

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

**CIR 100: FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND DIPLOMACY**

DATE: 27TH 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 carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Case Study: "The Island of Serafina"

The Island of Serafina is a small but resource-rich island nation located strategically between two major continents. It has a population of 8 million people and possesses significant deposits of rare earth minerals essential for global electronics manufacturing. For the past 50 years, Serafina has been navigating complex international pressures. Serafina gained independence from colonial rule in 1976. For the first 20 years, it pursued a policy of non-alignment, refusing to join either the Western or Eastern blocs during the Cold War. After the Cold War ended in 1991, Serafina opened its economy to foreign investment, particularly in its mining sector.

Today, Serafina faces interrelated challenges: Two major powers, Aurelia (a Western democracy) and Orientia (an emerging authoritarian power), are competing for influence over Serafina. Aurelia has offered a 2 billion aid package focused on democracy promotion and human rights programs. Orientia has offered a 5 billion infrastructure investment with no political conditions attached. The Serafina government is divided. The President favors Orientia's offer. The Parliament favors Aurelia's offer. Neither side will compromise.

A neighboring country, Veridia, claims ownership of Serafina's northern maritime zone, where the richest mineral deposits are located. Veridia has sent naval vessels to patrol the disputed waters. Serafina has protested to the United Nations but lacks military capacity to enforce its claim. Last month, a Veridian warship fired warning shots at a Serafinan fishing boat.

A non-state armed group called the Serafina Liberation Front (SLF) has emerged in the southern region. The SLF accuses the government of benefiting only the capital city while neglecting rural areas. The SLF has attacked three mining convoys and kidnapped a foreign engineer. The

government has declared a state of emergency and arrested 200 suspected SLF members without trial. International human rights organizations have condemned the arrests.

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for "restraint and dialogue." However, the Security Council is deadlocked because Aurelia supports Serafina's position against Veridia, while Orientia has trade agreements with Veridia and has blocked any resolution critical of Veridia. The African Union has offered to mediate the border dispute. Serafina has accepted. Veridia has rejected mediation, stating: "This is a bilateral matter. No third party is needed."

Required:

- (a) Using the concept of national interest, analyze Serafina's foreign policy dilemma.

(10 Marks)

- (b) Identify three challenges to Serafina's sovereignty. For each challenge, explain one way in which sovereignty is threatened and one action Serafina could take to respond.

(10 Marks)

- (c) Explain how the competition between Aurelia and Orientia illustrates balance of power politics.

(10 Marks)

QUESTION TWO

- (a) Explain how non-state actors influence international relations without formal state authority.

(5 Marks)

- (b) Using one real or hypothetical example, distinguish how realism and liberalism would explain state behavior in a territorial or maritime dispute.

(5 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

- (a)** Discuss two instruments of foreign policy and for each, state one advantage and one limitation.

(5 Marks)

- (b)** Explain why the United Nations General Assembly can pass resolutions while the Security Council may remain deadlocked. What does this reveal about global governance?

(5 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- (a) Explain two ways globalization challenges state sovereignty.
(5 Marks)
- (b) Evaluate the effectiveness of diplomacy as a tool for resolving international disputes.
(5 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- (a) Elaborate three forms of power used by states in international relations.
(6 Marks)
- (b) Explain how internal political divisions within a state can affect foreign policy decision-making.
(4 Marks)

QUESTION SIX

- (a) Examine how religion can influence state behavior in international relations even without formal political authority.
(6 Marks)
- (b) Assess two criteria used to assess the likelihood of conflict escalation between states.
(4 Marks)