specific actor	1 mark
Uses evidence to outline a second interpretation	1 mark
Attributes that interpretation to a second actor	1 mark

Suggested examples

- China – Princelings versus Populists (see below)
- Australia – Contrasting approaches between Labor Party and the Coalition in relation to economic engagement with Southeast Asia
- USA – Different interpretations of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) – Bernie Sanders strongly opposed this trade agreement, whereas President Trump was a supporter of the deal.

Sample response

Two separate factions within the CCP, the 'Princelings' and the 'Populists' have different interpretations on how China's national interest of economic prosperity should be pursued. The Princelings have the interpretation that economic prosperity is best promoted by deepening China's links with the world economy. An example of a princeling is Xi Jinping, who since 2013 has advocated strongly for the expansion of the Belt and Road Initiative, which involves the development of trade infrastructure that will connect China more deeply with the world economy. Conversely, Populists place more attention on supporting vulnerable social groups in order to promote economic prosperity. Li Keqiang is the best example of a Populist, whose policies have included making affordable housing more widely available, and also trying to rejuvenate the economy in the old industrial base in the Northeast. For Li, reducing economic disparities within China is more urgent than deepening China's links with the world economy.

Question 4 (continued)

d. Evaluate the success of your selected Asia-Pacific state in achieving its national interest of international standing. (5 marks)

Marking advice

Description of specific action that selected state has undertaken to improve its international standing	1 mark
Use of specific evidence to demonstrate positive impact on international standing	2 marks
Use of specific evidence to demonstrate negative impact on international standing	2 marks

Suggested examples

- China – Commitment to peacekeeping has had a positive impact on international standing; however, militarisation in the Indian Ocean has been viewed with more suspicion (see below)
- Australia – Australia's AUKUS deal has been criticised by various states, such as China, France and New Zealand, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has also said there is a lot of work that needs to be done before it can be approved
- USA – Biden's decision to refer to Russia's actions in Ukraine as 'genocide' and the subsequent praise this received from the international community.

Sample response

China's use of diplomacy has enhanced its international standing; however, scepticism still exists within the international community in relation to China's use of its military. In an effort to improve how China is viewed by the international community, in 2015 Xi Jinping addressed the UN General Assembly and committed US\$ 1 billion in funding to support UN peacekeeping. In 2017 China opened a military logistics base in Djibouti which enabled them to provide support to peacekeepers in the Indian Ocean. These actions have arguably improved China's international standing, as signified by comments from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in 2018 when he commended China for its commitment to multilateralism and peacekeeping. However, not all view China's actions in the Indian Ocean with such benevolence. For example, according to a report released by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in 2018, 'The Chinese military base in Djibouti has become the epitomizing symbol of China's aggression along the Belt and Road.' While the earlier evidence demonstrates that China has been quite effective at improving its international standing, scepticism does still exist around China's intentions.

Question 5 (3 marks)

From the list below, select **one** ethical issue that you have studied this year.

- human rights
- people movement
- development
- arms control

In relation to this ethical issue, use **one** example to explain how justice can be achieved.

Marking advice

Demonstrated understanding of justice	1 mark
Use of specific evidence to demonstrate how one actor has attempted to achieve justice	2 marks

Suggested examples

- Human rights – ICC chief prosecutor’s attempts in 2017 to open a formal investigation into allegations of torture and abuses of human rights in Afghanistan
- People movement – Andrew Wilkie’s attempts since 2014 to file a claim with the ICC in relation in Australia’s use of Operation Sovereign Borders
- Development – Article 8(2) of the Rome Statute classifies destruction of cultural heritage as a war crime. If one part of sustainable development is respect for cultural heritage, then arguably any efforts to punish actors for destroying cultural heritage would be relevant (e.g., ICC’s war crimes trial of Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi)
- Arms control – Security Council Resolution 2356 condemning North Korea’s nuclear weapons and ballistic missile development activities in 2017.

