



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Politics

Paper 3: Comparative Politics – Global Politics
(9PL0/3B)

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

How to award marks when level descriptions are used

1. Finding the right level

The first stage is to decide which level the answer should be placed in. To do this, use a 'best-fit' approach, deciding which level most closely describes the quality of the answer. Answers can display characteristics from more than one level, and where this happens markers must use the guidance below and their professional judgement to decide which level is most appropriate.

For example, one stronger passage at L4 would not by itself merit a L4 mark, but it might be evidence to support a high L3 mark, unless there are substantial weaknesses in other areas. Similarly, an answer that fits best in L3 but which has some characteristics of L2 might be placed at the bottom of L3. An answer displaying some characteristics of L3 and some of L1 might be placed in L2.

2. Finding a mark within a level

After a level has been decided on, the next stage is to decide on the mark within the level. The instructions below tell you how to reward responses within a level. However, where a level has specific guidance about how to place an answer within a level, always follow that guidance.

Levels containing two marks only

Start with the presumption that the work will be at the top of the level. Move down to the lower mark if the work only just meets the requirements of the level.

Levels containing three or more marks

Markers should be prepared to use the full range of marks available in a level and not restrict marks to the middle. Markers should start at the middle of the level (or the upper-middle mark if there is an even number of marks) and then move the mark up or down to find the best mark. To do this, they should take into account how far the answer meets the requirements of the level:

- If it meets the requirements *fully*, markers should be prepared to award full marks within the level. The top mark in the level is used for answers that are as good as can realistically be expected within that level
- If it only *barely* meets the requirements of the level, markers should consider awarding marks at the bottom of the level. The bottom mark in the level is used for answers that are the weakest that can be expected within that level
- The middle marks of the level are used for answers that have a *reasonable* match to the descriptor. This might represent a balance between some characteristics of the level that are fully met and others that are only barely met.

Indicative content

Examiners are reminded that indicative content is provided as an illustration to markers of some of the material that may be offered by students. It does not show required content and alternatives should be credited where valid.

Paper 3B: Comparative Politics: Global mark scheme

Section A

Guidelines for Questions 1a and 1b
AO1 (6 marks), AO2 (6 marks)
AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis (AO2). AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical skills to address the question – such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.
Candidates who refer to only one institution cannot achieve beyond Level 1.
Accept any other valid responses.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis (AO1). • Limited comparative analysis of aspects of politics with partial, logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis (AO1). • Some emerging comparative analysis of aspects of politics with some focused logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis (AO1). • Mostly focused comparative analysis of aspects of politics with focused, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 4	10–12	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis (AO1). • Consistent comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content Examine the similarities between the role and significance of the UN Security Council and the role and significance of NATO.
1(a)	AO1 (6 marks), AO2 (6 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) of the similarities between the role and significance of the UN Security Council and NATO. • The UN Security Council was formed immediately after WW2 and NATO was formed in 1949 with both organisations committed to providing post war collective security roles. • The organisations are similar in that they can and have taken significant military action. • The organisations are similar in that they have focussed on tackling global issues of concern and significance, beyond conflict. • The organisations are similar in that they represent some of the most powerful and significant states in the world. • The organisations are similar in that they are exclusive and have a restricted membership. Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) when examining the similarities between the role and significance of the UN Security Council and NATO. • NATO originally had 12 members and has grown since with Article 5 providing a security commitment of collective defence, originally against the threat of military action from the Soviet bloc and the Security Council was formed to provide collective global security which means that security is at the core of the role that both organisations provide. • The Security Council has authorised the use of force in Korea in the 1950s and as a response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, NATO has taken military action in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere which means that both have a military role and significance in global politics. Equally both have had times when they could not agree on action such as the UN in Iraq and NATO in Ukraine. • There are numerous Security Council resolutions concerning issues such as the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, use of children in armed conflict or support for criminal tribunals whilst NATO has been involved in issues such as anti-piracy or earthquake relief which illustrate a wide role and significance for both organisations. • The Security Council, permanent members, are 5 of the most powerful and significant states in the world judged both by economic and military power (US, Russia, UK, China and France), all are now nuclear powers and NATO is the most powerful and significant military regional collective of states with both nuclear powers and economically powerful member states including the US, UK, France, Canada etc. • Membership of NATO may have increased to 30 (March 2023) over time but there are strict criteria for membership which include military forces being under firm civilian control, upholding of democracy etc and the UN Security Council permanent membership is restricted to just 5 states by

	Article 23 although ten further members are elected on rotation every two years.
	Accept any other valid responses.

