CHAPTER 1: Approaches to International Relations

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is NOT a way in which a college student might be able to influence international relations?
   a. watching the evening news
   b. traveling to a foreign country
   c. joining a nongovernmental organization
   d. purchasing products made abroad
   e. marching to protest foreign oppression
   
   ANS: A  DIF: Moderate  REF: Pages 4–5
   TOP: Ways to shape international politics  MSC: Understanding

2. International relations encompasses the interactions among various actors that participate in international politics, including all of the following EXCEPT
   a. states.
   b. international organizations.
   c. individuals.
   d. locally focused business associations.
   e. nongovernmental organizations.
   
   ANS: D  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 4–5
   TOP: International relations as a field  MSC: Remembering

3. According to the text, one reason political scientists develop theories is to
   a. understand the causes of events.
   b. give direct advice to the government on policies to follow.
   c. justify specific government policies.
   d. influence citizens to support government policies.
   e. predict what year the next world war will begin.
   
   ANS: A  DIF: Moderate  REF: Page 5  TOP: Why use theory
   MSC: Understanding

4. How can theories of international relations be characterized?
   a. International relations theory has remained unchanged since the time of ancient Greece.
   b. Competition between the various theories has prevented scholars from understanding the world.
   c. Several different international relations theories have academic supporters.
   d. International relations theory has little to do with economics or human nature; it focuses solely on power.
   e. One unified theory of international relations has emerged in recent years, displacing all others.
   
   ANS: C  DIF: Moderate  REF: Pages 5–6  TOP: Contending theories
   MSC: Understanding

5. According to the text, three of the more prominent theoretical approaches used to study international relations are
   a. historicism, liberalism, and radicalism.
b. realism, radicalism, and historicism.
c. constructivism, radicalism, and statism.
d. liberalism, realism, and radicalism.
e. radicalism, environmentalism, and constructivism.

ANS: D  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 5–6  TOP: Contending theories
MSC: Remembering

6. The theory most focused on the idea that states define their interests in terms of power is
   a. realism.
   b. liberalism.
   c. radicalism.
   d. constructivism.
   e. historicism.

ANS: A  DIF: Moderate  REF: Page 6  TOP: Realism
MSC: Remembering

7. The theory most focused on the ideas that human nature is good and states cooperate is
   a. realism.
   b. liberalism.
   c. radicalism.
   d. constructivism.
   e. historicism.

ANS: B  DIF: Moderate  REF: Page 6  TOP: Liberalism
MSC: Remembering

8. Which of the following methods are used in the historical approach to international relations?
   a. the study of individual cases
   b. the analysis of philosophical texts
   c. the use of empirical methods
   d. the deconstruction of major concepts
   e. the use of simulations

ANS: A  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 6–8  TOP: Developing the answers
MSC: Remembering

9. What is a drawback to the historical approach to international relations?
   a. It ignores the normative element in political life.
   b. The lessons of history may be misapplied.
   c. Focusing on empirical methods may obscure some of the fundamental questions of international relations.
   d. It can explain only older events.
   e. There are no patterns of events over time.

ANS: B  DIF: Difficult  REF: Pages 6–8  TOP: History
MSC: Understanding

10. As an approach to the study of international relations, historical analysis
    a. is an outdated approach.
    b. focuses primarily on the interactions of multinational corporations.
    c. provides useful background to many contemporary issues.
d. is always a good guide for today’s foreign policies.
e. is very similar to behavioralism.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 6–8 TOP: History
MSC: Understanding

11. Political scientists regularly use all of the following methods to find answers to international relations questions EXCEPT
a. discourse analysis.
b. scientific methods.
c. historical methods.
d. philosophical methods.
e. randomized controlled trials.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 6–15 TOP: Developing the answers
MSC: Remembering

12. Class analysis and dialectical reasoning, two important tools later used by Karl Marx, were introduced by which one of the following thinkers?
a. Plato
b. Hobbes
c. Rousseau
d. Kant
e. Aquinas

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Page 8 TOP: Philosophy
MSC: Remembering

13. Thucydides used diplomatic history to
a. launch the behavioral revolution.
b. examine the causes of war.
c. formulate a new philosophy of international relations.
d. describe the “state of nature.”
e. illustrate the value of constructivism.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Page 8 TOP: History
MSC: Remembering

14. Thucydides concluded that the underlying cause of the Peloponnesian War was
a. the clash between Athens’s democratic society and Sparta’s authoritarian government.
b. Sparta was a sea power seeking new ports.
c. a changing distribution of power between Athens and Sparta.
d. Athenian leaders were pacifists and did not build their army.
e. Spartan culture led to constant war against more civilized city-states.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Page 8 TOP: History
MSC: Remembering

15. Plato argued that the ideal rulers would be
a. elected by the people.
b. military generals.
c. philosopher-kings.
d. hereditary monarchs.
representatives of the working class.

