

SEMESTER TWO 2021- 2022
ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

EXAMINATION PAPER
IP20120: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: PERSPECTIVES AND
DEBATES

Time allowed: **24 HOURS.**

You must submit your answer in a single document to the TurnItIn submission point before 12 P.M. (BST) the day after the examination paper is released. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please answer 2 questions, **ONE** from **EACH SECTION**

Each answer must comprise of 1,000 words (+/- 10%). Do not duplicate material you have submitted previously.

STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER
WELSH OR ENGLISH

SECTION A

1. What are the strengths of state-centric approaches to the study of international politics? What are their weaknesses? Answer with references to at least two theoretical approaches.
2. In your view, what benefits does the concept of anarchy offer to those who use it? Which approach makes the best use of anarchy? Answer with reference to at least two theoretical perspectives.
3. Choose an event (or an issue) in contemporary world politics and analyse it from the perspectives of at least two competing theoretical

approaches. Identify the points of convergence and divergence between these approaches when applied to this specific event.

4. What are the key dividing lines between theories we refer to as 'mainstream' and theories that are called 'critical'? Discuss with reference to at least two IR theories.
5. Which is the most appropriate basic concept for the study of international politics: system, society or empire? Discuss with reference to at least two theoretical approaches.

SECTION B

1. Several approaches to the study of international politics emphasise the role of history. In what way this strengthens them and what are the challenges they face when incorporating knowledge of history? Discuss with reference to at least two approaches.
2. 'International Relations as a field, and its theories, reflect particular kinds of power politics.' Discuss the meaning and validity of this statement. Make reference to at least two approaches.
3. 'All theories have a normative dimension, but only some are ready to acknowledge it.' Discuss the statement with reference to at least two theoretical approaches.
4. Which International Relations theory do you find most persuasive? Explain the reasons that lead you to this judgement. While doing so, compare it to at least one other theory.
5. 'Some IR theories are more concerned with philosophy than with understanding key issues in real international politics.' Discuss with reference to at least two theoretical approaches.