Question number	Indicative content Examine the differences between great powers and superpowers.
1(b)	AO1 (6 marks), AO2 (6 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) of the differences between great powers and superpowers. • The term Great powers tends to be a historic term originating in the 19thC whereas the term Superpower originated in 1944. • Great powers tended to be considered states that held some elements of significant population, territory, resources, economic strength and military strength whereas Superpowers were considered to hold all of the characteristics of Great Powers as well as ideological significance and, eventually, nuclear weapons capability. • Great powers generally considered to be able to project power beyond their own geographical region whereas Superpowers tend to be considered to hold global power projection. • Great powers tended to be linked with the concept of multipolarity whereas Superpowers seemed to apply predominantly to just two states- bipolarity. • Great powers tended to impact on particular areas of the globe with other areas not truly affected whereas Superpowers had a global reach and impact and most global events were impacted on by superpowers or considered in terms of the superpower interest and competition and the actions of all other states tended to be influenced by the superpowers. Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) when examining the differences between great powers and superpowers. • Great Powers and Superpowers were dominant at different historical periods. The term 'great power' originates from the 19thC and the Congress of Vienna is seen by many to have recognised the earliest Great Powers as Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia and Russia whereas the term Superpower is a far more modern term which originated with William Fox in 1944. • Unlike Great Powers, the Superpowers were able to use ideology as a form of influence or control over their areas of control. The United States was seen as the leading liberal democratic capitalist state and the Soviet Union was considered to be the leading advocate for communism. • Great Powers like Great Britain, France and Germany tended to have interests and influence beyond their immediate region but with some restriction whereas Superpowers had sufficient economic and military strength to be able to project power in every part of the world, often

through leadership of global alliances or through treaties and agreements like NATO or the Warsaw Pact or Comintern.

- The Great Power period is considered to be a clear example of multipolarity which some political theorists consider to be more or less dangerous than the period in which Superpowers were dominant and which is generally described as a period of bipolarity in which US and Soviet Union dominance was so advanced as to render other states of relative insignificance.
- The Great power period was characterised by shifting alliances and agreements between several states with corresponding impact on global security whereas the Superpowers tended to have fixed alliances and an absolute focus on a single rival clashed over certain areas of territory, Superpowers clashed globally in areas such as Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Berlin and Cuba and superpowers were so influential that no significant action could be taken by members of the global community without considering the positions of the superpowers.

Accept any other valid responses.

Section B

Guidelines for Question 2

AO1 (6 marks), AO2 (6 marks)

This question requires candidates to draw on their knowledge and understanding of Global comparative theories and relevant core politics ideas (AO1) and this will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis (AO2). AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical skills to address the question – such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.

Candidates who refer to only one named theory cannot achieve beyond Level 1.

Candidates who do not make any synoptic points cannot achieve beyond Level 3.