ANS: C  DIF: Moderate  REF: Page 8  TOP: Philosophy  MSC: Remembering

16. Comparing the war in Iraq to the Vietnam War is NOT a perfect application of history because
   a. unlike Vietnam, the conflict in Iraq was a short war.
   b. unlike Vietnam, the conflict in Iraq is about ideology.
   c. unlike Vietnam, the conflict in Iraq was against a single clear enemy.
   d. unlike Vietnam, the conflict in Iraq involves competing ethnic groups’ self-interest.
   e. unlike Vietnam’s insurgency, the Iraqi insurgents oppose the U.S. occupation.

ANS: D  DIF: Difficult  REF: Page 8  TOP: History  MSC: Understanding

17. How did Kant’s view of human nature differ from Hobbes’s and Rousseau’s?
   a. Unlike Kant, Hobbes and Rousseau believed humans were inherently peaceful and unselfish.
   b. Unlike Hobbes and Rousseau, Kant believed humans could learn to improve their situation.
   c. Unlike Kant, Hobbes and Rousseau believed that humans could learn to improve their situation.
   d. Unlike Hobbes and Rousseau, Kant believed that the “state of nature” rendered life nasty, brutish, and short.
   e. Unlike Hobbes and Rousseau, Kant believed that humans always focused only on their self-interest.

ANS: B  DIF: Difficult  REF: Pages 8–10  TOP: Philosophy  MSC: Understanding

18. Which of the following methods are used in the philosophical approach to international relations?
   a. the study of individual cases
   b. the analysis of core texts
   c. the use of empirical methods
   d. the deconstruction of major concepts
   e. the use of simulations

ANS: B  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 8–10  TOP: Developing the answers  MSC: Remembering

19. Philosopher Thomas Hobbes describes what he calls the “state of nature.” What does this concept illustrate?
   a. anarchy
   b. natural law
   c. the “general will”
   d. perpetual peace
   e. environmentalism

ANS: A  DIF: Moderate  REF: Page 9  TOP: Philosophy  MSC: Understanding

20. What does Rousseau’s story of the stag and the hare NOT illustrate?
   a. the problems created when people focus on self-preservation
b. the need for a social contract so the “general will” can be realized

c. the benefits of anarchy

d. the need for small communities

e. his view of the state of nature

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Page 9 TOP: Philosophy
MSC: Remembering

21. Using the comparative method, Aristotle concluded that states rise and fall because of

a. anarchy.
b. the “state of nature.”
c. economics.
d. natural law.
e. internal factors.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate REF: Page 9 TOP: Philosophy
MSC: Remembering

22. The absence of international authority in international relations is known as

a. self-preservation.
b. the “general will.”
c. behavioralism.
d. *Leviathan*.
e. anarchy.

ANS: E DIF: Easy REF: Page 9 TOP: Philosophy
MSC: Remembering

23. The idea that a federation of states can create a world order in which people can live without fear of war derives from the work of

a. Immanuel Kant.
c. Karl Marx.
d. Thomas Hobbes.
e. St. Thomas Aquinas.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Page 10 TOP: Philosophy
MSC: Remembering

24. Posing foundational questions and seeking normative answers are characteristic of a ________ approach to the study of international relations.

a. behavioral
b. postmodern
c. philosophical
d. empirical
e. constructivist

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Page 10 TOP: Philosophy
MSC: Remembering

25. Theory that addresses the ethical content of international affairs and explores what “should be” is known as ________ theory.

a. behavioral
b. diplomatic
c. anarchic
d. normative
e. historical

ANS: D  DIF: Easy  REF: Page 10  TOP: Philosophy  MSC: Remembering

26. The behavioral revolution in American social sciences was spawned primarily by scholars’
a. belief that there are no underlying patterns in international relations.
b. desire to philosophically support their views of human nature.
c. goal of explaining the state of nature.
d. rejection of the scientific method as a tool for the study of international relations.
e. belief that more scientific study of international relations would find underlying patterns of behavior.


27. Which of the following studies is an example of the behavioral approach to the study of international relations?
a. the Correlates of War project
b. the study of the Greenham Common Peace Camp
c. the Republic
d. History of the Peloponnesian War
e. the Communist Manifesto


28. The objective of behavioralists is to gather data on human behavior patterns and then to
a. develop theories that cannot be disproved by alternative theorists.
b. launch projects that will prove the existence of multiple realities.
c. develop and test hypotheses based on these patterns.
d. describe the historical context.
e. cast normative judgments on world leaders.


