

Geopolitical Studies (list of state exams questions valid since 2019/2020)

Geopolitical Theories

1. Founding fathers of geopolitics: F. Ratzel, R. Kjellén and K. Haushofer. Development of German school of geopolitics. Tellurocracy
2. Founding fathers of geopolitics: A. T. Mahan. Power projection. Thalassocracy
3. Founding fathers of geopolitics: H. J. Mackinder. Power projection and comparison of the Pivot and Heartland theories
4. Founding fathers of geopolitics: N. J. Spykman. From Heartland to Rimland. Politics of Containment
5. Founding fathers of geopolitics: Douhet and de Seversky. Concepts and limits of air power
6. Founding fathers of geopolitics: Dolman and Astropolitik.
7. Critical geopolitics: foundations, authors, basic concepts, the role of maps and geography
8. Connections and geopolitics: connectography, teichopolitics, geoeconomics
9. Evolutionary approach: army and state-building, historical approach to the development of the state system, neomedievalism, world-system analysis
10. Grand debates in the IR
11. Realism as a tradition of international thought
12. Liberal theories of IR
13. Theoretical explanations of regional integration (the role of hegemon). History and waves of political and economic regionalism. Examples of sub-regional, regional, inter-regional, global, and universal organizations (political, economic, military, cultural).
14. The institution of sovereign state as the organizing principle of the political space: definition criteria (M. I. Glassner), situations (not) derogating from sovereignty (J. Crawford)
15. Effectiveness of state, internal sovereignty and constitutional independence (J. Crawford), de facto and de jure statehood (R. H. Jackson)
16. Recognition of state, the declaratory and constitutive theories of recognition, conditional recognition, policy of non-recognition, Tobar, Estrada, Stimson doctrines

17. Internal vs. external self-determination, external self-determination vs. territorial integrity, self-determination from a negative to positive international right (M. Fabry)
18. Political disintegration (secession, irredenta, expulsion, voluntary and involuntary merger, voluntary dissolution, unilateral secession – examples)
19. Theories of secession on political map (explanatory and normative theories - examples)
20. Causes of the „Imperial cyclus“ during antiquity – the rise and fall of empires. The two types of territorial units, their main features, strengths and weaknesses (Gilpin 1981)
21. The military revolution and the first world war – changing role of geography in warfare. What changed and why? (Biddle 2004)

Geopolitics of Regions

22. Communication in the age of steam power. Railways, transcontinental railways, gun-boats and steam propelled warships. Examples and impact on balance of power between great powers during 19th century.
23. Access to the sea and control of the Atlantic coastline. Compare the situation of Britain and Germany during WWI and WWII.
24. Importance of control of sea and air space in the North Atlantic region for creation and function of NATO.
25. Alternative scenarios of WWII. Geopolitical possibilities for Franco-British attack against USSR as reaction to Nazi-Soviet rapprochement.
26. The importance of access to raw materials. Germany during WWI and WWII - comparison.
27. USSR/Warsaw pact against NATO during the Cold War in Europe. Geopolitical evaluation.
28. Definition and examples of transnational, inter-state, intra-state, and border regions.
29. Regionalism in Europe. History, development of regional integration, examples of sub-regional integration
30. Regionalism and regions in Asia and Australia. Examples and driving forces for integration, typical features of integration in Asia
31. Regionalism and Geopolitics of Africa. Regional and sub-regional integration, pillars of the AU. Geopolitical importance of the Sahel and Horn of Africa
32. Regional and sub-regional cooperation in North Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

33. Geography of languages and religions. The geographic distribution of „imperial languages“ and religions
34. Geopolitics of failed states: authors, definition, terminology, national, regional and global consequences, definition, examples, rogues states, international community's approach to failed state, geographic aspects (Herbst)
35. Geopolitics of unrecognized states: authors, definition (D. Geldenhuys, N. Caspersen, P. Kolstø), terminology, examples and location, importance), puppet state, external support to unrecognized state
36. Geopolitics of dependent territories and non-self governing territories: examples, importance, disputes, emergence of new states
37. Anomalous entities and violent non-state actors: black spots (Stanislawski), examples, impact on the political map, violent non-state actors and territory
38. The effects of military competition on state making in early modern Europe. (Tilly 1985, Howard 1976)
39. Tilly's Bellicose theory of state formation and its (limited) applicability to the contemporary third world. (Taylor, Botea 2008, Tilly 1985)
40. Nationalism, mass army, and the state – interconnections between state building, military competition and nationalism (Europe 19th century). (Posen 1993)