Sample response

Justice is the concept of moral rightness based on ethics, law, fairness, and equity, that importantly seeks punishment or compensation when ethics are breached. In relation to human rights, justice can be achieved by punishing those who violate international human rights law. For example, in 2017 the chief prosecutor of the ICC asked judges to open a formal investigation into alleged war crimes and human rights violations committed in Afghanistan, and in March 2020, the appeals chamber of the ICC made a finding that allowed this investigation to go ahead. These actions by the ICC chief prosecutor demonstrate a desire to punish those for allegedly violating obligations within the Rome Statute and show how justice can be achieved.

Question 6 (6 marks)

From the list below, select another ethical issue that you have studied this year. The ethical issue selected must be different from the one selected in Question 5.

- human rights
- people movement
- development
- arms control

Evaluate the effectiveness of **one** actor's response to this ethical issue.

Marking advice

Description of response from one actor (along with use of specific evidence to demonstrate response)	2 mark
Explanation of successes of response	2 marks
Explanation of limitations of response	2 marks

Note – high-scoring responses may refer to the relevant international law, and/or also connect with the concepts of realism and/or cosmopolitanism.

Suggested examples

- Human rights – Bangladesh's efforts to introduce greater protections to reduce rates of child labour
- People movement – Poland's response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis in 2022.
- Development – UN World Food Program's response to the crisis in Yemen
- Arms control – China's decision to sign and ratify the World Arms Trade Treaty in June 2020.

Sample response

Poland's response to the ethical issue of people movement initially prioritised border security; however, they have now adopted an open-door policy in response to the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. In 2015, Poland refused to comply with a directive from the EU to give refuge to asylum seekers arriving in Southern Europe, having fled war in Syria and Iraq. In 2020 the European Court of Justice held that this refusal violated Poland's responsibility to fulfil mandatory refugee quotas. These initial actions demonstrated a realist prioritisation of border security above a commitment to supporting displaced people who were fleeing conflict. More recently, however, Poland has shown a cosmopolitan commitment to supporting refugees who have been fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. According to UNHCR, Poland has accepted approximately 3.5 million Ukrainian refugees and afforded them with protections in accordance with the Refugee Convention. For example, by May 2022, Poland had already registered more than 1.1 million Ukrainian refugees and provided them with access to social security in accordance with Article 24 of the Refugee Convention. Poland's willingness to take on such large numbers of refugees demonstrates the effectiveness of their current response to people movement; however, projections from UNHCR that 4.5 million refugees will have entered Poland by December 2022 demonstrates that more will need to be done to support these refugees.

Question 7 (4 marks)

Explain the competing sides of **one** of the following ethical debates:

Human rights	Economic challenges to the universality of human rights
People movement	The rights of refugees versus economic migrants
Development	Overseas development assistance versus self-interest of states
Arms control	International security versus state security

Marking advice

Clear explanation of one side of the debate and use of specific evidence	2 marks
Clear explanation of second side of the debate and use of specific evidence	2 marks

Note – the views within each side of the debate should be attributed to a particular actor (such as a state, individual, NGO or IGO).

Suggested examples

- Economic challenges to the universality of human rights – Contrast the approaches taken by South Sudan and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see below)
- Rights of refugees versus economic migrants – Contrast Australia’s prioritisation of economic migrants over refugees with Colombia’s cosmopolitan response to Venezuelan refugees
- Overseas development assistance versus self-interest of states – Contrast the development aid contributions made by Norway and the Czech Republic, using percentage of gross national income (GNI) as the measure,
- International security versus state security – Contrast the approaches taken by the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran.

Sample response

In relation to the ethical debate surrounding economic challenges to the universality of human rights, the cosmopolitan viewpoint is that human rights are universal, even in circumstances when economic restraints may exist. This viewpoint is reflected by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, who in 2015 released its Concluding Observations in relation to South Sudan and acknowledged that even though resource constraints existed, more needed to be done to protect the rights of children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Conversely, South Sudan’s recent actions reflect the realist view that human rights are not universal in circumstances where economic challenges exist. This viewpoint is seen in practice when in its 2019/2020 budget, as a result of resource constraints, only \$163,000 in funding was allocated by the South Sudanese government to the Ministry of Labour who is responsible for the enforcement of child labour laws.