Accept any other valid responses.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis. Makes limited synoptic points (AO1). • Limited comparative analysis of aspects of politics with partial, logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis. Makes some relevant synoptic points (AO1). • Some emerging comparative analysis of aspects of politics with some focused logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis. Makes relevant synoptic points (AO1). • Mostly focused comparative analysis of aspects of politics with focused, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 4	10–12	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis. Makes cohesive synoptic points (AO1). • Consistent comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences within aspects of politics, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content Analyse the differences between the realist and liberal views of the inevitability of war.
2	AO1 (6 marks), AO2 (6 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) when considering the differences between the realist and liberal view of the inevitability of war. Realists/Liberals believe that: • Unlike liberals, realists believe that war is inevitable based on their view of human nature. • Unlike liberals, realists believe that war is inevitable based on their view of an anarchical system. • The realist perspective on the Security Dilemma explains why, unlike liberals, they see an inevitability of war and conflict. • Unlike realists, liberals see a growth in complex interdependence as reducing the likelihood of war and conflict and providing for harmony and balance. • The realist concept of the billiard ball model helps to explain why states are unlikely to achieve peace and harmony. Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) to examine the differences between the realist and liberal view of the inevitability of war. • Realist thinkers like Morgenthau believe that humans are self-centred and pursue their interests above and beyond any concern for harmony and balance and that causes an instability and tension which will make war inevitable whereas liberals believe that humans are guided more by reason which can provide harmony and balance. • The idea of an anarchical system is that there is no hierarchical, superior power that can provide the stability required for harmony and balance and that this leaves states in a self-help system where war is inevitable. • The Security Dilemma occurs when one state takes action to increase its security leading to other states following suit which in turn leads to unstable arms races and then to war and conflict which makes harmony and balance impossible. • Complex interdependence describes how states are increasingly linked through international organisations, trade and the need to resolve global issues which can't be resolved at a state level, thus complex interdependence makes war and conflict far less likely between states, linked to the Kantian Triangle as states find common ground. • Realists believe in the billiard ball model in which states collide based on different interests and that the anarchy connected with the billiard ball model will make war inevitable unlike liberals who believe in a more harmonious cobweb model where harmony and balance can develop. Accept any other valid responses.

Synoptic Element – Candidates may refer to the following when analysing core political ideas:

Conservatism core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy.	Hobbes-and the consequences of this for the state system and for likelihood of cooperation, his negative view of human nature and the dangers to civil society and likelihood of conflict.
Socialism core ideas and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy.	Greater optimism on human nature linked to the natural relationship among humans being cooperation and work for the common good – Marx - which makes the idea of a global society order and cooperation likely.
Liberalism core ideas and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy.	Emphasis on the benefits of mutual cooperation and order and avoidance of war from both an economic and practical position – Locke.

Section C

Guidelines for Marking Questions 3a–3c
AO1 (10 marks) Marks here relate to knowledge and understanding. It should be used to underpin analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3).
AO2 (10 marks) Candidates should form analytical views which support and reject the view presented by the question.
AO3 (10 marks) Candidates are expected to evaluate the information and arguments presented. They may rank the importance of the prior analysis. They should be able to make and form judgments and they should reach reasoned conclusion.
Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. The judgement a candidate reaches about these views should be reflected in their conclusion. Candidates who have not considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2. Other valid responses are acceptable.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited analysis of aspects of politics with partial, logical chains of reasoning, which makes simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many which are descriptive and lead to limited unsubstantiated conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some emerging analysis of aspects of politics with some focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing occasionally effective arguments and judgements, some are partially substantiated and lead to generic conclusions without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused analysis of aspects of politics with focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs generally relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing generally effective arguments and judgements, many of which are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent logical chains of reasoning, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing mostly effective arguments and judgements, which are mostly substantiated and lead to mostly focused, justified conclusions (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	• Demonstrates thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are effectively selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Perceptive analysis of aspects of politics, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning, which make cohesive and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs fully relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing fully effective substantiated arguments and judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to fully focused and justified conclusions (AO3).

