

# SUMMARY NOTES

## Examinable Content:

- Module 2, Module 3, Module 4
- NO questions from Module 1

## Module 2 – Theories of IR

### Realism + Neorealism – Foundational

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| <u>Statism</u>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Second-image analyses</u>: focus upon the sub-national phenomena; e.g. looking inside states. E.G.: political ideology; economic system (also, that state behaviour reflects human behaviour (1<sup>st</sup>))</li> <li>- Statism central to realist theory</li> <li>- States monopolize the legitimate use of violence and coercion</li> <li>- Only actors that can legitimately conduct diplomacy, negotiate alliances, and make decisions on international treaties</li> <li>- Other actors may be influential, but are subordinate to state-based actors</li> <li>- States a permanent feature of international politics, other actors are ephemeral</li> <li>- States are engaged in perpetual struggle for power, influence and survival</li> </ul> |
| <u>Self-help</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Within an anarchic (<i>absence of central authority</i>) international system, states are forced to rely upon self-help: <i>States are responsible for their own defence, security and survival</i></li> <li>- <u>First-image analyses</u>: focus upon the individual actor; e.g. the issue of human nature -&gt; Realists argue it is human nature to be innately self-interested/power-seeking</li> <li>- In acting in this way, morality and ethics are irrelevant</li> <li>- <u>Balance of Power</u>: the axiom that no state should become powerful enough to overwhelm all the rest</li> </ul>   |
| <u>Survival</u>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All relates to power – International politics a perpetual struggle for power</li> <li>- States' key responsibilities, within this <i>anarchic</i> international system, are their own security and survival</li> <li>- States are rational actors: interested in self-preservation, not suicide</li> <li>- Can be <i>offensive</i> or <i>defensive</i></li> <li>- States are engaged in perpetual struggle for power, influence and survival</li> <li>- To ensure survival, morality and ethics are forgotten</li> <li>➤ <u>Example: Provision of ODA</u></li> </ul>   |

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| <u>Hans Morgenthau's 'Six Principles'</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International politics is dominated by power</li> <li>- This makes the practice of ethics or law difficult, if not impossible in IR</li> </ul>  |
| <u>Neorealism</u>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Like classical R, NR is about power competition b/w states</li> <li>- Differs in that NR is a systematic theory<br/>NR argue that causes of conflict lie at the level of the international system – one cannot prevent conflict unless system is changed</li> <li>- <u>Third-image analysis</u>: conflict takes place at the level of the international system – states are a ‘black box’ (Waltz), as all states simply prioritize security/survival</li> <li>- <u>Security dilemma</u>: increases in the defensive capabilities of one state are inevitably viewed as threats by other states – NR focuses on this military interaction -&gt; states will respond to military behaviours in other states -&gt; can provoke corresponding action<br/><u>SD Example: China's Military Modernisation</u></li> </ul> |