

Test Bank

Chapter 1: How to Think about International Relations: Perspectives, Levels of Analysis, and Causal Arrows

Multiple Choice

1. If an explanation of World War I argues that Germany's relative power was the cause of war, it is best described by the _____ levels of analysis.

- a. individual
- b. domestic
- c. foreign policy
- d. systemic

Answer: D

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Systemic Level of Analysis

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. If an explanation of World War I argues that Germany's militarist ideology, which glorified aggressive war, was the cause of war, it is best described by the _____ perspective.

- a. realist
- b. liberal
- c. identity
- d. critical theory

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. _____ describes the substance of a cause in an explanation of an international outcome.

- a. Idea
- b. Perspective
- c. Norm
- d. Power

Answer: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Levels of Analysis

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. The _____ perspective describes the prisoner's dilemma as a zero-sum game, where one actor will gain and the other loses.

- a. realist
- b. liberal
- c. identity
- d. critical theory

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Prisoner's Dilemma from the Realist Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. _____ refers to the idea that in an anarchic international system, there is no higher authority above states, either at home or abroad.

- a. Interdependence
- b. International law
- c. Multilateralism
- d. Sovereignty

Answer: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge Answer Location: The Realist Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. The realist perspective tends to define power as _____.

- a. material capabilities
- b. the ability to ensure successful outcomes
- c. cooperative capabilities
- d. the ability to persuade

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: The Realist Perspective Difficulty Level: Medium

7. To argue that Poland has been frequently attacked because it sits in the middle of the European plains is to argue for the importance of _____.

- a. alliances
- b. geopolitics
- c. balance of power
- d. power transition

Answer: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Power

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. What term describes the number of great powers in the international system?

- a. Polarity
- b. Alliances
- c. Balance of power
- d. Independence

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Polarity and Alliances
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Kenneth Waltz and John Mearsheimer argue that _____ worlds are the most stable because two bigger powers have only each other to worry about.

- a. unipolar
- b. bipolar
- c. tripolar
- d. multipolar

Answer: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Alliances and Polarity
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Deterrence refers to the use of _____.

- a. force to defend a country after an attack
- b. force to get another state to do something rather than to refrain from doing something
- c. threatened retaliation through force to stop an attack before it occurs
- d. threatened retaliation through force after an attack

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge Answer Location: War

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. What term describes the discussions and negotiations among states, as emphasized by the liberal perspective?

- a. bargaining
- b. interdependence
- c. cooperation
- d. diplomacy

Answer: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge Answer Location: Diplomacy Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Which term refers to a network of intergovernmental organizations that together make up a loose form of world government?

- a. global governance
- b. transnational relations
- c. interdependence
- d. a League of Nations

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: International Institutions

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. According to the liberal perspective, which of the following is true about institutions?

- a. They increase efficiency and control by regularizing international contacts and communications.
- b. They always have some physical organization or location.
- c. They cannot shape the interests and identity of states.
- d. They are controlled by a few powerful governments.

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Analysis Answer Location: International Institutions Difficulty Level: Medium

14. As emphasized by the identity perspective, the phrase “anarchy is what states make of it” refers to the idea that state behavior is shaped by which of the following?

- a. the relative position states hold in the material distribution of power
- b. that states can pursue their interests through reciprocal interactions in international institutions
- c. that the nature of the international system is constructed through the repetitive social interactions of states
- d. the attribute of states such that they are not subordinate to a higher power

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Analysis Answer Location: The Identity Perspective Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Relative identities are identities that _____.

- a. are determined by states' historical and external dialogues with other states
- b. overlap and fuse based on norms and images that cannot be traced back to specific identities or their interrelationships
- c. position actors' self-images with respect to one another as similar or dissimilar
- d. are derived from states' unique national self-reflections and memories

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge Answer Location: Relative Identities Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Marxist critical theory emphasizes which explanation of politics?

- a. History is driven forward by a dialectic conflict between economic classes.
- b. Language is used by the powerful in order to oppress and marginalize the powerless.
- c. States fear losses more than they value gains, so they more often opt for security.
- d. States seek to maximize power in order to defend themselves against the security dilemma.