Question number	Indicative content Evaluate the view that regional organisations have played a key role in addressing contemporary global issues.
3(a)	AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that, regional bodies have played a key role in addressing contemporary global issues.: Agreement • Regional bodies allow states to cooperate for their mutual benefit over a range of political issues with a greater chance of success than global bodies through cooperation in areas like the EU response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. • Regional bodies encourage interdependence between states which enhances cooperation and may reduce likelihood of conflict. • Regional bodies have worked with the international community in areas like the environment and human rights protection. • Regional bodies have worked with the international community in areas like free trade and economic growth to enhance prosperity and reduce poverty. Disagreement • The key decision bodies tend to be at a global level including Security Council, G8 or G20 or IMF etc. • Regional bodies tend only to have an economic focus, and some have been accused of acting in a way which causes poverty elsewhere. • Regional bodies tend to have significant divisions which stop them taking addressing and resolving global issues. • It would be more accurate to say that the EU, uniquely amongst regional bodies, has played a key role in addressing and resolving contemporary global issues. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view: • The European Union has been able to apply a greater degree of pressure on Russia as a united bloc than as a collection of individual states which includes freezing the assets of individuals and banks, imposing travel bans and restricting transactions with Russian financial institutions and has been better able to resist counter pressure from Russia (AO2) We may conclude that the EU, as an example of a regional body, has been able to play a key role, through cooperation and collaboration, in trying to address this particular global issue (AO3). • Regional bodies become interdependent , particularly through trade and single tariff free markets and develop a form of complex interdependence which encourages them to resolve issues between them over a range of areas in order to ensure continued prosperity, with the ECJ as an example of an institution which makes decisions which states usually accept (AO2) We may conclude that the interdependency which regionalism encourages amongst member states within regional bodies is a positive force for resolving disagreement between member states which helps to address global issues (AO3). • NAFTA had created a North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, ASEAN has created several reports, held meetings and made declarations on the environment and the EU has been a significant force in climate change agreements as a sign that regional bodies are willing to play a key role in areas affecting the global environment (AO2) We may conclude that the involvement of so many regional bodies in such discussions and global agreements back to Kyoto, Copenhagen and Paris

clearly illustrates that they play a key role in addressing global issues (AO3).

- The North American Agreement on Labour cooperation to improve workers' rights, the commitment of the AU to tackle poverty and establish a single market and currency similar to that already created by the EU and the growing free trade movement in ASEAN are all indications that regional bodies have a focus on the benefits of trade(AO2) We may conclude that regional bodies are almost always focused on one of the greatest contemporary global issues which is economic growth tied to reduction of poverty (AO3).

Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- The UN Security Council is recognised as the most significant decision maker when it comes to global political issues, particularly relating to peace and security and the WTO, IMF, W Bank, G7 and G20 dominate economic decision making rather than regional bodies AO2) We may conclude that, states and global bodies mostly made up of states are still the key bodies making decisions that address global issues (AO3).
- It is no coincidence that most regional bodies have a focus on economic growth and prosperity with NAFTA. As its title suggests, focussing on free trade when formed and the EU, originally EEC focussed on economic matters and increased trade rather than wider global issues and there have been allegations that the actions of bodies like the EU have restricted access to its markets for other states who have consequently suffered economically leading potentially to poverty (AO2) We may conclude that regional bodies have a very narrow focus and have taken actions which have worsened global issues like poverty rather than addressing global issues (AO3).
- The UK withdrew from the EU in 2020, divisions within the EU caused a paralysis during the Iraq war, there were divisions over how to respond during the eurozone crisis and disagreements have hampered the ability of the EU to develop a full foreign and security policy whilst divisions in NAFTA led to its replacement and ASEAN has seen recent rifts over Russian invasion of Ukraine and the military coup in Myanmar as signs of division in regional bodies (AO2) We may conclude that too often regional bodies have such sizeable divisions that they are unable to play a key role in addressing global issues (AO3).
- The European Union has taken foreign policy decisions relating to the environment, poverty, conflict in Ukraine and is a member of G20 and an invitee to G7 where key political decisions are taken but it is alone in being in such a position with no other regional body anywhere near as actively involved in global politics (AO2) We may conclude that regional bodies, collectively, do not play a key role in addressing and resolving contemporary global issues and that the EU, as an exception, still doesn't play a role comparable with the major state powers in global politics (AO3).

Accept any other valid responses.

