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Global politics
Higher level
Paper 3

19 May 2026

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[28 marks]**.

Read the stimulus carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

Stimulus Adapted from “Global health diplomacy¹: Reconstructing power and governance”, published in *The Lancet* (2022).

Global health diplomacy covers many issues related to health, as health moves beyond a narrow focus on medicine to become a crucial element in foreign, security and trade policy. At its core, global health diplomacy addresses issues that go beyond national boundaries and require collective action. Tackling complex global health challenges calls for multi-actor and multilevel diplomacy involving a wide range of actors. This includes informal diplomacy with non-state actors and negotiations that take place in non-health focused, multilateral forums², which can have a notable effect on health.

Historically, international relations theorists have focused on war, peace and security as the dominant issues of concern in an anarchical international system³ in which states operate. The global health system has not received the attention it deserves. Yet, the transnational nature of many health-related risks poses important questions about the need for cooperation and the establishment of rules and behavioural norms to advance human health. These risks arise from the increased flow of goods, capital, services, people, technology and information in the context of globalization, along with the increased interconnectedness and interdependency in the world.

Over the past two decades, health has become more central to the foreign policy agenda in relation to security, development, economy, human rights and social justice. Key efforts in global health diplomacy include negotiations to uphold health interests, establishment of governance mechanisms and creation of alliances in global health policy making. There is increasing recognition of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) as actors that increasingly play an active role in international politics by shaping agendas and influencing negotiations. Global health has shown the limitations of state-centric approaches to the study of international relations in explaining the role of IGOs and non-state actors.

¹ diplomacy: the profession, activity or skill of managing international relations, typically by a country’s representatives abroad

² multilateral forums: a type of meeting or situation involving or participated in by more than two nations or parties

³ anarchical international system: a global structure where there is no central authority or overarching governing body, which has the ultimate power to enforce rules or laws among sovereign states, based on a realist view

1. Using **two** examples, distinguish between non-state actors and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). [3]
 2. The stimulus refers to health as an issue requiring collective action and involving a wide range of actors.
 - (a) With explicit reference to a political issue in one of your researched case studies, explain the involvement of any **two** non-state actors. [4]
 - (b) Based on the political issue in your researched case study identified in 2(a), recommend a course of action that would enhance cooperation between different actors. [6]
 3. The stimulus mentions that IGOs increasingly play an active role in international politics by shaping agendas and influencing negotiations.

With reference to one of your researched case studies and **two** of the HL topic areas, examine how IGOs help in addressing global political challenges. [15]
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References:

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