

The
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DIPLOMA UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SADS)
DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
DIPLOMACY

DIR 103: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND STRATEGY

DATE: 3RD AUGUST 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS
MAXIMUM
MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. DO NOT write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains SIX (6) questions.
4. Question ONE is compulsory.
5. Answer any other FOUR questions.
6. Question ONE carries 30 MARKS and the rest carry 10 MARKS each.

7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

"THE NORDOVA CRISIS"

The Republic of Nordova is a medium-sized country located between two major powers: Atlantica (a Western democracy) and Eurasia (an authoritarian state). Nordova has a population of 30 million, significant natural gas reserves, and a strategic coastline on the Vital Sea. For the past decade, Nordova has attempted to maintain neutrality, but recent events have triggered a major international security crisis. Nordova gained independence 30 years ago after the collapse of a larger federation. Since then, it has struggled with internal divisions between its eastern region (majority ethnic Eurasians) and western region (majority ethnic Nordovans). The eastern region, known as Eastland, has significant autonomy and its own paramilitary forces.

Six months ago, the Eastland regional government declared independence from Nordova, citing historical grievances and discrimination. The Nordovan central government rejected the declaration and sent troops to re-establish control. Fighting broke out, resulting in 2,000 deaths and 100,000 internally displaced persons. Eurasia has provided weapons, intelligence, and "volunteer" fighters to Eastland forces. Atlantica has provided military aid and training to the Nordovan government.

Three months ago, Eurasia massed 50,000 troops on Nordova's eastern border, calling it "peacekeeping exercises." Atlantica responded by deploying naval assets to the Vital Sea and increasing military aid to Nordova to \$2 billion. The United Nations Security Council has been unable to pass any resolution because Eurasia holds veto power as a permanent member. Last month, Eurasia issued an ultimatum: Nordova must withdraw its troops from Eastland and recognize Eastland's independence within 30 days, or Eurasia will "take all necessary

measures to protect ethnic Eurasians." Atlantica has stated that any invasion of Nordova would be "a grave mistake with severe consequences" but has not specified what those consequences would be. Nordova's president has called for a negotiated settlement, stating:

"We are a small country caught between giants. We want peace, but we will defend our territory." Military analysts note that both Atlantica and Eurasia are increasing their military capabilities in the region. Atlantica is deploying new missile defense systems. Eurasia is deploying new short-range nuclear missiles. Each side claims its actions are defensive. Each side interprets the other's actions as offensive and threatening.

The 30-day ultimatum expires in one week. Nordova has not withdrawn its troops. Eastland forces have captured two additional towns. Civilians are fleeing both directions across the border. International humanitarian organizations warn of a looming catastrophe.

Required:

- (a) Using the levels of analysis framework (individual, state, system), identify ONE cause of the Nordova crisis at each level and explain how each contributes to the conflict.

(12 marks)

- (b) Explain the concept of the security dilemma using the military buildup between Atlantica and Eurasia. Then propose ONE practical measure EACH power could take to reduce escalation.

(10 marks)

- (c) Evaluate the effectiveness of Atlantica's deterrence approach.

(8 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- (a) Analyze how deterrence and compellence differ in their logic and effectiveness in international relations.

(5 marks)

- (b)** Evaluate the extent to which military alliances reduce or increase the risk of interstate conflict.

(5 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- (a)** Analyze conditions that determine whether economic sanctions are likely to succeed or fail.

(5 marks)

- (b)** Apply criteria of legitimate use of force to assess how states justify military interventions in international politics.

(5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- (a)** Explain the structural factors that contribute to state fragility in contemporary states.

(5 marks)

- (b)** Discuss alternative mechanisms for resolving international conflicts outside the UN Security Council.

(5 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- (a)** Analyze the concept of grand strategy and explain its role in shaping state behavior in international politics.

(5 marks)

- (b)** Explain the key strategic risks in border or contested regions.

(5 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- (a)** Explain major human security threats commonly experienced in conflict-affected populations.

(5 marks)

- (b)** Discuss ways in which climate change can act as a threat multiplier in international or internal conflicts.

(5 marks)