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: Causal Arrows Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Arguing that North Korea, like other absolute dictatorships, is dangerous is an example of an argument from the _____ level of analysis.

- a. foreign policy
- b. domestic
- c. international
- d. individual

Answer: B

Cognitive Domain: Analysis Answer Location: Levels of Analysis Difficulty Level: Medium

18. The _____ level of analysis is often called a two-level game?

- a. transnational
- b. individual
- c. foreign policy
- d. domestic

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: Foreign Policy Level of Analysis Difficulty Level: Medium

19. Thinking through a realist lens, which of the following factors is important in international relations??

- a. modernization and technological change
- b. the development of increasingly complex institutions that centralize legitimate power
- c. interdependence among states
- d. the security dilemma

Answer: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective Difficulty Level: Medium

20. Marxist critical theory emphasizes which of the following explanations for politics?

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- c. States fear losses more than they value gains, so they more often opt for security.

d. States seek to maximize power in order to defend themselves against the security dilemma.

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: Causal Arrows Difficulty Level: Medium

21. Arguing that President George W. Bush and a small group of neoconservative advisers made the decision to invade Iraq in 2003 for their own reasons is an example of an argument from the _____ level of analysis.

- a. foreign policy
- b. supranational
- c. international
- d. individual

Answer: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: Domestic Level of Analysis Difficulty Level: Medium

22. _____ is described as a situation in where one actor will gain while the other loses.

- a. Competition
- b. Compellance
- c. Zero-sum
- d. Equilibrium

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge Answer Location: The Prisoner's Dilemma from the Realist Perspective Difficulty Level: Easy

23. Cooperation facilitates the provision of better outcomes for some while not harming others, whereas _____ aims to distribute gains that are zero-sum.

- a. balancing
- b. buckpassing
- c. bargaining
- d. bandwagoning

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. Interdependence refers to _____.

- a. the mutual dependence on states and nonstate actors in the international system
- b. the behavior of states toward one another based largely on mutual exchanges
- c. a situation in which one country is more powerful than all the others
- d. a formal defense arrangement wherein states align against a greater power to prevent dominance

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective Difficulty Level: Easy

25. In international relations, _____ refers to the use of force to get another state to do something.

- a. defense
- b. soft power
- c. compellence

d. coercion

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: War Difficulty Level: Easy

26. What is the name of the specific realist theory that argues that states seek maximum or dominant power?

a. structural realism

b. defensive realism

c. offensive realism

d. conservative realism

Answer: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension Answer Location: War Difficulty Level: Easy

27. Stalin's 1939 pact with Germany—which at the time represented the greatest threat to the Soviet Union—is an example of which of the following?

a. bandwagoning

b. deterring

c. power balancing

d. buckpassing

Answer: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: War

Difficulty Level: Easy

Multiple Response

1. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. In addition to theories that concern the construction of identities, the identity perspective includes which of the following types of theories?

- a. theories that focus on soft power
- b. theories that focus on environmental systems
- c. theories that focus on psychology
- d. theories of relative power.

Answer: A, C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Foreign Policy Level of Analysis

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. What is the balance of power?

- a. the process by which states seek to ensure that no single state dominates the international system
- b. an outcome that establishes a rough equilibrium among states
- c. the decentralized distribution of power in the international system
- d. the material capabilities of a country

Answer: A, B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Balance of Power

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. Which of the following concepts are central to the defensive realist perspective?

- a. defense
- b. deterrence
- c. cooperation
- d. interdependence

Answer: A, B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: War

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. In contrast to the realist perspective, which of the following factors does the liberal perspective see as important in international relations?

- a. modernization and technological change
- b. the development of increasingly complex institutions that centralize legitimate power
- c. interdependence among states
- d. the security dilemma

Answer: A, B, C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. Which of the following are examples of nongovernmental organizations?

- a. student, tourist, or professional organizations
- b. international labor unions
- c. multinational corporations

d. federal governments

Answer: A, B, C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. Collective goods have which of the following properties?

- a. They are indivisible.
- b. They cannot be appropriated.
- c. They are controlled by a few states.
- d. They are transferable.

Answer: A, B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. The construction of identities is a process that shapes which of the following?

