

IB Global Politics

This course draws especially from the international relations tradition, and is for students who want to understand more about how the world works. The course integrates concepts, content and contexts through inquiry.

Concepts such as power, sovereignty, legitimacy and interdependence are explored and examined critically throughout the course: is 'soft' power effective in the 21st century? Is it necessary to give up some national sovereignty to develop?

Content includes a variety of global politics topics, encompassing political systems and actors, power interactions, treaties and conventions, and terminology: how effective are human rights treaties? Can institutions like the United Nations really deliver world peace?

Contexts diversify and channel inquiries through contemporary real-world examples: students will explore case studies to see how the contexts and content work in real life.

Course Overview

Paper 1	Paper 2	Coursework	Paper 3 (HL only)
1 hour 15 minutes Source-based	1 hour 45 minutes Essay-based	2,000-word coursework	1 hour 30 minutes Source-based
Framing global politics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power • Sovereignty • Legitimacy • Interdependence <p>Content covered in autumn and early spring of lower sixth</p>	Thematic Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights • Development • Peace and Conflict <p>Content covered in spring & summer of lower sixth and autumn of upper sixth</p>	Engagement Activity: <p>Students research a topic personally relevant to them but linked to the course; they draw from interviews and experiences to create an academic essay.</p> <p>Carried out in summer of lower sixth</p>	Global Challenges: <p>Students look at specific case studies related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borders • Identity • Health • Inequality • Technology • Security • Poverty <p>Studied concurrently with other topics</p>