

Morning Questions: Answer one of the following two questions.

1. IR scholars have traditionally justified separating international and domestic politics by asserting that international politics take place in an anarchic setting, while domestic politics take place in a hierarchical or ordered setting.

- Are there good reasons to doubt either part of this assertion? That is, is there reason to doubt that international politics are clearly anarchic, or that domestic politics are clearly not?
- Should the two fields be treated as separate? Can insights from one inform the other? Why or why not?

2. What are the most significant theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of international relations over the past 25 years?

- In your answer discuss at least one theoretical contribution and one empirical contribution, citing examples from the literature.
- Also, explain how these contributions have advanced the state of the field.
- Finally, discuss some existing weaknesses in the field of international relations that remain even with the contributes you note.

Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in International Relations Spring 2017 Afternoon Exam  
Answer two of the following questions.

1. There is a consensus among IR scholars that domestic politics play a key role in inter-state conflict behavior. In many cases the theoretical link between domestic politics and conflict behavior rests on an argument that democratic institutions have important effects and/or constraints on leaders during international crises. What theoretical reasons and empirical evidence do we have to suggest that democracies and non-democracies behave differently in their interactions with other states? Besides the democratic/non-democratic distinction, what other features of domestic politics might affect the way states interact with each other in foreign policy disputes? Cite relevant research where appropriate.
2. The bargaining model of war dominates the contemporary literature on international conflict. Discuss the advantages and limitations of this analytical framework. Does the model uniquely contribute to our understanding of international conflict (i.e., does it provide any insights that previous explanations for war could not)? Is the bargaining model able to provide a fully comprehensive account for international war? Are there aspects of conflict that it fails to explain? What, if anything, is the model missing? Could it be usefully modified to provide a more complete or realistic account of international conflict? If so, how?
3. At times, it appears we know very little about international conflict management – that is, the field seems to be fragmented and that little knowledge has accumulated. Is this true? Use examples to highlight your position. If the statement is true, how might the field move forward? If the statement is not true, how might the field work to eradicate the perception of its failures?
4. What evidence is there to suggest that international institutions have an independent effect on government behavior? What are the difficulties in identifying the effects of international institutions on state behavior? Discuss how these difficulties can be addressed and cite relevant studies. On balance, does the evidence weigh in favor of or against claims that institutions are important determinants of behavior in IR? Cite relevant studies for at least two policy areas (e.g., security, trade, finance, environmental policy, human rights, humanitarian law, etc.).
5. Assume that explicit assumptions about human decision making are necessary to construct a coherent explanation of state behavior. Critically evaluate rational and cognitive assumptions in terms of their capacity to provide both a theoretical and empirical foundation for studying international relations and for conducting foreign policy analysis.
6. How do individual grievances grow into large-scale, violent, internal conflicts (civil wars)? In your answer discuss the strategic and tactical considerations of the aggrieved in organizing resistance
7. President Trump has criticized the U.S. Intelligence Community for multiple failures in recent times, such as the inability to forecast the 9/11 attacks or the absence of WMDs in Iraq in 2002. How valid is this criticism? In your answer, demonstrate a solid knowledge of the structure and missions of the Intelligence Community; how the "intelligence cycle" might

produce failures from time to time (as well as successes); and what might be done to improve the performance of the Community. Pay attention in your response, also, to the question of intelligence accountability. Ensure, as well, that your answer exhibits an awareness of the scholarly intelligence literature, by citing key experts where appropriate.

8. How has the international human rights regime affected the quality of human life globally? In your answer, you should:

- Describe the international human rights regime.
- Discuss the types of actors that interact with that regime and the effects of their human rights-directed efforts.
- Provide suggestions for the improvement of the international human rights regime or, if it cannot be improved, explain why not.

9. What makes deterrence work?

- Identify what you believe to be the necessary conditions for effective deterrence and the factors affect these conditions.
- Are there important differences in the dynamics of deterrence across the various conflict domains (e.g. conventional, nuclear, cyber, etc.).
- Does decision maker perception matter? If so, how? If not, why not.

10. Over the last twenty-five years, research in political economy has increasingly adopted either a factoral or sectoral model of societal preferences over foreign economic policies. Are these approaches competing or complementary?

- In your answer, explain the factoral and sectoral models by using them to derive the preferences for various societal groups over trade, monetary, and exchange rate policies.
- If you argue that they are competing, explain how we should select between them and then use your criteria to state which one is preferred.
- If you argue that they are complementary, discuss how they should be combined.
- Finally, evaluate the extent to which these preference-based models explain and predict policy outcomes.