- a. how actors define who they are
- b. how actors behave toward one another
- c. how actors define anarchy
- d. how actors understand cooperation

Answer: A, B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. Intrastate violence includes all of the following EXCEPT _____.

- a. family violence
- b. wars between states
- c. large displacements of populations
- d. natural disasters

Answer: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Technological Change and Modernization: Nongovernmental Organizations

Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. According to the liberal perspective, three factors change the prisoner's dilemma to a more cooperative game: interactions or communications, common goals, and technological change.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Perspectives in international relations help us find facts and order these facts differently to explain international situations.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. The realist perspective focuses on global society and international institutions.

Answer: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. If an explanation for World War I argues that Kaiser Wilhelm's bad diplomacy was the cause of war, it can be said that the cause is coming from the state-leader level.

Answer: F

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. In non-zero-sum games, both sides will always gain equally.

Answer: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Prisoner's Dilemma from the Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Realist approaches often favor multilateralism and cooperation through international institutions to mitigate anarchy.

Answer: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. The security dilemma results from the fact that a state, as it gains power in order to gain security, threatens the security of other states.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Security Dilemma

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. War is most likely to occur during moments of power transition, or when an emerging power challenges a declining power.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: War

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Defense is the use of threatened force to deter an attack before it occurs.

Answer: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: War

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. The balance of power prevents war.

Answer: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: War

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. According to the liberal perspective, hierarchy is more important than anarchy.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Historically, international law was developed to protect the interests of states. However, more recently, it has evolved to address the rights of citizens and individual human beings to protection from mistreatment.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: International Institutions

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. The distribution of identities includes both internal and external identities.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Relative Identities

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Feminism is a theory that emphasizes the dialectical or conflictual relationship between capitalist and communist states in the international system.

Answer: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Feminism

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. A state is said to have acquired sovereignty when it has monopolized force within its borders and mobilized that force to defend its borders.

Answer: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: State Actors and Sovereignty

Difficulty Level: Medium

Short Answer

1. Aligning to ensure that no one state dominates the international system is called _____, while aligning with (not against) the greatest power is known as _____.

Ans: power balancing; bandwagoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Balance of Power

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Nongovernmental organizations are nonstate actors that engage in _____ relations, or relations outside the direct influence of national governments and international institutions.

Ans: transnational

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Technological Change and Modernization: Nongovernmental Organizations

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Institutions, once created, tend to evolve through feedback and reinforcement, a process which is known as _____.

Ans: path dependence

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: International Institutions

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Clean air is a classic example of a _____, which is emphasized by the liberal perspective.

Ans: collective goods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Collective Goods

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. From the liberal perspective, the essence of international law is _____, or the inclusion of all states.

Ans: multilateralism

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: International Law

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. According to the identity perspective, the _____ operates at the systemic level of analysis and determines whether states will treat each other as friends, rivals, or enemies.

Ans: distribution of identities

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Relative Identities

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. _____ constructivism is an identity perspective that allows for greater influence on the part of independent actors in shaping identity.

Ans: Agent-oriented

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. _____ refers to the exchange of ideas that are free of material or institutional influence, such as pure speech acts, in order to establish claims to validity.

Ans: Communicative action

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. _____ are those that position actors' self-images with respect to one another as similar or dissimilar, while _____ are those that overlap and fuse based on norms and images that cannot be traced back to specific identities or their interrelationships.

Ans: Relative identities; shared identities

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Relative Identities

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Groups of individuals or countries that share a broad base of common knowledge and trust are better known as _____.

Ans: epistemic communities

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Distribution of Identities

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. The _____ refers to a phenomenon whereby as countries become stronger and stronger democracies, they tend not to go to war with one another or engage in military threats.

Ans: democratic peace

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Democratic Peace

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. The situation that results when one state arms to defend itself and, as a result, threatens other states is called _____.

Ans: the security dilemma

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Security Dilemma

Difficulty Level: Easy

Essay

1. How do the power balancing and power transition schools of the realist perspective differ on the question of when war is most likely?

