

1. Chapter 1 discusses how different theories like realism, liberalism, and feminism affect how we view the world. Think about other courses you’ve taken in other disciplines. Can you think of examples in which differing theoretical foundations lead to differing conclusions about how the world works?
2. What are the potential pitfalls of proceeding from the assumption that your country’s perspectives, values, ideals, and institutions are universal? Drawing on your knowledge of your country’s history, can you think of examples in which decision-makers made mistakes because they failed to adequately consider other perspectives?
3. In what ways does history matter in our efforts to understand contemporary international relations?
4. Think of some ways that international relations affect your daily life. See if you can come up with three different parts of your life that are influenced by international relations.
   1. (Hint: To get you started, thing of some of your favorite possessions, maybe a phone or a t-shirt. Where was it designed? Where was it manufactured? Where did the material come from?)
5. What aspect of international relations do you feel you know the most about? What aspect are you most excited to learn more about? In reading this chapter, did you learn of any aspects of international relations you knew nothing about?
6. Consider the three levels of analysis. Which do you tend to think about when you consider international issues? As you begin your studies of international relations, do you feel that any one level is more important than the others?
7. Is the United Kingdom a nation-state? What about the United States? China? How many countries can you think of that are both states and nation-states?
8. Consider your daily life. What interests do you have? What objectives do you have? What strategies might you use to obtain these objectives?
9. Are there any recurring, unresolved, consequential questions that have led you to decide to study international relations? What are they? Do your classmates agree that these questions are recurring, unresolved, and consequential?
10. Drawing from other classes you may have taken, books you may have read, movies you have seen, or any other information you have, think of at least three connections between past and present, theory and practice, or aspiration and reality that have influenced the world today (or influenced a fictional world in a book or movie).