Global political challenges

IB DP Global Politics HL extension: global political challenges and Paper 3

Pakistan, August 2022

> One flood joined four challenges.

- Monsoon rain and melting glaciers: about a third of the country under water.
- More than 1,700 dead; about 33 million affected.

Small emitter, big damage

> Those who caused least can suffer most.

- Pakistan produces less than 1% of world greenhouse gases.
- It suffered some of the worst effects.

The HL extension and Paper 3

> **Stimulus** plus your own cases, analysed.

- Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes, 30% of the HL grade.
- You research real, recent cases yourself.

Eight challenges

Borders, environment, equality, health, identity, poverty, security, technology.

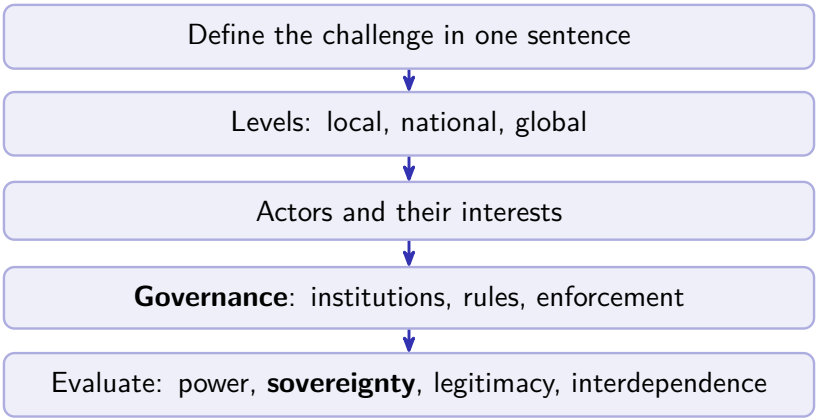
- Each crosses borders.
- Cases often touch several at once.

What makes a challenge

> Across borders, many actors, a fight over who acts.

- It crosses borders and affects many actors.
- It causes disagreement about who should act and who should pay.

Five steps


Define the challenge in one sentence
Levels: local, national, global
Actors and their interests
Governance: institutions, rules, enforcement
Evaluate: power, **sovereignty**, legitimacy, interdependence

Levels

> A flood is local, national and global at once.

- How the challenge appears locally, nationally and globally.
- And how the levels affect each other.

Climate: three agreements

> From binding cuts for a few to targets set by all.

- A global problem, but emissions are controlled by sovereign states.
- Paris: well below 2 °C, aiming for 1.5 °C.

Paris: strength and weakness

Strength

Almost every state has joined.

Each sets its own target.

Weakness

No punishment for missing a target.

All NDCs together are not enough.

The collective action problem

> Each state has a reason to let others pay.

- Cutting emissions costs the state that cuts.
- The benefit is shared by everyone.

Health: COVID-19

The WHO can

Advise.

Set standards.

Coordinate.

The WHO cannot

Force states to act.

COVAX: nearly 2 billion doses, but late.

Borders: forced migration

States control borders; refugees have rights.

- 1951 **Refugee Convention**: a well-founded fear of persecution.
- A **refugee** must not be sent back to danger.

Technology: artificial intelligence

> Should companies or states set the rules?

- EU AI Act (2024): the first broad law on AI.
- Others prefer voluntary rules or national laws.

Chains of challenges

> One challenge makes the next one worse.

- Paper 3 often asks how challenges connect.
- Use a chain: starting point, leads to, then to.

A pandemic chain

> A health crisis becomes a crisis of trust.

- Health leads to poverty and inequality.
- Then trust and legitimacy fall.

Worked plan: case 1

Pakistan 2022: four challenges in one chain.

- "Examine the links between multiple global political challenges."
- Thesis: poverty and equality make every challenge hit the poorest hardest.

Worked plan: case 2 and judgement

1. **Case 2** COVID-19: health $\rightarrow$ poverty $\rightarrow$ late vaccines
2. **Counter** technology spread vaccines and information fast
3. **Judge** institutions act one challenge at a time

Decision

Links are strongest where **governance** is weakest.

Check yourself