Ans: Answers may vary. The power balancing school sees equilibrium as the most stable distribution of power and argues that war is most likely when one state tries to dominate the system (that is, to establish hegemony or empire). The power transition school sees hegemony as the most stable distribution of power and argues that war is most likely during a power transition, which is when a declining hegemon's power is roughly equal to that of a rising rival or challenger.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: War

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. According to the liberal perspective, what are collective goods and how can they lead to cooperation?

Ans: Answers may vary. Collective goods are goals that are indivisible and cannot be appropriated by anyone. Examples include clean air, the global climate, peace and security, and wealth (under certain circumstances). Since they are non-zero-sum goods and everyone benefits when they are pursued, they can lead to cooperation among states.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. According to the identity perspective, what are the internal and external dimensions of a state's identity?

Answer: Answers may vary. The external identity of a state is constructed through social interactions with other states and determines how that state views itself in relation to others—for example, does it see itself as a friend, rival, or enemy of the state with which it interacts? The internal identity of a state is constructed through a process of self-reflection (which takes place within a state's society) that examines its domestic experience and national memory.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Liberal Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. According to the identity perspective, what is the distribution of identities, and how can it determine how states cooperate or conflict?

Ans: Answers may vary. The distribution of identities describes how the identities of states are positioned in relation to one another. On one level, it describes the relative identities of states—how similar (convergent) or different (divergent) they are compared to each other. On a second level, it describes the shared identities of states—any overarching norms that define a common culture among states. States with converging relative identities may cooperate more than states with diverging relative identities; states with a strong shared identity may cooperate more than states without a shared identity.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Relative Identities

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Why is the foreign policy level of analysis called a two-level game?

Ans: Answers may vary. The foreign policy level of analysis operates between the systemic process and domestic levels of analysis, and it focuses on the choices that policymakers actually make. Below the policymakers are domestic groups that seek to influence their choices. In the United States, examples would be government institutions like Congress, the Central Intelligence Agency, or the Departments of State and Defense; nongovernmental groups like lobbyists, the media, or civil society; or public opinion. Above the policymakers are international actors (namely other states) that seek to influence their choices. The policymakers play a two-level game by trying to mediate the influences above and below them to arrive at a certain foreign policy choice.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Foreign Policy Level of Analysis

Difficulty Level: Hard

6. According to the realist perspective, how does anarchy in the international system lead to war?

Ans: Answers may vary. Anarchy, or the decentralized distribution of power in the international system, means that there is no “world 911,” and states must therefore rely on themselves for their own security (which is known as self-help). In this situation, war is always possible because there is nothing to effectively prevent it. Realists argue that other features of the international system make war more or less likely, although they disagree on specifics. Realists disagree on whether the system is most prone to war when there is a single dominant power or when there is equilibrium. Even if they agree that war is less likely under equilibrium, realists disagree on whether bipolar systems (systems with two great powers) or multipolar systems (systems with several great powers) are less prone to war. In addition, there are several specific ways in which self-help can lead to war. One way is through the security dilemma, a situation that arises when a state arms to make itself more secure but threatens other states by doing so. Another is through the balance of power, which occurs when states form alliances (and possibly go to war) to prevent a single state from dominating the international system. Some realists argue that war is most likely when power transition occurs—that is, when a dominant power declines relative to rising powers.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Realist Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. How does collective security differ from the balance of power?

Ans: Answers may vary. The balance of power is a process by which states align to prevent any single state from dominating the international system. Collective security, on the other hand, is an institutional arrangement by which states join their power together (establishing a preponderance of power) in order to deter, compel, or punish an aggressor. Collective security, unlike the balance of power, relies on the establishment of rules for the use of power by an institution whose members are states. The balance of power, on the other hand, is a more or less automatic process that results from the fact that all states want to survive and that the domination of the system by a single state is a threat to their survival.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Collective Goods | Balance of Power

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. According to the identity perspective, where do ideas come from?

Ans: Answers may vary. The identity perspective argues that ideas are constructed through interactions. Some identity perspective theorists (called social constructivists) argue that identities are constructed through social interaction—that is, by interacting with one another, two states will gradually come to define what self and other mean and whether they see each other as friends, rivals, or enemies. Other identity perspective theorists (called agent-oriented constructivists) argue that identities are constructed within a state based on the way individuals understand their domestic experiences and national memories.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Identity Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium