

**Drayton Manor High School**

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| Exam Question |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | (a) | Explain why IGOs (Intergovernmental Organisations) are important to global geopolitical stability. *(4 marks)* | |
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| **Total:** 16 marks |

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| Source |
| This question has no sources |

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| Mark scheme |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | (a) | 4 marks (AO1 = 4 marks)  This question asks you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the role that Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) have in encouraging and maintaining geopolitical stability between different countries of the world. You gain 1 mark for giving a reason for the global geopolitical importance of IGOs. The remaining 3 marks can be gained by developing examples of the different areas of interest of IGOs and how these contribute to global stability (for example through promoting peace and security, resolving conflicts and reducing the impacts of climate change). To gain maximum marks, you should show good knowledge and understanding of the different roles that an IGO has in the global geopolitical system, supported by named examples, e.g. UN Security Council, International Court of Justice.  For example: IGOs are organisations in which two or more countries work together on areas of interest to all parties. They play a vital role in promoting global peace and security because they can create a system where the world’s people can work together on international issues (1) and where problems can be discussed and solutions to differences put forward (1). An example of an IGO is the United Nations. The United Nations promotes international cooperation (1) through many different bodies. The UN Security Council is responsible for putting forward resolutions to promote global peace and security, as well as sending UN peacekeepers to areas of ongoing conflict (1). The International Court of Justice is responsible for settling legal disputes between member states such as those linked to military or resource disputes. However, not all nations are members of IGOs and so can be excluded from the decision-making process.  Other appropriate reasons will be credited.  **Hints and tips** Think about an example of an IGO and the areas that it can help promote stability (e.g. political/environmental challenges). | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | (b) | 12 marks (AO1 = 3 marks, AO2 = 9 marks)  This question focuses mainly on applying your knowledge and understanding of how trying to obtain physical resources, such as oil and gas, can lead to disputes over ownership and exploitation. Superpowers have different attitudes towards obtaining natural resources and their actions may lead to disagreements and conflicts. Relevant points that you could mention and expand are suggested below.  **AO1 Demonstrating your knowledge and understanding of the tensions that exist when obtaining physical resources**  • Superpowers have exploited physical resources in areas that are in disputed territory.  • Advances in technology and climatic change have increased opportunities for physical resources to be exploited.  • Disagreements exist between nations as to who has the right to exploit resources.  • The exploitation of resources by superpowers may cause tension with other groups, e.g. NGOs. **AO2 Applying your knowledge to assess the reasons for ownership disputes and disagreements about resource exploitation**  • Ownership disputes may be caused by historical and contemporary territory disagreements.  • New areas may become available for exploitation because of landscape and/or seascape changes resulting from climatic change or technology availability.  • Increased demand for physical resources or need to reduce energy dependency can lead to exploration of new locations for exploitation.  • Governments may come into conflict with other interest groups, e.g. NGOs, when they exploit areas for physical resources.  **Answers to this question will be given a mark within a level band  Level 1 (1–4 marks):** You show only a limited knowledge and understanding of the tensions that can arise when physical resources are obtained by superpowers. The examples you use to support statements may be very general and lack case study detail. At the bottom end of this band you show no attempt to assess the reasons for disputes and disagreements.  **Level 2 (5–8 marks):** You generally show a good understanding of the tensions that can arise when physical resources are exploited by superpowers. You show understanding of ownership disputes and disagreements over exploitation, with some examples used to support statements. You make some attempt to assess reasons for conflicts of interests. You show some consideration of the relationship between superpowers, as well as the relationship between superpowers and other organisations.  **Level 3 (9–12 marks):** You show accurate knowledge and understanding of the tensions that can arise through exploitation of physical resources by superpowers. You apply your knowledge to effectively assess a range of causes of tensions and to make a judgement of their significance. At the upper end of this band, you confidently use a range of detailed case study information in your supporting statements.  **Hints and tips** Can you give examples of how resource exploitation in a particular area has led to tensions? Why have these tensions arisen? Who is involved? | |