Question number	Indicative content Evaluate the view that international law and international human rights institutions have a significant impact on state sovereignty.
3(b)	AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that that international law and international human rights institutions have a significant impact on state sovereignty: Agreement • There has been a significant increase in the number of human rights institutions responsible for human rights law, including the UN special tribunals and the International Criminal Court which take actions that impact on state sovereignty including prosecutions. • There has been an increase in the number of actions taken by human rights institutions responsible for human rights law including the European Court of Human Rights which impact on state sovereignty. • There is a view that organisations responsible for international law in relation to human rights are western dominated and that they act as a form of neo-colonialism with the intention of controlling sovereign states. • States feel more and more willing to accept the judgements of international law and human rights institutions or feel obliged to obey them because of interconnectedness and state norms including R2P. Disagreement • There are many examples, including recent examples such as Ukraine, where states simply ignore human rights law and institutions. • Human rights law and human rights institutions tend not to be backed up with enforcement powers as states retain control over such powers. • Sources of rights are disputed with sources of authority ranging from conventions to custom, general principles and judicial decisions which allows states to pick and choose when to accept. • The most significant global powers often refuse to engage with international law, bodies and institutions where they decide that they don't wish to or arrange opt outs. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view: • The UN Special Tribunals for Rwanda and Yugoslavia were created in the 1990s and the International Criminal Court was established in 2002, building on the establishment of the ECHR which led to the creation of the UK Human Rights Act as well as numerous UN treaties including the 1948 declaration of Human Rights and 1951 Refugee Convention, all indicating that there is an increasing amount of law that states are under pressure to recognise and accept (AO2) We may conclude that an increase in the amount of human rights legislation , treaties and agreements inevitably impacts on state sovereignty and ability to take actions which conflicts with these agreements (AO3). • The ECHR currently (2023) has a backlog of approx. 150,000 applications from individuals seeking redress for alleged violations of the European Convention on Human Rights and the ICC to 2023 had had 31 cases before the court and had issued 38 arrest warrants which illustrates the increasing involvement of human rights courts in human

rights cases involving states or individuals usually subject to state law and protection(AO2) We may conclude that the increasing involvement of judicial bodies, courts and tribunals at a global level, acting within the jurisdiction of states, is a clear indication that state sovereignty is being significantly impacted (AO3).

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has received criticism from numerous quarters for having a western focus and perspective and indeed the Bangkok Declaration of 1993 and Cairo Declaration of 1990 outline concerns that western perspectives in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and generally do impact on state sovereignty (AO2) We may conclude that such open statements condemning the impact on state sovereignty make clear that there is a significant impact on state sovereignty (AO3).
- R2P serves as an example where states are required to intervene despite the concept of state sovereignty and in an interconnected world based on complex interconnectedness, it is very difficult for states to ignore human rights condemnation, often because adherence to human rights laws, treaties, norms and agreements is often tied to trade and other agreements which benefits states(AO2) We may conclude that states are forced to accept concepts like R2P and adhere to human rights agreements in order to receive other benefits or to avoid damaging action and that this clearly undermines their decision making and their sovereignty (AO3).

Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- Russia has been accused of human rights violations in Ukraine and the USA was accused of violations in Afghanistan and Iraq whilst China has been accused of human rights violations against the Uyghurs within China but they are able to block any proposed action in bodies such as the UN Security Council (AO2) We may conclude that states being able to ignore existing human rights law or block actions against themselves and/or allies makes clear that state sovereignty is not significantly impacted.
- International law and institutions lack any standing force to carry out arrest warrants or to take military or enforcement action without the support of states who would have to supply such forces and prosecutions tend only to have taken place where sovereign states have decided to allow for prosecutions of their citizens such as Milosevic in Yugoslavia (AO2) We may conclude that if prosecutions and similar actions only take place on the decision of sovereign states then state sovereignty is not being significantly impacted (AO3).
- Disagreements over human rights including definition, legitimacy of sources, universality and right of the international community to act within states means that states pick and choose when to acknowledge and accept certain human rights international law and when to ignore it (AO2) If states are able to decide when to acknowledge and when to ignore then they are retaining state sovereignty (AO3).
- The ICC is a clear example where states have decided not to fully engage with the absence of key states like the USA, China, Russia and India as well as criticism from groups like the African Union making it very difficult indeed for the ICC to take any action which states are not willing to accept(AO2) We may conclude that the lack of support from the major global powers so reduces the ability of bodies like the ICC to act that they are unable to significantly impact on state sovereignty (AO3).

Accept any other valid responses.

