

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

10th and 11th Grades

to be completed within 180 minutes

the maximum score is 100 points

**Task**

**Select one of the topics suggested below and write an essay [your essay must be at least 5,000 (five thousand) characters long (including spaces)]:**

*Topic № 1*

What role did the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) play during the Cold War? What common features and individual characteristics did NATO and the WTO have? What are the reasons behind the collapse of the Warsaw Treaty Organization?

*Topic № 2*

What events affected the formation of the Westphalian and Vienna systems of international relations? What are the key principles of the Westphalian and Vienna systems of international relations? Which principles of the Westphalian and Vienna systems are still upheld in the modern system of international relations?

*Topic № 3*

What role do military & political alliances play in international relations in the 21st century? How can membership in a military & political organization affect the sovereignty of a state?

*Topic № 4*

What events affected the formation of the Versailles-Washington and Yalta-Potsdam systems of international relations? What are the key principles of the Versailles-Washington and Yalta-Potsdam systems of international relations? What principles of the Versailles-Washington and Yalta-Potsdam systems are still upheld in the modern system of international relations?

*Topic № 5*

What is a peacekeeping operation? How important and necessary are peacekeeping missions in the 21st century? What peacekeeping missions were carried out in the post-Soviet space? What

are the common features and individual characteristics of the peacekeeping missions carried out in the post-Soviet space?

*Topic № 6*

What is a transnational corporation? What role do transnational corporations play in world politics? Should the activities of transnational corporations be restricted? Arguments "for" and "against" transnational corporations.

*Topic № 7*

What integration processes has Russia initiated in the post-Soviet space since 1991? What role does Russia play in the post-Soviet space?

## **Evaluation criteria for essays in International Relations**

The essays in *International Relations* are evaluated according to five criteria (**the maximum score is 100 points**):

### **1. Erudition (max. 30 points)**

This criterion is used to assess the breadth of knowledge in history of international relations and contemporary politics as well as ideas that influence modern political science. Special attention will be paid to knowledge of concepts, theories, and their authors. References to books and articles will be considered an advantage; they should be included in an abbreviated format – the author's last name and year placed in brackets, for example: (Bogaturov, 1999).

### **2. Analytical skills (max. 20 points)**

The jury will assess the participant's ability to perform critical analysis of the sources and literature; they are expected to take into account different points of view. A focus on describing events and ideas without adding the participant's critical reflection will negatively affect their final score.

### **3. Logic / composition (max. 20 points)**

This criterion is used to assess the participant's way of thinking, essay structure, its consistency and validity, as well as the participant's ability to build logical connections, maintain their line of reasoning, and justify their position. Unconfirmed conclusions and logical inconsistencies will be considered errors.

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

The text should be well-written in a good academic style. The jury will not appreciate pathos, excessive admiration, or dispraise. A participant should refrain from unnecessary generalizations, commonplace, empty, non-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 to and analysis of current international events as well as attributions to addresses and statements delivered by political figures and diplomats and references to relevant expert materials.