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| Student Response A | |
| (a) | IGOs are made up of groups of countries which share common interests. IGOs are very important to geopolitical stability because they allow the governments of different countries to discuss issues which affect them and to try and resolve disputes and conflicts between them. Such problems include disagreements about territories and borders, the use of resources, asylum issues and maritime disputes. The UN is the world’s major IGO with over 190 member states and has institutions within it which deal with specific areas of international interest. For example, the UN Security Council can provide a neutral presence through its peacekeeping missions in areas of longstanding conflict. This helps to resolve problems which have been difficult to deal with in the past. The UN can also act to challenge countries that have caused disputes with other member states through setting sanctions or authorising military action. IGOs can also tackle environmental issues such as climate change, which affect the international community.   |  | | --- | | **Examiner comment** This is a good answer, giving clear reasons for the importance of IGOs in relation to geopolitical stability. Different areas of international interest are discussed in general, and the UN example is used to support points. 4 marks. | |
| *Examiner comment* | "discuss issues"  Reason identified. |
| *Examiner comment* | "resolve disputes and conflicts"  Second reason identified. |
| *Examiner comment* | "problems include"  Expansion of relevant issues. |
| *Examiner comment* | "UN Security Council"  Relevant example to support points. |
| (b) | Demand for physical resources such as gas and oil has increased because of population and economic growth, as well as the need to improve energy security. The search for new locations for resource exploitation has continued, but developing these areas can lead to tensions and conflicts between superpowers themselves, as well as with other groups. The Arctic Ocean is one of the last wilderness areas and is under threat from oil and gas exploration, as it is estimated that 30\_f the world’s new gas reserves and 13\_f its undiscovered oil are found within the Arctic Circle. The Arctic region itself is bordered by two superpowers, Russia and the USA, as well as Canada, Denmark, Norway and Iceland, and includes international waters. Resource exploitation may result in disagreements between these nations as they apply for the right to drill for oil and gas by making claims for territory under a UN Law of the Sea Treaty. The number of locations where drilling could be possible in the Arctic has increased due to the effects of global warming. The number of ice-free days in the Arctic Ocean is increasing, allowing for further resource exploration to take place. This may lead to increased conflicts with NGOs, such as Greenpeace, that are concerned with biodiversity and nature conservation, as the Arctic ecosystem may be negatively affected by the drilling. Superpowers like Russia may start to increase their military presence in the Arctic which could lead to other countries doing the same. TNCs such as Shell Oil may become involved with the development of Arctic oil reserves as they are able to invest in the processes needed to exploit this technically difficult location. TNCs need to work with governments for drilling to be allowed but this could lead to tensions with local communities. Overall, the need to obtain physical resources is a significant cause of disputes between superpowers such as Russia and the USA. As demand for resources in emerging superpowers such as China increases, conflicts may become more complex. Therefore, there may be an increasing need for IGOs, such as the UN, to settle disputes over territory and take measures to avoid future conflicts.   |  | | --- | | **Examiner comment** The student shows good knowledge of the reasons for tensions caused by the exploitation of physical resources and applies their knowledge well to the Arctic Ocean case study. A range of players involved with disputes and disagreements is suggested, with the focus on superpowers. The Arctic case study is well used to support the main points and a judgement is made in the final paragraph to suggest that other nations and IGOs may become increasingly involved. A discussion of tensions in another region, e.g. gas and oil reserves in the South China Sea, would have further supported the answer and potentially increased the marks. Level 3, 10 marks. | |

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| Student Response B | |
| (a) | The world has many problems and sometimes it is difficult to sort these out. IGOs help different countries to come together to talk about the problems that they may have between them. IGOs help countries to work out how these issues can be solved and this can help the world to be a more peaceful place. Two examples of IGOs are the UN and the G8.    |  | | --- | | **Examiner comment** The student shows some understanding of the role of IGOs but does not give details of how they achieve their goals. Reference is made to examples, but marks are limited by lack of detailed explanation of how IGOs try to achieve geopolitical security. 2 marks. | |
| *Examiner comment* | "can be solved"  Role of IGOs stated, with general reference to security. |
| *Examiner comment* | "UN and the G8"  Examples given, but no discussion of contribution to geopolitical stability. |
| (b) | The USA and Russia are both trying to drill for oil and gas in the Arctic Ocean. These superpowers need more resources to help develop their economies. This means that they compete with each other to find new places which have oil. They can come into conflict with each other when they do not agree with who owns the area where oil is found. International organisations like the UN have to intervene to help nations decide who owns what and some governments might not agree with their decisions. Some charities like the WWF may be against exploitation of oil because the equipment used will harm the fragile ecosystem in the Arctic. They may not feel that their views will be heard and better technology may mean more oil is extracted from areas already under threat. Another area where different countries are trying to find and drill for resources is the South China Sea. China is a developing superpower and needs more oil and gas as its economy is growing and it is expensive to import energy from other countries. China needs to find new places where they can get oil. It has already begun drilling in the South China Sea and other countries disagree with this. If IGOs do not help to solve these disputes, the area may be affected by conflicts in the future.   |  | | --- | | **Examiner comment** Some reasons for tensions surrounding resource exploitation are identified but could have been developed in more detail. Supporting statements are linked to two specific examples, the Arctic region and the South China Sea, but the issues are discussed only in a broad context; marks could have been gained by discussing the geopolitical circumstances of resource exploitation. The answer focuses on the role of superpowers, but other relevant groups that may have an interest in highlighting environmental and community issues or an involvement in resolving disputes are mentioned. A judgement on how significant resource availability is as a cause of disputes among superpowers is needed. Level 2, 7 marks. | |