Question 8 (2 marks)

Describe **one** challenge to the effectiveness of **one** international law.

Marking advice

Correct identification of one international law	1 mark
Use of specific evidence to demonstrate clear understanding of one challenge	1 mark

Sample response

One challenge to the effectiveness of the Refugee Convention is that there is no formal enforcement mechanism. While UNHCR seeks to promote and monitor compliance with the Refugee Convention, it does not have the power to force states to meet their obligations. For example, while UNHCR raised concerns in 2016 about how Australia's use of Operation Sovereign Borders violated Article 33 of the Refugee Convention, the government continued to use that policy.

Question 9 (7 marks)

One of the following global crises must be used as the focus of all responses to Question 9:

- climate change
- armed conflict
- terrorism
- economic instability.

a. Describe **one** cause of this crisis. (2 marks)

Marking advice

Correct identification of one cause	1 mark
Use of specific evidence	1 mark

Suggested examples

- Climate change – burning of fossil fuels
- Armed conflict – in relation to the conflict in Syria, Assad’s use of the Fourth Division in response to popular protests
- Terrorism – de-Baathification following the US led invasion of Iraq (see below)
Economic instability – unsustainable fiscal policies.

Sample response

One cause of the crisis of terrorism, and more specifically the rise of Islamic State in the Middle East, is the policy of ‘de-Baathification’ following the US led invasion of Iraq in 2003. According to an article written by Hassan Hassan in 2018 for The Atlantic, Islamic State emerged out of al-Qaeda in Iraq in response to the attempts by the Coalition Provisional Authority to remove the Baath Party influence in Iraq. This policy led to a feeling of persecution and exclusion and pushed some towards joining terrorist groups like Islamic State.

Question 9 (continued)

b. Contrast the responses of **two** actors to this crisis. (5 marks)

Marking advice

Description of one response and use of specific evidence to demonstrate understanding of response	2 marks
Description of second response and use of specific evidence to demonstrate understanding of response	2 marks
Description of main difference between the two responses	1 mark

Suggested examples

- Climate change – contrast the responses taken by the UK and Iran in relation to the Paris Climate Agreement
- Armed conflict – the UN and Russia
- Terrorism – the UN and the USA (see below)
- Economic instability – China and the IMF in relation to economic instability in Sri Lanka.

Sample response

The UN and the USA have had some differences in their responses to the threat of Islamic State. In 2014, the UN passed Security Council Resolution 2170, which condemned the acts of extremist groups in Iraq and Syria. More specifically, this action also called on member states of the UN to take measures to stop the flow of foreign fighters in order to prevent recruits from joining Islamic State. Conversely, the USA took a more assertive approach to combatting the threat of Islamic State, by launching Operation Inherent Resolve in June 2014, which was a military operation involving 82 international partners. This operation focused on the destruction of Islamic State in both Iraq and Syria and according to the Pentagon, by March 2019 more than 90,000 Islamic State militants had been killed as a result of this military action. The central difference between these two approaches is while the UN's approach focused on preventing foreign recruits from joining Islamic State, the US's approach was more assertive and centred around using force to destroy the caliphate that Islamic State had established in Iraq and Syria.

Question 10 (8 marks)

From the list below, select another global crisis that you have studied this year. The global crisis selected must be different from the one selected in Question 9.

- climate change
- armed conflict
- terrorism
- economic instability.

a. Explain **one** challenge to achieving an effective resolution of this crisis. (3 marks)

Marking advice

Correct identification of one challenge	1 mark
Explanation of impact this challenge had on the resolution of the crisis	1 mark
Use of specific evidence to show the challenge	1 mark

Suggested examples

- Climate change – state's prioritising economic growth above protection of the environment
- Armed conflict – veto power undermines multilateral efforts to resolve the conflict
- Terrorism – asymmetric strategies used by terrorist groups are very difficult to combat
- Economic instability – some solutions to economic instability can be domestically unpopular and difficult to implement because they may require additional cuts in expenditure.

