

Chapter 2

Theories of World Politics

TRUE/FALSE

1. A theory is an example, model, or essential pattern that structures thought about an area of inquiry.

ANS: F DIF: High REF: page 27

2. Realism is important to study because it continues to guide much thought regarding international relations.

ANS: T DIF: Low REF: page 27

3. Realists view the state as the most important actor in international politics.

ANS: T DIF: Low REF: page 27

4. When states agree that an act of aggression by any state will be met by a collective reaction from all other states, this is known as the security dilemma.

ANS: F DIF: Medium REF: page 34

5. According to realist theory, a state's leaders are morally obligated to conduct foreign policy in an ethical manner.

ANS: F DIF: Medium REF: page 28

6. Unlike neorealists, neoliberals believe that international anarchy can be overcome through the creation of strong global institutions.

ANS: T DIF: Low REF: page 51

7. Complex interdependence is a core concept of neorealism and describes how the growing ties among transnational actors make them more vulnerable and sensitive to one another.

ANS: F DIF: High REF: page 35

8. The Kellogg-Briand Pact, which outlawed war as an instrument of national policy, is widely credited with keeping the peace after World War II.

ANS: F DIF: Low REF: page 29

9. Liberalism believes that global politics is primarily a zero-sum game.

ANS: F DIF: Low REF: page 33

10. Liberals believe that war is a global problem that requires collective action to control it.
- ANS: T DIF: Low REF: page 34
11. Liberals believe that establishing stable democracies will lead to peace.
- ANS: T DIF: Low REF: page 32
12. Complex interdependence focuses on multiple sources of communication rather than just government to government relations.
- ANS: T DIF: Low REF: page 35
13. Constructivism is the study of how the global system is constructed or managed.
- ANS: F DIF: Medium REF: page 38
14. Dependency theory states that peace can best be achieved by economic interdependence.
- ANS: F DIF: High REF: page 43

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A set of statements that purports to explain a particular phenomenon is a
- construction.
 - global system.
 - paradigm.
 - deconstruction.
 - theory.
- ANS: E DIF: LOW REF: page 27
2. Realists believe states are the most important actors in global politics because
- state leaders are stronger than the leaders of non-governmental organizations.
 - international law recognizes states as the most important actors.
 - states answer to no authority higher than themselves.
 - international organizations have no impact on global politics.
 - there are more states than NGOs.
- ANS: C DIF: High REF: pages 27 and 28
3. According to realists, the anarchic structure of the international system leads to
- a reliance on collective security arrangements.
 - greater cooperation among states.
 - chaos in interstate relations.
 - increased interdependence among states.
 - a self-help system where states are responsible for their own security.
- ANS: E DIF: Medium REF: page 28

4. Which of the following individuals best represents a pioneer of the realist perspective on international relations?
- Adam Smith
 - Immanuel Kant
 - Woodrow Wilson
 - Richard Cobden
 - Niccolò Machiavelli

ANS: E DIF: Medium REF: pages 27 and 28

5. According to realist theory, the primary goal of every state is
- to promote its national interest.
 - to negotiate alliances with allies.
 - to strengthen international collective security arrangements.
 - to limit nuclear proliferation.
 - to increase its economic wealth.

ANS: A DIF: Medium REF: page 30

6. The principle that the governments of states are subject to no higher authority is
- national interest.
 - collective-security.
 - sovereign state.
 - balance of power.
 - security dilemma

ANS: C DIF: Medium REF: pages 27 and 28

7. Which of the following is a tenet of realism?
- People are selfish and ethically flawed with a lust for power.
 - The goal of every state is to promote its national interest.
 - Military might is more important to a state's national security than economics.
 - Might makes right.
 - All of the above are true.

ANS: E DIF: Low REF: page 28

8. Which of the following is the primary difference between realism and neorealism?
- Realists focus on the selfish nature of individuals whereas neorealists believe human beings are naturally cooperative.
 - Neorealists believe that international anarchy, not the selfish nature of individuals, is responsible for the competitive nature between states.
 - Realists focus on national security issues whereas neorealists focus on economic matters.
 - Neorealists believe that states are naturally cooperative whereas realists believe that states are naturally competitive.
 - Realists believe that national security issues are paramount whereas neorealists believe that social issues, such as the environment and poverty, should be at the forefront.

ANS: B DIF: High REF: pages 29 and 30

9. Which of the following was a criticism of the realist school of thought?
- It was too idealistic.

- b. It could not account for new trends in international relations, like economic cooperation.
- c. It was too precise in how it defined key terms, like power and interest.
- d. Both b and c.
- e. All of the above are true.

ANS: B DIF: Medium REF: page 38

10. Liberal theory promotes which of the following as a solution to global conflict?
- a. an expansion of democratic governments
 - b. an emphasis on free trade
 - c. reliance on global institutions
 - d. dependence on collective security arrangements
 - e. All of the above are true.

ANS: E DIF: Medium REF: page 33

11. A conflictual relationship in which what is gained by one side is lost by the other is known as
- a. collective-security.
 - b. balance of power.
 - c. zero-sum game.
 - d. constructivism.
 - e. complex interdependence.

