

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR

Mid Term-2026  
U.G. IV Semester  
Political Science II  
(International Relations)

Time : 90 minutes

Marks:40

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. All questions are compulsory
2. Follow the examination protocol

Q.1 International law is often described as paradoxical because it claims authority over sovereign states despite the absence of a centralized world government or an international legislative body capable of enforcing rules.

Explain the “paradox of international law.” In this context, identify and critically examine the main sources of international law. How do these sources contribute to the creation, legitimacy, and functioning of international law in an anarchic international system? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (Marks-10)

Q.2 In an international system characterized by uncertainty, states constantly face the challenge of ensuring their survival while avoiding actions that may provoke counterbalancing by others. Some scholars within the realist tradition argue that power is an important means, but not the ultimate objective of the state. According to this view, prudent states seek only sufficient power to maintain their security rather than pursuing unlimited expansion. Critically examine this perspective on state behavior in international politics. In your answer, discuss the theoretical foundations of this approach and evaluate the extent to which this perspective adequately explains state conduct in comparison with more power-maximizing interpretations of realism. Highlight the limitations of this approach and assess whether alternative realist perspectives better explain patterns of cooperation and conflict among states. (Marks-15)

Q.3 International Relations as an academic discipline has evolved through a series of intellectual shifts, where scholars have repeatedly debated on the prevailing assumptions about the nature of international politics, the role of theory, and the appropriate methods for studying global affairs. These contestations often reflect the broader historical contexts and competing visions about how international politics should be understood. Trace the major intellectual turning points that have shaped the development of International Relations as a discipline. In doing so, examine how successive theoretical confrontations challenged earlier assumptions about the nature of the international system, the behavior of states, and the sources of knowledge in the field. Critically assess how these debates contributed to the diversification of theoretical approaches and methodological orientations in International Relations, and evaluate their continuing relevance for understanding contemporary global politics. (Marks-15)