



**SEMESTER TWO 2023-2024**

**ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

**IP20120 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: PERSPECTIVES AND DEBATES**

Time allowed: **2 HOURS.**

Please answer **TWO** questions, **ONE** question from **EACH** section

**CALCULATORS ARE NOT PERMITTED**

STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER  
WELSH OR ENGLISH

Once seated, students may complete the front cover of the answer  
book(s) and the attendance slip **ONLY.**

**DO NOT TURN THE EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER OVER UNTIL  
INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**

## Section 1

1. Compare and contrast the understandings of anarchy to be found in **two** different IR theories. What are the consequences of these understandings for the possibility of change in international politics?
2. Why are some scholars turning to the concept of 'geopolitics' to understand contemporary political dynamics? What are some of the potential benefits and downsides of this development?
3. Is imperialism best understood as a consequence of capitalism or the structure of the international system?
4. How does including an analysis of gender dynamics change how war is understood?
5. Which is the most appropriate concept for the study of international politics: system, society, or empire?

## Section 2

1. What kind of disagreements are there among scholars of IR regarding the nature and purpose of theorising? What do you think the purpose of IR theory should be and why?

2. Outline some key reasons why *international* politics requires its own set of concepts and theoretical approaches. Do so with reference to at least **two** theoretical approaches.
  
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of IR theories that stress the importance of economic factors? Discuss at least **two** theories.
  
4. Discuss **one** issue, event or process of contemporary international politics with reference to at least **two** theories. In what ways might the explanations or understandings provided by those theories differ or agree on this topic?
  
5. Is the field of IR theory as you've encountered it in this module adequate for understanding international politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Why or why not?