



DWIGHT SCHOOL

G11 Global Politics Summer Assignment

Welcome to Grade 11 Global Politics! To set you up for success and acquaint you with an exciting new course, please complete the following two assignments. These will have to be submitted on Canvas the first day of class, **September 5th**. Using AI is not allowed.

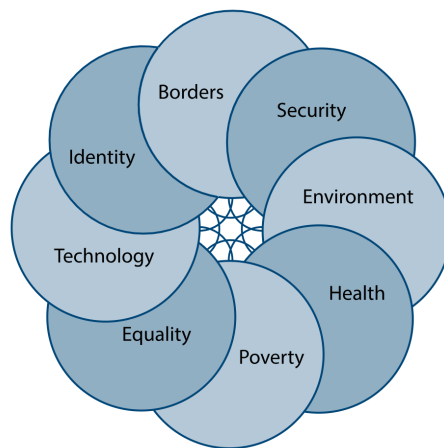
Note that there are two parts to this assignment – read the entire document!

Part 1: Mini-Engagement Activity. Engagement is an important part of Global Politics. Engagement could be defined as active involvement, interest, and commitment. It encompasses not only being physically present but also being mentally and emotionally invested, contributing ideas, interacting with others, and showing enthusiasm and dedication towards achieving a common goal or gaining deeper understanding.

Read through the description of a “Global Political Challenge” below and take **two selfies of yourself** at a physical location in New York City (or around the world). Submit these with a **100 word description for each of how each relates to the description of a different political challenge** (two total).

Understanding these political issues is especially essential if you are planning to take HL Global Politics.

In Global Politics we often look at issues through the lens of ‘political challenges’ and how these intersect. The eight challenges in Global Politics are below.



Challenge	Description
-----------	-------------



DWIGHT SCHOOL

Environment	<p>Many environmental problems transcend national boundaries, and the activities of one country can have a direct impact on multiple countries.</p> <p>Mitigation of and responses to climate change and other such global environmental challenges involve and require international political cooperation and action.</p> <p>The depletion of natural resources in the face of growing populations and increasingly resource-heavy lifestyles across the globe raises many political issues. This is also a source of increasing political tensions.</p> <p>The compatibility of economic growth and sustainable development is debated at all levels of politics.</p>
Poverty	<p>The impact of globalization and economic integration on poverty, or cooperation between states and non-state actors in initiatives to address poverty.</p> <p>There are particularly strong links to the thematic area “Development and sustainability”, with its emphasis on the concept of inequality.</p> <p>Experience of poverty can also be approached from a human rights perspective, and poverty plays a significant role in some conflicts.</p>
Health	<p>The function and impact of local and national initiatives to improve public health, compared with the role of global actors such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or international NGOs.</p> <p>Epidemics travel across borders and require international cooperation.</p> <p>Health is an important determinant of quality of life, and the health issues from which people suffer in different parts of the world are indicative of wider socio-economic contexts.</p>
Identity	<p>In a more interconnected, complex world, people may become more conscious of and interested in their own identities, including in ways that have political implications.</p> <p>For example, since the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the USA (2001), increasing attention has been given to the significance of cultural and religious identity in global politics.</p> <p>The identities of women and ethnic minorities can be similarly political, with debates in many societies about the appropriate line between the private and public spheres of life.</p> <p>Media coverage of how cases of genocide and ethnic violence are treated in international justice institutions point to the role identity can play in some of the most horrific conflicts of recent times. There are particularly strong links between this topic and the thematic area “Rights and justice”, i.e. human rights.</p>



DWIGHT SCHOOL

Borders	<p>“Borders” may be physical borders between countries but also less obvious but equally influential borders of, for example, social class, ethnicity, gender.</p> <p>Sometimes it is not the existence of borders that may be regarded as a political challenge but rather a lack thereof: an example might be the cross-border movement of capital or treatment of labour.</p> <p>Migration is closely linked to the concept of globalization as physical borders between nations are increasingly reduced.</p> <p>Immigration is a controversial and topical issue in many countries, and political backlashes to immigration are widespread in the face of changing and unstable economic conditions.</p> <p>Many conflicts have a dimension related to borders of various kinds; often, human rights are violated in crossing borders, e.g. human trafficking.</p>
Security	<p>Many of the topics, political issues and key concepts encountered in the core topics and the thematic studies are central to discussions of security.</p> <p>For example, discussions of sovereignty, military power, wars between and within states, arms proliferation, and the activities of non-state actors all have clear links to security.</p> <p>There are particularly strong links between this topic and the theme “Peace and conflict”. However, security also has cultural, social and economic dimensions. Issues such as food, water and energy security have increasingly material ramifications in global politics.</p> <p>Human rights violations can be viewed as attacks on individuals’ fundamental sense of security. Furthermore, in an uncertain world, political actors may sometimes try to benefit from people’s sense of insecurity.</p>
Equality	<p>The topic of equality is highly relevant to the study of global politics. It affects the ways states, groups and individuals interact with each other, and how they approach issues such as trade, development and security.</p> <p>In political systems, inequality can create power imbalances, which can result in conflict or the exploitation of vulnerable stakeholders.</p> <p>For example, economic inequality can lead to social and political instability, which can have far-reaching consequences beyond national borders.</p> <p>Moreover, equality is central to rights and social justice, as well as development. In relation to cultural and national identities, equality might be promoted along with diversity.</p>



DWIGHT SCHOOL

Technology

Technology has transformed the way political actors interact. One of the most evident changes has been in communication and information dissemination.

The internet and social media have revolutionized the way people connect and communicate, making it easier for individuals and groups to organize and mobilize across national borders.

This has led to new forms of political activism, such as online protests and social media campaigns, which can have significant impacts on global politics.

Technological advances have also given rise to new forms of power and influence. For example, states with advanced cyber capabilities can use these to engage in espionage, disrupt critical infrastructure and conduct propaganda campaigns.

This has led to concerns about cyberwarfare and the need for international norms and regulations to govern behaviour in cyberspace

Part 2: Podcast Activity. Part of being a Global Politics student is building the knowledge and awareness of the world as it is today. As this learning cannot just happen in the classroom, a lot of your homework this year will consist of following a global politics or global affairs news source of your choice and writing a weekly report. To get started, **listen to one podcast episode from the list below and reflect on what you learned by answering the two questions below.**

1. [Can reality TV get more women into political office?](#)
2. [Big Food, Big Tech and Big AI with Michael Moss](#)
3. [Will This Century Belong to China?](#)
4. [In Depth: How Your Favourite Social Media Sites Are Designed to Be Addictive](#)
5. [In Depth: Is Space Exploration Causing Geopolitical Tensions?](#)
6. [The Outlaw Ocean Podcast](#) (Episode 1)
7. [UFOs: Close Encounters of the National Security Kind](#)
8. [Who Runs the World? Not Women](#)
9. [Three Internets](#)
10. [Trouble Brewing for Coffee](#)
11. [The Power of the Pope](#)

1. In about 200 words, **briefly summarize** the contents of your podcast. What was being discussed? Was there anything you found interesting? Include specific quotes, statistics, or facts that you found relevant.



DWIGHT SCHOOL

2. Global Politics can be simplified as the study of *people, power, and politics*. How do different **political** actors and countries behave around the world? How do they use **power** to influence each other or achieve their goals? Most importantly, how does all this affect the **people** of this planet? In 100-200 words, relate your podcast episode to at least one of these themes. **What does this episode show about Global Politics?**