Sample response

One challenge to the effective resolution of the armed conflict in Syria was the USA's unilateral decision to withdraw from this conflict. In December 2018, President Trump announced the decision to withdraw and in October 2019 the majority of US troops were evacuated from North-East Syria. This decision was a challenge to the effective resolution of the crisis because it created a power vacuum that emboldened other actors to intensify their own military efforts. For example, when the US eventually withdrew from Syria in 2019, this was swiftly followed by the Turkish invasion in the northeast, and the Syrian army's relaunching of its northwestern offensive in Idlib.

Question 10 (continued)

b. Analyse **one** key aspect of this crisis. (5 marks)

Marking advice

Clear identification of one key aspect	1 mark
Use of specific evidence to show understanding of key aspect	2 marks
Analysis of impact of key aspect on the crisis (for example, consideration of how the relevant aspect has caused or exacerbated the crisis, or made it more difficult to resolve)	2 marks

Suggested examples

- Climate change – national interests
- Armed conflict – intervention (see below)
- Terrorism – the role of asymmetric warfare
- Economic instability – capitalism's boom-bust cycle.

Sample response

One key aspect of the armed conflict in Syria is intervention. Russian intervention in the Syrian armed conflict has exacerbated the crisis by undermining political resolutions and enabling more fighting. By 2015 Russian military intervention in Syria had increased to the point that they had over 47,000 troops engaged in combat in Syria. According to Professor Fawaz Gerges from LSE, 'Mr Putin's decision to intervene in Syria...stopped the bleeding of the Syrian army and allowed it to shift from defence to offence.' This Russian support gave Assad more confidence and removed his incentive to participate in peace talks, as demonstrated by the eventual collapse of the Geneva Peace Talks in 2017. A minor positive of Russian intervention is the role they played at the Astana Peace Talks. In September 2017, following discussions at Astana, a demilitarized zone was briefly declared around Idlib. However, this ceasefire was short lived, and with further military support from Russia, the Syrian government relaunched it's northwest offensive against the rebels in Idlib providence in 2019. The negative consequences of Russian intervention in Syria shows how this key aspect has hampered a peaceful political resolution and exacerbated the crisis.

SECTION B

Question 1 (20 marks)

‘Globalisation has enabled other actors to challenge states as the central actors in global politics.’ Discuss.

Marking advice

Students should:

- demonstrate an understanding of how globalisation has enabled other actors to challenge states
- include reference to at least two actors that have challenged states as the central actors in global politics
- use specific evidence to demonstrate how those actors have challenged states
- connect with the relevant key terms from the study design such as ‘sovereignty’, ‘power’, and ‘globalisation’.

More sophisticated responses may make a relative judgment about which other actors have posed the biggest challenge to states. They may also explain how in the face of such challenges states have reasserted their own power.

Suggested contention

Globalisation has significantly expanded the power of TNC’s like Apple and non-state actors like Islamic State; however, states are still the central actors in global politics.

Essay plan scaffold

Paragraph 1: Globalisation has allowed Apple to expand its economic power and political influence, which has in turn enabled it to challenge the sovereignty of states.

- *In 2018 Apple announced the intention to invest \$US350 billion in the USA over 5 years.*
- *This announcement came around the same time that the USA government agreed to half corporate tax rates to 15.5% to TNC’s who agreed to repatriate any offshore profits.*
- *The promise of investment induces governments to lower tax rates and demonstrates how TNCs can use aspects of globalisation to their advantage to challenge the power of states.*

Paragraph 2: Globalisation has also helped non-state actors like Islamic State to recruit foreign fighters and use them to capture territory from states.

