PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

**SEMESTER 2 2026**

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

# IP20120 International Relations: Perspectives and Debates

Time allowed : **2 HOURS**

**Answer 2 questions in total, ONE from EACH SECTION.**

STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER WELSH OR ENGLISH OR

**Once seated, students may complete the front cover of the answer book(s) and the attendance slip ONLY.**

**DO NOT TURN THE EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER OVER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**

SECTION A Answer **ONE** of the following questions

1. 'The condition of anarchy prevents meaningful and long-lasting co-operation in international politics.' Discuss the validity of the statement with reference to TWO of the following theoretical perspectives: neorealism, neoliberal institutionalism, English School or constructivism.
2. How and why do IR theories disagree on the significance of the state as an actor in international politics? Discuss with reference to at least TWO theoretical perspectives.
3. 'Power in international politics is not just material, it is also reflected in the ideas we hold.' Discuss with reference to at least TWO theoretical perspectives.
4. 'The aim of IR theory should not be to explain international politics, but to critique and change it'. Discuss the validity and significance of the statement
5. 'All IR theory is normative theory.' Discuss the validity and significance of the statement

SECTION B Answer **ONE** of the following questions

1. Why do we have so many theories in International Relations? Do we need them all?
2. Which theoretical approach best explains international politics today and why? Discuss the reasons for your theory choice in reference, at least, to one issue or event in contemporary international politics.
3. 'We cannot ground the knowledge of international politics on objective truths'. Discuss the validity and significance of the statement.
4. Should IR theorists seek to influence the foreign policy practice of states?
5. How useful are the IR theories examined on this module for analysis of future challenges of international politics?

**END OF PAPER**

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