29. Which of the following methods are used in the behavioral approach to international relations?
a. the study of individual cases
b. the analysis of core texts
c. the use of empirical methods
d. the deconstruction of major concepts
e. discourse analysis

ANS: C  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 10–13  TOP: Developing the answers  MSC: Remembering

30. Behavioralism, one approach used in the study of international relations, posits that
a. democratic states often behave in a warlike manner toward each other.
b. individuals, both alone and in groups, act in predictable ways.
c. rival states dominate each other through territorial conquest.
d. individuals and political institutions are innately good.
e. human behavior is random and unpredictable.

ANS: B        DIF: Easy        REF: Pages 11–12
TOP: Scientific method: Behavioralism        MSC: Remembering

31. What prompted J. David Singer and Melvin Small to undertake the Correlates of War project?
a. a normative concern about how to achieve peace
b. a methodological concern with developing statistical techniques
c. a concern with showing that democracies are more peaceable than nondemocracies
d. a desire to create disorder and multiple meanings in international relations
e. a desire to show that there is no single clear cause of war; it depends on culture, ideology, and other contingent factors

ANS: A        DIF: Moderate        REF: Page 12
TOP: Scientific method: Behavioralism        MSC: Remembering

32. Critics of a behavioral approach to the study of international relations argue that
a. behavioralism focuses too much on the foundational questions of international relations.
b. behavioralists’ attention to methods has overwhelmed the substance of their research.
c. behavioralism needlessly replicates the findings of traditional approaches.
d. human and state behavior are completely unpredictable.
e. behavioralists have already found answers to all the important research questions.

ANS: B        DIF: Moderate        REF: Pages 12–13
TOP: Scientific method: Behavioralism        MSC: Remembering

33. What is the goal of the Correlates of War project?
a. to stop war forever
b. to explain why wars break out
c. to better understand the cause of a few major wars
d. to explain the “state of nature”
e. to understand why there are no wars today

ANS: B        DIF: Easy        REF: Pages 12–13
TOP: Scientific method: Behavioralism        MSC: Remembering

34. Which of the following statements is NOT true of the Correlates of War project?
a. It seeks to develop a coherent theory of why wars occur.
b. It turned out to be a much larger project than originally anticipated.
c. It uses statistical data to try to determine generalizable patterns.
d. It has proven almost all of its testable hypotheses.
e. It only examines certain wars that occurred between 1865 and 1965.

ANS: D        DIF: Difficult        REF: Pages 12–13
TOP: Scientific method: Behavioralism        MSC: Remembering

35. The idea that there are multiple realities based on individual experiences and perspectives, rather than a single objective truth, is fundamental to a _______ approach to the study of international relations.
a. behavioral
b. postmodern
c. realist
36. The theory most focused on economic classes and stratification is
   a. realism.
   b. liberalism.
   c. radicalism.
   d. constructivism.
   e. historicism.
   ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 TOP: Radicalism
   MSC: Remembering

37. Cynthia Weber challenges conventional understandings of sovereignty by arguing that
   a. international relations theory excludes women’s definitions of sovereignty.
   b. the Greenham Common Peace Camp in early 1980s Britain was a sovereign entity.
   c. only strong states are truly sovereign, but smaller states can be considered “semi-sovereign.”
   d. sovereignty has multiple meanings conditioned by time, place, and historical circumstance.
   e. sovereignty is a powerful force in behavioral studies of international relations.
   ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 TOP: Alternative approaches
   MSC: Remembering

38. Postmodernist scholars of international relations seek to
   a. exclude certain voices.
   b. discover and predict patterns of state behavior.
   c. further reinforce hidden meanings that lie below the surface.
   d. replace the theoretical disorder created by behavioralism with a more orderly picture.
   e. deconstruct the basic concepts of the field and replace them with multiple meanings.
   ANS: E DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 TOP: Alternative approaches
   MSC: Remembering

39. Theorists who use alternative methods to study international relations contend that
   a. it is important to study social and cultural factors.
   b. properly conducted research can produce a single unified theory of international relations.
   c. Thucydides’s study of the Peloponnesian War provides the best example of their approach.
   d. social forces with clearly fixed meanings inform all political processes.
   e. state behavior can be measured if one uses the right statistical methods.
   MSC: Remembering

40. Which of the following studies is an example of the alternative approach to the study of international relations?
   a. the Correlates of War project
   b. the study of the Greenham Common Peace Camp
   c. the Republic
41. A number of scholars dissatisfied with historical, philosophical, or behavioral approaches to studying international relations have turned to alternative methods of inquiry that include
   a. statistical analyses that offer greater objectivity.
   b. studying diplomatic history.
   c. analyses of culture, norms, and social practices.
   d. exploring what variables correlate to the frequency of wars over time.
   e. reflecting on relationships between individuals and society.

