International politics

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each international politics word.

Word | Process | Institution | Concept | Person

1 ratify [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 envoy [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 sovereignty [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 multilateral [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 ceasefire [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 international body [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 mediator [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 bilateral talks [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 Parliament will ratify of the treaty. _____
2 A special envoy of was sent to negotiate. _____
3 They respect each other's sovereignty of. _____
4 It was multilateral of agreement. _____
5 Both sides agreed to ceasefire of. _____
6 The international body oversee the region. _____
7 A mediator help resolve the dispute. _____
8 They held bilateral of talks last week. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For officially approving a treaty: ratify / propose.
2 For a person sent on a special diplomatic mission: envoy / tourist.
3 For a country's right to govern itself without outside interference: sovereignty / dependence.
4 For an agreement involving many countries: multilateral / bilateral.
5 For a temporary halt to fighting: ceasefire / escalation.
6 For talks between exactly two countries: bilateral talks / multilateral summit.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

bilateral talks | ceasefire | envoy | international body | mediator | multilateral | ratify | sovereignty

Report A: The two governments held 1 _____ to discuss trade, insisting on respect for each other's 2 _____.
Report B: A special 3 _____ was sent to broker a temporary 4 _____ between the warring parties.
Report C: Several countries signed a 5 _____ agreement, though not all parliaments have yet moved to 6 _____ it.
Report D: An independent 7 _____ acted as a neutral 8 _____, helping the two sides find common ground.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The challenge of multilateral cooperation

International bodies designed to facilitate multilateral cooperation face persistent structural challenges, since individual member states retain sovereignty and can refuse to ratify agreements that conflict with domestic political priorities. Bilateral talks between two countries can often move faster than multilateral negotiations, which must accommodate a much wider range of competing interests and veto possibilities. However, multilateral frameworks offer advantages that bilateral arrangements cannot replicate, particularly for addressing challenges that cross many borders simultaneously, such as climate change or pandemic response, where a patchwork of bilateral deals would prove far less effective than coordinated global action.

1 What persistent structural challenges do international bodies face? _____

2 Why can member states refuse to ratify agreements? _____

3 How do bilateral talks often compare with multilateral negotiations in terms of speed? _____

4 What must multilateral negotiations accommodate? _____

5 What advantages do multilateral frameworks offer? _____

6 Give an example of a challenge better suited to multilateral action. _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 Parliament formally approved the treaty. RATIFY _____

2 A temporary halt to fighting was agreed. CEASEFIRE _____

3 The country insisted on its right to self-govern. SOVEREIGNTY _____

4 A neutral party helped both sides agree. MEDIATOR _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how countries could work together to solve a shared global problem. Include specific challenges and solutions.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Process 2 Person 3 Concept 4 Concept 5 Process 6 Institution 7 Person 8 Process

2 Corrections

1 ratify the treaty 2 A special envoy 3 each other's sovereignty 4 a multilateral agreement
5 agreed to a ceasefire 6 body oversees the region 7 mediator helps resolve the dispute
8 bilateral talks last week

3 Suitable descriptions

1 ratify 2 envoy 3 sovereignty 4 multilateral 5 ceasefire 6 bilateral talks

4 Reports

1 bilateral talks 2 sovereignty 3 envoy 4 ceasefire 5 multilateral 6 ratify 7 international body 8 mediator

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Individual member states retain sovereignty and can refuse to ratify agreements.
2 If agreements conflict with domestic political priorities.
3 Bilateral talks can often move faster.
4 A much wider range of competing interests and veto possibilities.
5 They can address challenges that cross many borders simultaneously.
6 Climate change or pandemic response.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 Parliament voted to ratify the treaty. 2 A ceasefire was agreed.
3 The country insisted on its sovereignty. 4 A mediator helped both sides agree.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.