Question number	Indicative content Evaluate the view that world order since 2000 is more multipolar than unipolar.
3(c)	AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that world order since 2000 is more multipolar than unipolar: Agreement • The USA has had the largest economy in the world but the spectacular rise of China, India and the joint power of regional bodies like the EU has weakened USA dominance and unipolarity. • With economic growth, we have seen increased Chinese military expenditure and Russia has been willing to flex its military might as one of a number of nuclear weapons powers to challenge unipolarity. • There are 5 members of the UN Security Council with Veto powers including China, Russia, Britain and France and G7 and G20 (which includes the EU) are signs of a wider level of global multipolarity. • USA soft power has diminished in recent years linked to actions in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, refusal to support the ICC and due to the actions of Donald Trump. Disagreement • The USA continues to hold the largest economy in the world with a GDP of approximately \$25 Trillion according to IMF estimates in 2023 and economic power is considered a key element in consideration of state power. • The International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates that the USA spent \$738 Billion in 2022 on military which was more than the next 10 largest military spenders combined and military strength is considered key in determining the power of states. • The USA has key structural power in bodies like the IMF, W.Bank and UN Security Council plus G7. • The USA culture, ideology and institutions are attractive to other states and peoples and are identified uniquely across the globe. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view: • China has seen spectacular export led economic growth in the last few decades and is predicted to overtake the size of the US economy in the near future whilst similar growth has taken place in India and elsewhere (AO2) We may conclude that the era of USA economic dominance is ending and that the emergence of other significant economies means that the world has become multipolar rather than dominated by a single state – unipolar (AO3). • There are nine existing nuclear powers including a smaller number with global reach which makes nuclear weapons a great leveller in global politics and recent Chinese spending on more modern military technology in support of the largest military personnel in the world has caused alarm (AO2) We may conclude that the continued inevitable rise in the military power of China and the ability of other states, over and above the USA to carry out global nuclear strikes means that USA unipolarity has now ended, to be replaced by multipolarity (AO3). • With the end of the Cold War and relative demise of Russia, the USA was left almost unopposed in the UN SC and other structural power bodies but a resurgent Russia and an awakened China are now more likely to oppose the USA through the SC and the increased share

ownership of other states in bodies like the IMF and W Bank (AO2) We may conclude that the emergence of multi state decision making bodies like these and the G20 make clear that unipolarity has now been replaced by multi state decision making and by multipolarity (AO3).

- George Bush announced a New World Order to define a post-Cold War era in 1991 which was broadly seen as being a unipolar US led period but the discrediting of the USA following the illegal Iraq war, refusal to adopt certain global warming agreements and other actions have arguably weakened USA leadership of the world and have allowed other actors, including the EU, to adopt a degree of leadership (AO2) We may conclude that a relative USA disengagement from bodies like the ICC and agreements like Paris coupled with allegations of human rights breaches have allowed other actors to wrestle a degree of soft power from the USA which has shifted the world from unipolarity to multipolarity.

Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- Having the largest economy in the world and ownership of the largest TNCs, the dominant global economic model(neo-liberalism) and with the USA dollar remaining the world's most significant trading currency, gives the USA huge economic leverage in global politics (AO2) We may conclude that there are no other states able to exert the same economic leverage in global politics that the USA holds and that that ensures that USA hegemony and unipolarity continues (AO3).
- The USA not only spends much more than any competitor on military expenditure but has an aircraft carrier fleet which is incomparable and allows for true global military invention and reach alongside weapons systems that are technologically in advance of any other competitor (AO2) We may conclude that the USA is so far in advance of competitors militarily, including in terms of technology and global reach that it retains hegemony in a unipolar system (AO3).
- The USA is unique in holding membership of what are commonly considered to be the key political global governance bodies including the SC, G7 which neither China or Russia is a member of and retains a degree of political control over the IMF and W Bank based on contributions and share ownership, influence over appointments(AO2) We may conclude that this absolute unique position in membership of the key political decision makers in global politics allows the USA to remain dominant in what is still a unipolar system(AO3).
- The USA is still seen as the global leader with cultural icons recognisable globally including in film and music as well as technological brands and in sport and the USA is seen as the leader of the democratic world and as leader in global summits and conferences (AO2) We may conclude that as no other state enjoys anywhere near the same level of global influence that the USA remains the global hegemon in what is still a unipolar system (AO3).

Accept any other valid responses.