42. Postmodernists seek to find the voices of “the others” in international relations. Which of the following is an example of such voices?
   a. the voices of political leaders
   b. the voices of corporate executives
   c. the voices of the military
   d. the voices of the disenfranchised and marginalized
   e. the voices of international organizations

43. Which of the following methods are used in alternative approaches to international relations?
   a. the study of individual cases
   b. the analysis of core texts
   c. the use of empirical methods
   d. the deconstruction of major concepts
   e. the use of simulations

44. When studying international relations, constructivists
   a. criticize the use of discourse analysis and multiple sets of data.
   b. trace the impact of ideas and cultural factors on shaping identities.
   c. exclude the influence of social and cultural factors.
   d. use computer models and simulations.
   e. seek permanent definitions of key terms.

45. In the twenty-first century, what accurately describes the methods used by scholars of international relations?
   a. Scholars use a combination of the historical and philosophical approaches.
   b. Since the end of communism in the Soviet Union, scholars no longer have any use for radicalism.
c. Scholars agree that the behavioral approach will be the key method used in the future of international relations.
d. All scholars agree the postmodern approach is most useful.
e. Scholars use a variety of methods.

ANS: E  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 15–16  TOP: Developing the answers
MSC: Understanding

TRUE/FALSE

1. International relations are increasingly driven by central governments and heads of state rather than by ordinary citizens.

ANS: F  DIF: Easy  REF: Page 4  TOP: Interactions with the world
MSC: Remembering

2. Understanding human behavior is one foundation of the study of international relations.

ANS: T  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 4–5
TOP: International relations as a field  MSC: Remembering

3. Realist theory suggests that human nature is basically good and cooperative.

ANS: T  DIF: Easy  REF: Page 6  TOP: Realism
MSC: Remembering

4. Radical theory is rooted in economics.

ANS: T  DIF: Easy  REF: Page 6  TOP: Radicalism
MSC: Remembering

5. Inaccurately applying “lessons” from historical comparisons can lead to poor policy prescriptions.

ANS: T  DIF: Easy  REF: Page 8  TOP: History
MSC: Understanding

6. Immanuel Kant advocated the creation of a “Super Leviathan” to rule over small communities.

ANS: F  DIF: Moderate  REF: Page 10  TOP: Philosophy
MSC: Remembering

7. Behavioralists have proven all of their hypotheses on the causes of war.

ANS: F  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 10–13
TOP: Scientific method: Behavioralism  MSC: Remembering

8. The postmodern approach to international relations calls for an inclusion of traditionally “voiceless” actors such as the women of the Greenham Common Peace Camp.

ANS: T  DIF: Moderate  REF: Pages 13–15  TOP: Alternative approaches
MSC: Remembering
9. Important questions of international relations today cannot be answered with exclusive reliance on any one approach.

ANS: T  DIF: Easy  REF: Page 15  TOP: Developing the answers
MSC: Understanding

10. The theories of international relations are the same as policy positions of real-world leaders.

ANS: F  DIF: Easy  REF: Pages 15–16  TOP: Contending theories
MSC: Remembering

ESSAY

1. Describe how international relations affects your daily life. Draw from your own experiences to illustrate your points, and include some specific ways in which your life might be different without this “international” dimension.

ANS:
Answers will vary.

TOP: Interactions with the world  MSC: Applying

2. Which of the theoretical approaches discussed in the text do you find most appealing and why? What makes the other theoretical approaches relatively less appealing?

ANS:
Answers will vary.

TOP: Contending theories  MSC: Analyzing

3. How valuable are large behavioral studies such as the Correlates of War project? Explain your answer. Do you think this is the best way to study international relations? Why or why not?

ANS:
Answers will vary.

TOP: Scientific method: Behavioralism  MSC: Evaluating

4. Discuss the pros and cons of alternative approaches to the study of international relations, illustrating your points with specific examples taken from the text or drawn from your own original insights. Cite what you regard as the most important contribution to and the most detrimental effect of these approaches on the study of international relations and explain the reasoning behind your assertions.

ANS:
Answers will vary.

TOP: Developing the answers  MSC: Analyzing
5. Select one of the three more prominent theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and apply it to a current international issue or event. Briefly describe the issue or event and the important questions you think it raises, and then explain how your chosen approach might address these questions and help us better understand the issue or event.

ANS:
Answers will vary.

TOP: Developing the answers           MSC: Applying