

Reference Materials International Relations

10th and 11th Grades

I. Topics

Topic 1. Basic concepts of the science of International Relations

- Development of the IR theory as a branch of knowledge. Conceptual apparatus.
- Foreign policy and international relations in philosophy of the East and Asia.
- Thucydides and the foundations of their theory.
- The crisis of the international political system in the Middle Ages. "The Prince" N. Machiavelli. Political thought of the New time and the emergence of the modern theory of international relations.
- Sovereignty. Westphalian system. The crisis of monarchical legitimacy and the emergence of a nation-state.
- The main existing theoretical paradigms of international relations. Realism, liberalism, Marxism. New theoretical approaches and trends.

Topic 2. The main stages of the history of International Relations

- The system of interstate relations between the city-states of one civilization in the Ancient Greece.
- Theocratic and secular models of world monarchy in the Middle Ages. Medieval Cross-Border Corporations.
- The question of universalism in the history of the Renaissance and Reformation.
- The Thirty Years War and establishment of the Westphalian order.
- Formation of the new ideology of world politics after the Great Geographical Discoveries and colonial conquests.
- Vienna and post-WWI international order: main features and problems.
- World War II and its implications for international relations. Structural features of the Cold War.

Topic 3. The state as an international actor

- The concept of state and state sovereignty. Criteria of statehood. National interests.
- Typology and classification of states. Power hierarchy of states.
- Transformation of the Westphalian political system. Erosion of state sovereignty.

Topic 4. Foreign policy

- Foreign policy and diplomacy.
- Types of diplomacy. Diplomacy and strategy.
- Foreign policy decision-making.
- New trends in the development of diplomacy - summits, multilateral diplomacy, etc. Opportunities and limitations.

Topic 5. New actors of International Relations

- The concept and main features of international organizations.
- Qualitative and quantitative evolution of international organizations in the XIX and XX centuries.
- Westphalian and Post-Westphalian functions of international organizations.
- The reasons for the decline in the effectiveness of international organizations in the modern world.
- The concept and main types of non-state actors of international relations and world politics. Functions of non-state actors of world politics.

Topic 6. Globalization and global governance perspectives

- Globalization and approaches to its study.
- The nature and content of the globalization of the world economy.
- Basic approaches to understanding globalization. Globalization and state sovereignty.
- The emergence of "global problems of our time", transnational / global challenges and threats.
- Global governance as a mechanism for solving transnational and global problems and challenges.

Topic 7. Security and new security challenges

- The concept of international security. New transnational challenges and security threats.
- Features of the current international security environment.
- The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), international terrorism, political radicalism, religious fundamentalism, organized cross-border crime, etc.
- The concept of "securitization".

Topic 8. Morality and law in world politics

- Law as a regulator of international relations and world politics.
- Values and ideology as mechanisms for regulating the behavior of participants in international relations and world politics.
- The main provisions of international public law (UN Charter). The crisis of international law and attempts to revise its basic provisions.
- The concept of "humanitarian intervention" in world politics.

Topic 9. Russia in the modern world

- The role and place of Russia in the global economy.
- The military potential of Russia, the place of the Russian Federation in the international military force hierarchy.
- Russia in international organizations and institutions.
- Russia's main approaches to reforming the international economic and political order.
- Brief description of Russia's relations with other leading centers of power in the world.

II. Recommended sources

Primary sources

1. Angel, N. The great illusion: a study of the relation of military power to national advantage.
2. Brown, C. and K. Ainley. Understanding international relations. (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) fourth edition.
3. Edward H. Carr. The Twenty Years Crisis 1919 – 1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations // Perennial 2001. Pp. 1 – 21.
4. Griffiths, M., T. O’Callaghan and S.C. Roach International relations: the key concepts. (Abingdon: Routledge, 2007) second edition.
5. Halliday, F. Rethinking international relations. (London: MacMillan, 1994).
6. Hirst, Paul ‘The eighty years’ crisis, 1919–1999 – power’, Review of International Studies 24(5) 1998, pp. 133–48. (OL).
7. Hobbes, Thomas, and Edwin Curley. Leviathan: with selected variants from the Latin edition of 1668. Vol. 8348. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1994).
8. Hobsbawm, E. Age of extremes: the short twentieth century 1914–1991. (London: Abacus Books, 1994).
9. Huntington, S. The clash of civilizations and the remaking of the world order. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002).
10. Ikenberry, G.J. After victory: institutions, strategic restraint, and the rebuilding of order after major wars. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).
11. Kissinger H. Diplomacy. Any edition.
12. Kissinger. H. How the enlightenment ends // Russia in global affairs. URL: <https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/articles/how-the-enlightenment-ends/>
13. Mearsheimer, J. The Tragedy of Great Powers Politics. NY. 2001.
14. Stiglitz, Joseph E. Globalization and its discontents. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003).
15. Waltzer, M. Just and unjust wars: a moral argument with historical illustrations. (London: Basic Books, 2006).
16. Walt, S. International Relations: One World – Many Theories. Foreign Policy. No. 110, Special Edition: Frontiers of Knowledge (Spring, 1998), pp. 29-32; 34-46.
17. Waltz, K. Man, the state and war. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001) 2nd edition.
18. Xiang, L. ‘China and the “Pivot”’, Survival 54(5) October–November 2012, pp.113–28. (OL).

Additional sources

1. Carl von Clausewitz. On war. Any addition.
2. Hans Morgenthau. Politics Among Nations. (New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2005).
3. Immanuel Wallerstein. The Curve of American Power // New Left Review, NLR 40, July-August 2006, pp. 77-94. URL: <https://iwallerstein.com/the-curve-of-american-power/>
4. John Locke. Two Treatises of Government. Any addition.
5. John W Burton. Conflict & communication: The use of controlled communication in international relations. (New York: Macmillan, 1969).
6. Nicolo Machiavelli. The Prince. Any addition.
7. Raymond Aron (2003). Peace and War: A Theory of International Relations. New York: Routledge.

8. Simes, Dimitri K. America's Imperial Dilemma. // Foreign Affairs, vol. 82, no. 6, 2003, pp. 91–102.
9. Thomas C. Schelling (1981). The Strategy of Conflict: With a New Preface by the Author. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
10. Thucydides. The History of the Peloponnesian War. Any addition.
11. Zbigniew Brzezinski (1998). The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives. New York: Basic Books.

III. Evaluation criteria for essays on "International relations"

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

The essays on "*International relations*" 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.