

IRAS Graduation exam: topics

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

1. Energy security: definition, determinants, contemporary problems.
2. Global energy landscape: sources of energy, global energy mix, oil and gas markets.
3. The role of NATO after the end of Cold War.
4. The history and the main characteristics of nuclear weapons.
5. Definitional elements of peacebuilding.
6. International terrorism as a source of conflict and destabilization.
7. Clausewitz's contribution to contemporary concepts of war and conflict.
8. Hybrid warfare - dominant features, empirical examples.
9. Privatization of security – legal and political constraints.
10. The three pillars of the responsibility to protect.
11. Ethnic cleansing as a threat to human security.
12. The role of the International Criminal Court.
13. Modus operandi of contemporary terrorist organisations – use practical examples.
14. Compare 'old' and 'new' terrorism – use practical examples.
15. The main criticisms that Realist scholars have made against the idea that states should pursue Democracy Promotion as part of their foreign policies.
16. US commitment to European security after World War Two.

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AREA STUDIES: EUROPE

1. Discuss major instruments of EU Foreign Policy.
2. The division of competence between the EU and member states.
3. The EU's engagement in close neighbourhood.
4. The unification of Germany in 1990
5. The foundations of European identity.
6. Modernity and the rise of nationalisms in Europe.
7. Institutional architecture of the Council of Europe,
8. Direct applicability and primacy of European Union Law vis-à-vis national laws of Members States.

AREA STUDIES: RUSSIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

1. Marxist theory of international relations.
2. International consequences of the demise of the Soviet Union.
3. Putin's vision of the international order.
4. Forms and purposes of sovietization of culture in the Soviet Union.
5. The issue of national identity in the post-Soviet space (one case to be chosen from: Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).
6. Social problems in contemporary Russia.
7. The great transition in the post-Soviet area: state ownership and the waves of wild privatization.
8. Ukraine's two breakthroughs to democracy and the other colour revolutions: Georgia, Moldova.

AREA STUDIES: THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

1. The Arab-Israeli Conflict in the context of Cold War in the Middle East.
2. The socio-cultural context of the Iranian-Saudi rivalry.
3. Recent conflicts in the Middle East and their impact on global security
4. The relationship between the state and society in Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia.
5. The major demographic factors affecting economic development in the Arab World.
6. The concept of a rentier state.
7. Islam as a way of life: the role of the religion and tradition in modern Muslim societies.
8. The emergence of Islamic fundamentalism and its various manifestations.

AREA STUDIES: THE AMERICAS

1. US presidential system of government and the specifics of the federal system of government.
2. The role of USA in post-war international politics.
3. The origins of Latin American populism.
4. Identity of Latin America.
5. Canadian foreign policy and contemporary relations with other North and South American states.
6. Processes of democratization in Latin America.
7. The cinema as a popular and mass culture in US.
8. Institutional and economic cooperation in the Americas – main trends.

AREA STUDIES: ASIA-PACIFIC/EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

1. The Korean Peninsula – the origin of the conflict.
2. The Taiwan Straits – a challenge to security.
3. India's emerging power.
4. China's emerging power and its role in the region and world politics.
5. The role of Japan after WW2.
6. Southeast Asian international relations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
7. Economic systems in East Asia.
8. The role of culture and social norms in shaping economy in the region.