ANS: C DIF: Medium REF: page 33

12. Who of the following was *not* an important liberal philosopher?
- a. John Locke
 - b. Immanuel Kant
 - c. Adam Smith
 - d. Hans Morgenthau
 - e. Woodrow Wilson

ANS: D DIF: Medium REF: pages 31 and 32

13. Which of the following is *not* a basic tenet of liberal thought?
- a. Human nature is essentially altruistic and cooperative.
 - b. Morality should be a part of politics.
 - c. Violence is a product of bad institutions, not bad people.
 - d. Unilateralism is the best means to prevent war.
 - e. War is not inevitable.

ANS: D DIF: High REF: page 32

14. Which of the following is *not* an element common to the various schools of liberalism?
- a. International institutions are important actors that can mediate disputes among states.
 - b. Establishing stable democratic governments will enhance the prospects of peace.
 - c. States' concerns about relative gains impede cooperation.
 - d. Free trade gives states a material incentive to maintain peaceful relations.
 - e. All of the statements above are common elements in the various schools of liberalism.

ANS: C DIF: High REF: page 32

15. A security arrangement guided by the principle that an act of aggression by any state will be met by a collective response from the rest is known as
- the Kellogg-Briand Pact.
 - a self-help system.
 - geopolitics.
 - collective security.
 - alliance building.

ANS: D

DIF: Low

REF: page 34

16. According to the text, a common critique of liberalism is that
- international institutions are ineffective.
 - states are the primary level of analysis.
 - it places too much emphasis on moral rationales.
 - Both a and c.
 - All of the above are true.

ANS: D

DIF: Medium

REF: pages 36

17. _____ refers to the areas of economics, finance, and environmental affairs;
_____ refers to the area of national defense.
- Liberalism; realism
 - Low politics; high politics
 - Zero-sum; regimes
 - Diplomacy; collective security
 - Complex interdependence; transnational relations

ANS: B

DIF: Medium

REF: page 36

18. Complex interdependence
- is used by realists to argue in favor of relative gains as opposed to zero-sum gains.
 - stress ties between transnational actors, not just states, and focuses on issues besides national security.
 - emphasizes security issues and the prominence of states in the international system.
 - is the result of states refusing to work together on global trade issues.
 - is most closely associated with realism.

ANS: B

DIF: Medium

REF: page 35

19. An international regime
- brings some order to international anarchy.
 - is a body of norms that facilitates cooperation on a specific issue.
 - can apply to a variety of issues, such as trade, monetary affairs, and the environment.
 - is the result of increasing interdependence in the international system.
 - All of the above are true.

ANS: E

DIF: High

REF: page 35

20. The school of thought that emphasizes the importance of shared ideas and understandings that are developed between actors that define their interests, identities and images of the world is called
- feminism.
 - realism.

- c. international regimes.
- d. constructivism.
- e. complex interdependence.

ANS: D DIF: Medium REF: page 35

21. Which of the following statements is *not* true about constructivism?
- a. Constructivism rejects the notion of international anarchy.
 - b. Constructivism attempts to explain how all paradigms depend on an intersubjective consensus about core concepts.
 - c. Constructivism provides a lens for examining intellectual fads.
 - d. Constructivism is sometimes described as more of a philosophy than a theory.
 - e. All of the above are true about constructivism.

ANS: A DIF: High REF: pages 38 and 39

22. Which of the following is *not* considered a radical critique of the existing system?
- a. socialism
 - b. constructivism
 - c. feminism
 - d. dependency
 - e. All of the above are radical critiques.

ANS: B DIF: High REF: page 42

23. World-system theory divides the world into
- a. democratic and non-democratic nations.
 - b. core, periphery, and semi-periphery areas.
 - c. bourgeoisie and proletariat.
 - d. capitalist and command economies.
 - e. Global North and Global South.

ANS: B DIF: Medium REF: page 44

24. Feminism challenges traditional international relations theory in all *except* which of the following ways?
- a. the scientific study of world politics
 - b. fundamental gender bias
 - c. the capitalist economic system
 - d. reformulation of core concepts
 - e. incorporation of the female perspective

ANS: C DIF: Medium REF: page 44

25. The study of world politics using scientific methods based on measurement, data, and evidence is known as
- a. behaviorism.
 - b. epistemology.
 - c. hypothesis.
 - d. constructivism.
 - e. feminism.

SHORT ANSWER

1. What are the main criticisms of the realist school of thought?

ANS:

Lack of precision in use of key terms like “power” and “interest.”

Overly vague theorizing

Does not account for significant new developments in world politics, like trade and political institutions

Tendency to disregard ethical principles

REF: pages 30 and 31

2. Which school of thought believes that our understandings of the world are socially constructed and that prevailing ideas mold our beliefs about what is immutable and what can be reformed?

ANS:

Constructivism

REF: page 38

3. A _____ is a set of statements that purports to explain a particular phenomenon.

ANS:

theory

REF: page 27

4. An international _____ is a set of principles, norms, and rules governing behavior within a specified issue area.

ANS:

regime

REF: page 35

ESSAY

1. Compare and contrast the assumptions about international phenomena made by liberalism and realism. What assumptions about the nature of world politics are advanced by each tradition? What accounts for the rise and fall over time of their relative popularity as paradigms for organizing our orientation toward the international arena?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

2. What is the main concern of constructivism? How does it seek to expand on the theories of realism and liberalism? How useful is constructivism for understanding international phenomena?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

3. How have feminist scholars been critical of other international relations scholars? Are their critiques justified?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

4. Describe socialism including Karl Marx views on capitalism and Lenin's ideas on imperialism.

ANS:

Answers will vary.