

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 [the essay must be at least 5,000 (five thousand) characters long (including spaces)]:

Unit 1

Topic № 1

What are the main causes of the First and Second World Wars, their common features and individual characteristics, and their impact on the system of international relations?

Topic № 2

What is State sovereignty, and what is its necessity? Is it permissible to violate the sovereignty of another state to protect national interests and ensure national security?

Topic № 3

What was the reason for the creation of the League of Nations and the UN, what are their main similarities and differences? What tasks does the UN perform in the XXI century? Can the UN be considered an effective international organization?

Topic № 4

What is information warfare? How has the development of the Internet influenced information wars? Is it necessary to restrict access to the Internet and control the media during an information war?

Topic № 5

What is integration and what is its impact on State sovereignty? How does Russia influence the integration processes in the world?

Unit 2

Topic № 1

What caused the Thirty Years' War and the Napoleonic Wars, and how did they affect the system of international relations? What role did Russia play in the Napoleonic Wars?

Topic № 2

Do all UN member states have full sovereignty? What causes a threat to state sovereignty in the 21st century?

Topic № 3

How does membership in international organizations affect the domestic and foreign policy of the state? What role does Russia play in international organizations?

Topic № 4

How has globalization affected migration processes? What is the impact of migration processes on international relations?

Topic № 5

What is global governance? What is the role of international organizations in the modern system of global governance? What are the challenges facing the actors of global governance?

Unit 3

Topic № 1

Which power (economic or military) dominates in Russia's foreign policy? What role does Russia play in world politics in the 21st century? /

Topic № 2

What was the Cold War and how did it affect international relations? What are the main causes of the Cold War?

Topic № 3

What is the process of globalization, and where are its origins? How has globalization affected the spread of terrorism, extremism, drug and arms trafficking? What positive and negative phenomena does the process of globalization generate?

Topic № 4

Which power is more important (economic or military) for the protection of national interests? What role does military power play in post-Cold War world politics?

Topic № 5

What are the main features that the state should have, and what internal and external functions does it perform? What is the role of unrecognized and partially recognized states in the system of international relations?

Evaluation criteria for essays on "International relations"

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.