

4.9 Challenges to Sovereignty

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS supranational organization 超国家组织 • devolution 权力下放 • challenges to sovereignty 主权面临的挑战
• state 国家 • sovereignty 主权

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **challenges to sovereignty** 主权面临的挑战.

You must be able to:

- define a **supranational organization** 超国家组织
- give an example (UN, EU) and its purpose
- explain how supranationalism can limit sovereignty
- explain how devolution challenges sovereignty from within

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Supranational organizations

A **supranational organization** is an alliance of states pooling some power for shared goals — trade, security, or cooperation (e.g. the UN, the EU).

■ Limiting sovereignty from above

Joining such a body means accepting shared rules, so a state gives up some **sovereignty** in exchange for benefits like open trade or collective security.

■ Challenges from within

Devolution and separatist movements challenge sovereignty from below, as regions seek to take power from the central state.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a supranational organization and give one example. [2]

2.2 Explain how joining a supranational body can reduce a state's sovereignty. [2]

2.3 A state faces a strong regional independence movement and also belongs to a trade union of states.

(a) Name the challenge to sovereignty from below. [1]

(b) Name the challenge from above. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The United Nations is best described as a [1]

- **A** unitary state
- **B** supranational organization
- **C** stateless nation
- **D** relict boundary

3.2 A country accepting a trade bloc's shared regulations has traded some sovereignty for [1]

- **A** isolation
- **B** economic benefits
- **C** a relict boundary
- **D** higher fertility

3.3 A trade bloc sets rules its members must all follow.

(a) Explain one benefit a member gains. [1]

(b) Explain one cost to its sovereignty.

[1]

Solutions

2.1 an alliance of states pooling power for common goals; e.g. the UN or the EU.

2.2 the state must follow shared rules/decisions; it gives up some independent control in return for benefits.

2.3 (a) devolution / separatism. (b) supranationalism.

3.1 B. a body of many states cooperating = supranational organization.

3.2 B. states pool sovereignty to gain trade/economic benefits.

3.3 (a) access to a large open market / shared security. (b) it must follow common rules it did not set alone.