- *Refer to Islamic State’s use of technology to spread propaganda to attract recruits*
- *Use specific evidence to demonstrate how these fighters were then used to capture major cities in Iraq and Syria, particularly around 2015.*

Paragraph 3: States are still the most powerful global actors, as demonstrated by their ability to curtail the influence of Apple and Islamic States.

- *Bipartisan antitrust legislation introduced in US Congress in 2021 to restrict the influence of Apple*
- *Multilateral cooperation between states during Operation Inherent resolve to destroy the IS caliphate in Iraq and Syria*
- *These examples highlight how military and legislative power underpins the power of states over other actors.*

Question 2 (20 marks)

'The military is the most important foreign policy instrument.' In relation to **one** Asia-Pacific state, discuss this statement with reference to at least **two** other foreign policy instruments.

Marking advice

Students should:

- demonstrate an understanding how one Asia Pacific state has used its military and at least two other foreign policy instruments (FPIs)
- consider how each FPI has impacted on the attainment of national interests
- use specific evidence to demonstrate how different FPIs have been used and what impact this has had on national interests
- make a clear overall judgment about whether the military is the most important FPI
- connect with relevant key terms such as 'sovereignty', 'national interests', 'idealism' and 'pragmatism'.

Suggested contention

The military is not China's most important foreign policy instrument because although it has assisted with the pursuit of enhanced national security and economic prosperity, it has also caused unintended damage to other national interests.

Essay plan scaffold

Paragraph 1: China's use of its military as a foreign policy instrument ('FPI') has strengthened its territorial claims and secured access to valuable resources, however this has come at the expense of some regional relationships and its international standing.

- *Militarisation of Fiery Cross Reef in 2018 has strengthened territorial claims within the SCS.*
- *Militarisation in the SCS is also securing access to approximately \$US2.5 trillion worth of unexplored oil and gas reserves.*
- *Criticism from states like the US and the Philippines shows damage to regional relationships.*
- *China's military base in Djibouti also viewed by some actors with increasing scepticism, suggesting military expansion in the Indian Ocean is damaging China's international standing.*

Paragraph 2: Diplomacy is also important and must be used in conjunction with China's use of its military because it not only helps to strengthen relationships, but can also repair damage that was caused by coercive action.

- *China's use of diplomacy with the Philippines helped to repair the relationship.*
- *China's use of diplomacy with the UN also helps to project a more positive international image.*
- *However, can't be said to be the most important, because if it was used in isolation, it would not be very effective.*

Paragraph 3: Ultimately, trade is China's most important FPI because it helps with the pursuit of all national interests, while causing less damage than China's use of its military.

- *Trade deals with Cambodia and the Philippines – improving regional relationships and eco prosperity.*
- *Strategic use of the BRI outside the Asia Pacific region to enhance its international standing*
- *While some scepticism has been expressed about China's use of the BRI, the commentary has not been as negative as the criticism relating to China's use of its military overseas.*

Question 3 (20 marks)

To what extent do international laws assist with the resolution of ethical issues?

Marking advice

Students should:

- refer to at least two international laws
- refer to at least two ethical issues
- assess the extent to which each law has helped actors to attempt to resolve ethical issues
 - use specific evidence to show how it has provided states with a framework to take specific actions to try to resolve the ethical issue
 - use specific evidence to show the limitations of international law
- make a clear overall judgment about the effectiveness of international laws
- connect with relevant key terms such as ‘ethics’, ‘justice’, ‘realism’ and ‘cosmopolitanism’.

Suggested contention

International laws assist states to resolve the ethical issues of people movement and human rights to a limited extent, as their overall effectiveness has been undermined by weak enforcement mechanisms and states’ realist prioritisation of national interests.

Essay plan scaffold

Paragraph 1: The Convention on the Rights of the Child has provided states with an important framework through which they can protect the human rights of children, however, in practice it’s application has been undermined by cultural and economic challenges.

