

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

CIR 104: POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DATE: 30TH JULY 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 and answer the questions that follow:

THE REPUBLIC OF DRAVICA

The Republic of Dravica is a resource-rich but politically divided state in a conflict-prone region. After years of authoritarian rule, it recently transitioned to competitive politics. Elections are regular, but disputes over fairness persist. The electoral system is majoritarian, favoring large ethnic-based coalitions and leaving minority groups underrepresented. Small parties complain of exclusion, and voter turnout among the youth is declining due to disillusionment with politics.

Political parties in Dravica are highly polarized, often mobilizing along ethnic and religious lines. Civil society groups, including women's organizations and student unions, advocate reforms but face restrictions under vague security laws. Several social movements have challenged the ruling coalition, sparking debates about whether they are stabilizing forces or threats to order. Security concerns intensify Dravica's fragility. Armed insurgents operate from across porous borders, funded by transnational networks. The government has responded with counterinsurgency campaigns, drone surveillance, and foreign military training. While these efforts have curbed some attacks, they have also caused civilian displacement and accusations of human rights violations.

Externally, Dravica is under pressure from international partners to strengthen democracy and governance. Meanwhile, global corporations lobby aggressively for access to Dravica's mineral wealth. Social media is a double-edged sword: it has exposed corruption but also spread conspiracy theories that fuel ethnic mistrust.

As Dravica heads into another election cycle, key questions dominate political debate: how to reform its electoral institutions; how to balance national security with civil liberties; how to empower citizens without undermining state authority; and how to assert sovereignty in the face of multinational and regional pressures. The path Dravica chooses will

determine whether it secures democratic consolidation or descends into instability.

Required:

- a) Discuss how Dravica's current majoritarian electoral system contributes to underrepresentation of minorities.

(10 marks)

- b) Analyze the political significance of Dravica's social movements in shaping democratic reforms.

(10 marks)

- c) Critically assess how Dravica's reliance on foreign military training affects its sovereignty.

(10 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Assess the risks of delegating excessive power to the executive in fragile democracies. **(6**

marks)

- b) Examine governance challenges central governments face in managing devolved or regional units.

(4 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Explain the relevance of political science as an academic discipline in addressing contemporary governance challenges.

(5 marks)

- b) Assess the factors that shapes voter behaviour in transitional democracies.

(5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Analyze two ethical dilemmas that arise in the conduct of counterinsurgency operations.

(4 marks)

- b) Discuss three limitation of peacekeeping as a tool for conflict resolution in fragile states.

(6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Discuss the role of political parties in maintaining democratic accountability.

(5 marks)

- b) Examine how party polarization undermines policy stability in democratic systems.

(5 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Explain why deterrence is often ineffective against terrorist organizations.

(4 marks)

- b) Critically evaluate ways in which cyber threats complicate national security strategies.

(6 marks)