

DEMO VERSION OF COMPETITION ASSIGNMENTS
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
10th and 11th GRADES

to be completed within 180 minutes
the maximum score is 100 points

Write an essay on one of the suggested topics:

1. Should the state maintain a monopoly on violence in international relations? Private military companies: pro and contra arguments.
2. Is the retention of Westphalian sovereignty by states in the 21st century relevant? Can we talk about the onset of "post-Westphalian sovereignty"? Collapse of the concept of sovereignty?
3. How does globalization affect the international security? Could such issues as terrorism and international crime considered as a consequence of globalization?
4. How has the spread of telecommunication technologies (for example, the Internet) influenced international relations?
5. What is the national interest and on what needs (security, economic development, welfare of citizens, international status) should the state focus forming its national interests in the XXI century?

The essay must be at least 5,000 (five thousand) characters long.

The works are evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Erudition (max. 30 points)

This criteria takes into account the horizons and knowledge of a participant in history of international relations and contemporary politics, and ideas that influence modern political science. Knowledge of concepts, theories and their authors is highly demanded. Reference to books and articles is an advantage; they are indicated in an abbreviated format: the author's last name and year are indicated in brackets, for example: (Bogaturov, 1999).

2. Analytical skills (max. 20 points)

The ability of a participant to conduct a critical analysis of the sources and literature is assessed; a participant is expected to take into account different points of view. A descriptive work, where a participant describes events and ideas, but does not carry out their critical reflection, will not be highly marked.

3. Logic / composition (max. 20 points)

This criteria assesses a participant's way of thought, structure of the text, its consistency and validity, as well as participant's ability to build logical connections, their arguments, and justify his position. Unconfirmed conclusions and presence of logical errors will be considered as errors.

4. Academic language and style (max. 20 points)

The text should be written correctly, in a good academic language. Pathetic style, excessive admiration or censure will not be highly appreciated by the commission. Also, the author should refrain from unnecessary generalizations, common, empty, not informative phrases and incorrect usage of terms and definitions.

5. Knowledge of the current political agenda (max. 10 points)

Reasoning on any of the topics should contain references to today's political agenda. This may include both references and analysis of current international events, as well as links to speeches and statements made by political figures and diplomats, as well as relevant expert materials.