

IR Comprehensive Exam - January 2025

Choose one question to answer from each section.

THEORY

1. Please read and refer to the article listed below when addressing the following question: Farrell and Newman's term "Weaponized Interdependence" has important currency now in the way we understand international relations. What are the intellectual antecedent and departures for this approach? Do you agree or disagree with the authors? Why?

Farrell, Henry, and Abraham L. Newman. "Weaponized interdependence: How global economic networks shape state coercion." International Security 44, no. 1 (2019): 42-79.)

2. Please read and refer to the article below when addressing the following question: The security dilemma is among the most foundational concepts in international relations. How has it contributed to our understanding of international politics? How has it limited our understanding of the same? Can we improve on the concept? If so, how? If not, why?

Herz, John H. "Idealist Internationalism and the Security Dilemma." World Politics 2, no. 2 (Jan., 1950): 157-180.

POLICY

1. Please read and refer to the article listed below when addressing the following question: Grewal's approach is one of the latest to analyze the demise of the so-called liberal international order that came into being after the Second World War. Assess Grewal's contribution in light historical and current events.

Grewal, David Singh. "World Historical Gamble: The Failure of Neoliberal Globalization." American Affairs. 20 November 2022.

2. Please read and refer to the article below when addressing the following question: How should we assess the risk of nuclear use in the coming decade? Should we be confident that the "nuclear taboo" will continue to hold? If so, why? If not, what has changed since Tannenwald wrote this piece (or was she wrong in the first place)?

Tannenwald, Nina. "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-use." International Organization 53, no. 3 (1999): 433-468.

METHODS

1. Please read and refer to the article listed below when addressing the following question: Role play and assume Jeff Colgan is right. How might we correct for this bias and data? Design a research project, ideally centered around this or another data set, where the “American bias” is minimized.

Colgan, Jeff D. "American bias in global security studies data." *Journal of Global Security Studies* 4, no. 3 (2019): 358-371.

2. Please read and refer to the article below when addressing the following question: The Democratic Peace Theory has been called the closest thing we have to an empirical law in the study of international relations. The article referenced below was particularly influential. Three decades on, how should we assess this study’s methodological rigor? What did it do well? Where does it fall short? And how might you improve upon it if you were to replicate it today?

Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. “Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986.” American Political Science Review, 87, no. 3 (September 1993): 624-638.