Thematic studies

IB DP Global Politics thematic studies: rights and justice, development and sustainability, peace and conflict

Three thematic studies

> What changed, who made it happen, and who was left behind?

- Each theme is studied through real, recent cases.
- Paper 2: 1 hour 30; 40% at SL, 30% at HL.

Extreme poverty fell

From more than one in three people in 1990 to under one in ten by 2019.

- In China alone, close to 800 million escaped extreme poverty after 1980.
- Wars in Syria, Yemen and Sudan forced millions from home.

From declaration to treaty

> The UDHR (1948) set the standard; two 1966 treaties made it binding.

- **Human rights**: rights every person has because they are human.
- The 1966 treaties bind the states that join them.

Three generations of rights

Generation	Type	Examples
first	civil and political	free speech, fair trial, vote
second	economic, social, cultural	education, health, work
third	collective	development, environment, peace

Universalism and relativism

Universalism

The same rights apply everywhere.

Cultural relativism

Rights must be understood within each society's culture and values.

The International Criminal Court

What it does

Rome Statute 1998, working since 2002.

Tries individuals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Its limit

More than 120 members.

But not the United States, China, Russia or India.

The responsibility to protect

> Libya 2011 shaped what the Council would not do in Syria.

- Each state must protect its people from mass atrocities.
- If it fails, others may act through the UN.

Development as freedom

> The HDI combines life expectancy, schooling and income.

- Amartya Sen: expanding the real freedoms people have.
- The HDI has been published since 1990.

From MDGs to SDGs

Framework	Years	Goals
MDGs	2000–2015	8, mainly for poorer countries
SDGs	2015–2030	17, for every country

Sustainable development

> "Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations."

- The Brundtland Report, 1987.
- Today's needs, without taking from tomorrow.

Four debates for essays

Debate	For	Against
aid	schools, health systems	dependence, weak governments
trade	East Asia grew fast	rich-country subsidies, tariffs
debt	loans for growth	structural adjustment hurt the poor
inequality	poverty falls	the gap still widens

Interstate and intrastate

Interstate

Between states.

Intrastate

Inside one state, such as a civil war.

Most wars since 1945.

Negative and positive peace

A ceasefire brings **negative peace**; **positive peace** takes years.

- Johan Galtung: negative peace is the absence of violence.
- **Structural violence**: harm from unfair structures.

Force and the UN Charter

> Article 2(4) bans force; Article 51 and Chapter VII are the exceptions.

- The **UN Charter**, 1945.
- A ban with two exceptions.

Peacekeeping

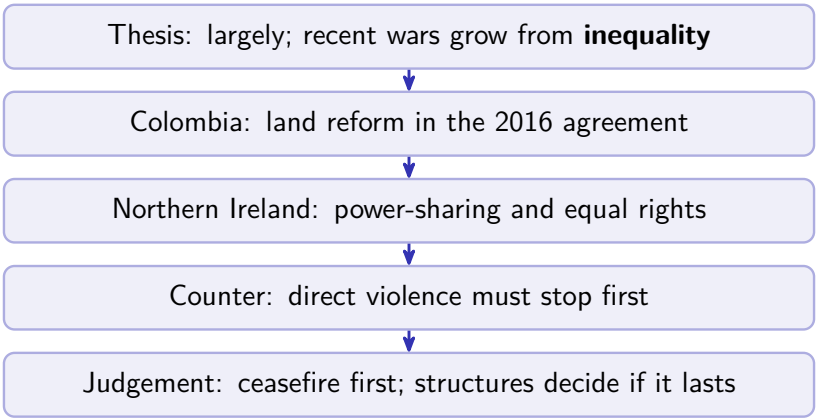
> Consent, impartiality, and force only in **self-defence** or for the mandate.

- Peacekeepers keep a peace the parties have agreed.
- Without political will, they cannot stop mass killing.

Three cases

Case	What happened	What it shows
Rwanda, 1994	800,000 killed in 100 days	no will, no protection
N. Ireland, 1998	a shared government	power-sharing ends violence
Colombia, 2016	a deal ended 50 years of war	**positive peace** is slower

An essay plan



Check yourself