- *Bangladesh’s response to obligations within the Convention on the Rights of the Child has led to a reduction in the rates of child labour.*
- *However, cultural and economic challenges relating to the universality of human rights continues to undermine its overall effectiveness.*

Paragraph 2: The Refugee Convention has also provided states with a framework through which they can support refugees; however, it’s overall effectiveness is frequently undermined by realist concerns relating to border security.

- *Cosmopolitan response from Poland to Ukrainian refugees, in accordance with their obligations under the Refugee Convention.*
- *Realist response from Iran in response to Afghani refugees.*

Paragraph 3: One of the main reasons that continues to undermine the effectiveness of international law is the weak enforcement mechanism.

- *The Committee on the Rights of the Child monitors compliance with CAT; however, it doesn’t have the power to force states to comply with their obligations.*
- *Similarly, UNHCR has no power to force states to comply with their obligations in accordance with the Refugee. For example, refer to criticism they directed towards Australia that did not lead to any meaningful reform.*
- *It is very difficult for victims to achieve justice (refer to example where justice has been pursued but not achieved).*

Question 4 (20 marks)

‘Unilateral responses restrict the resolution of global crises.’ Discuss with reference to **two** global crises.

Marking advice

Students should:

- refer to at least two global crises
- refer to at least two unilateral responses to global crises
- use specific evidence to show the varied consequences (positive and negative) that responses may have on global crises
- make a clear overall judgment the impact of unilateralism
- connect with relevant key terms such as unilateralism, international cooperation, globalisation, crisis diplomacy.

Suggested contention

In relation to the global crises of armed conflict and terrorism, unilateral actions do frequently restrict effective resolution.

Essay plan scaffold

Paragraph 1: The USA’s unilateral decision to withdraw troops from Syria had a negative impact on the armed conflict.

- *Refer to unilateral withdrawal of troops in 2019.*
- *This decision created a power vacuum that emboldened both Turkey and the Syrian government to accelerate their offensive.*

Paragraph 2: President Trump’s unilateral decision to place a travel ban on foreign nationals from entering the US also did little to resolve the global crisis of terrorism.

- *Refer to Executive Order 13780*
- *Criticism from Justice Sotomayor, who stated it was discriminatory and branded Muslims as potential terrorists*

Paragraph 3: The most effective responses to global crises require a commitment to addressing the causes of the crisis and international cooperation between actors.

- *Multilateral efforts by the UN to promote a peaceful resolution in Syria was the only response that attempted to address the causes of the conflict. The unilateral decision of the US also undermined the efforts of the UN to promote a peaceful resolution to the crisis.*
- *Operation Inherent Resolve involved international cooperation and had a far more significant impact on trying to address the threat posed by Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.*

Extended response marking advice

The essay in Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- development of a coherent and relevant argument that addresses the specific demands of the essay question
- demonstration of political knowledge that is accurate and appropriate for the essay question
- accurate use of key political terms and concepts
- use of contemporary examples and case studies to support explanations, points of view and arguments.

18-20	- Responds to the full complexity of the prompt - Utilises a range of specific evidence to support a clear, precise and challenging contention - Sustains a high level of argument throughout - Expertly engages with the language and concepts of the study design, and demonstrates an understanding of broader international relations theory
15-17	- Demonstrates a clear understanding of, and response to, the prompt - Argues a clear and consistent contention - Utilises a range of specific evidence to support relevant arguments - Engages with the key terms and concepts of the study design in some detail
11-14	- Some understanding of the requirements of the prompt demonstrated - A clear contention provided, but not fully supported - Uses broad evidence, or the evidence provided does not fully support the arguments presented - Satisfactory engagement with the terms and concepts within the Study Design
7-10	- Shows sporadic links to, or understanding of, the prompt - An imprecise contention and line of argument presented - Includes some supporting evidence - Displays some engagement with the material in the study design
4-6	- Some attempt made, may include vague links to prompt - May show some evidence of engagement with the study design
1-3	- Some attempt made, but essay unfinished or not relevant to prompt
0	- No valid attempt made.