

Global Politics (SL) Subject Brief

Course description and aims:

The 21st century is characterized by rapid change and increasing interconnectedness, impacting individuals and societies in unprecedented ways and creating complex global political challenges. Global politics is an exciting, dynamic subject that draws on a variety of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, reflecting the complex nature of many contemporary political issues. The study of global politics enables students to critically engage with different and new perspectives and approaches to politics in order to comprehend the challenges of the changing world and become aware of their role in it as active global citizens.

The Diploma Programme global politics course explores fundamental political concepts such as power, equality, sustainability and peace in a range of contexts. It allows students to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity and processes, as well as to explore political issues affecting their own lives. The course helps students to understand abstract political concepts by grounding them in real-world examples and case studies. It also invites comparison between such examples and case studies to ensure a wider and transnational perspective.

The core units of the course together make up a central unifying theme of “people, power and politics”. The emphasis on “people” reflects the fact that the course explores politics not only at a state level but also explores the function and impact of non-state actors, communities, groups and individuals. The concept of “power” is also emphasized as being particularly crucial to understanding the dynamics, tensions and outcomes of global politics. Throughout the course, issues such as conflict, migration or climate change are explored through an explicitly political lens: “politics” provide a uniquely rich context in which to explore the relationship between people and power.

Syllabus outline and content:

Four compulsory units:

1. Power, sovereignty and international relations
2. Human rights
3. Development
4. Peace and conflict

Assessment Information:

External:

Paper 1

Stimulus-based paper based on a topic from one of the four core units Four compulsory short-answer/structured questions

Duration: 1h 15min / Weighting: 30% / Marks: 25

Paper 2

Extended response paper based on the four core units. Students must write two essays from a choice of eight, each selected from a different core unit.

Duration: 1h 55min / Weighting: 45% / Marks: 50

Internal:

Internal assessment

Duration: 20h / Weighting: 25% / Marks: 20

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

Engagement activity

A written report (2,000-word maximum) on a political issue explored through engagement and research

Sources: OCC IB Global Politics Guide

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum>

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