

International Relations & Politics

Example 10 hr bespoke programme for a pre-degree student

Module 1: Theoretical perspectives

- ▶ What makes a theory, and what are the different theories of international relations?
- ▶ Evaluating the benefits and challenges of the various theoretical lenses.
- ▶ Applying theory to the real world: case studies and specific dynamics for analysis

Pre-tutorial preparation—*independent learning to help you get ahead*

1. Watch [Steve Smith on bringing International Relations theory to life](#)
2. Read [International relations: One world, many theories](#)

Formal submission—*your tutor will give written feedback on each submission*

Essay question: “How can the study of international relations be made more scientific? What are the problems with doing so?” (1200–1500 words)

Module 2: Human rights

- ▶ Global governance and cooperation
- ▶ The possibilities and pitfalls of international law
- ▶ The tension between universal principles and relativist arguments

Pre-tutorial preparation

1. Watch [What are the universal human rights? - Benedetta Berti](#)
2. Listen to [Civil Society and Human Rights in Peril](#)

Formal submission

Essay question: “Which rights do you think should have priority? Political-civil rights? Socioeconomic rights? Collective rights of groups? Why?” (1200–1500 words)

Module 3: Contemporary issues

- ▶ Is intervention into another country’s affairs ever justifiable on humanitarian grounds?
- ▶ How should states respond to terrorism?
- ▶ How do different countries or non-state actors interact on transnational issues in which they may have different stakes, such as the environment and global health?

Pre-tutorial preparation

1. Read [The Age of ISIS: Is Terrorism Getting Worse?](#) Then write a list of ways of measuring the impact of terrorism
2. Read [John Gray: Steven Pinker is wrong about violence and war](#)

Formal submission

Essay question: “What is the conflict between the rights of refugees and the right of states to protect borders and national security?” (1200–1500 words)