



**NEMZETI  
KÖZSZOLGÁLATI  
EGYETEM**  
LUDOVIKA

---

**VÍZTUDOMÁNYI KAR**

**FINAL EXAM TOPICS**

**INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE**

**AND DIPLOMACY (MA)**



**2024. BUDAPEST**

- 1. Present the hydrologic cycle and the different forms of water on Earth**
  
- 2. Clouds are formed by small water droplets or by small pieces of ice. How can they stay at high altitudes? Why clouds do not fall down to the ground?**
  
- 3. How would you characterize the flood wave period of a creek?**
  
- 4. The "Anthropocene" phenomenon: history of global trends, pressures resulting in the "peak everything" era**
  - turning points, "revolutions" for the human-environment interaction
  - global megatrends of the 20th century
  - impact on human/social capital and natural capital
  - Planetary Boundaries: meaning of the term, key subsystems included
  
- 5. Natural Capital in the 21st Century: key messages of the main post-2015 reports from IPBES, the Resource Panel, and the IPCC**
  - carrying capacity of natural resources for the material flow of the real economy
  - ecological services
  - trends of natural resource changes over the past 50 years
  - "doughnut economy", "prosperity without growth", circular economy as principles
  
- 6. Water as a key issue for UN Agencies and Programs. Water as a horizontal and vertical issue in the UN Sustainable Development Goals system. The post-2018 World Water Development reports.**
  - ecological and economic roles of water
  - UN agencies and programs depending on different aspects of access to water
  - UN Water: a co-ordination platform
  - the main themes and key conclusions of the post-2018 UN World Water Development Reports
  
- 7. Sources and structure of international water law. Principles of international water law under the 1997 New York Convention**
  - What are the sources of international water law
  - the role of scholarly bodies in the development of international water law
  - the international treaty framework (global conventions, regional and basin treaties, bilateral agreements)
  - international judicial activities, the main water-related cases
  - evolution of the principles of international water law
  - the three core principles of international water law under the Convention
  
- 8. The evolution of EU water law**
  - phases of EU water law development

- outline of the Urban Waste Water Directive and the Drinking Water Directive
- outline of the Water Framework Directive

### **9. Surface water quality management under EU water**

- the system of surface water protection under the Water Framework Directive (general objectives, good water status and exemptions (Art. 4), River Basin Development Plan, program of measures)
- the Priority Substances Directive
- the Urban Waste Water Directive

### **10. Rules of transboundary water governance under EU water law**

- cooperation requirements under the Water Framework Directive vis-à-vis other member states
- cooperation requirements with third countries
- transboundary aspects of EU water law beyond the WFD (floods, urban waste water, priority substances)

### **11. New paths in water protection and water management laws**

- use of cleaned waste water: necessity, caveats, solutions
- equal personality of rivers: legal personality in general, application of the concept to natural objects, examples, possible application to international water bodies

### **12. Water management, water protection, and waste management laws**

- comparison and interrelationships
- constitutional legal background & major tasks and structure
- the most important legal tools, principles

### **13. Environmental impact assessment**

- definition, procedural steps
- the role of the Environmental Impact Study
- effects to be examined, alternatives, socio-economic effects, effects of construction and phasing off public participation in EIA procedures
- the EIA type legal institutions

### **14. Criminal law protection of natural environment**

- describe the elements of the crime of nature damage (Article 242 of the Criminal Code) and the qualified cases of the crime of nature damage.

### **15. Comparison of interpersonal and group communication**

- goals, functions, factors of successful communication
- the concept of emerging qualities as higher levels of communication are established

### **16. Mass communication and internet communication**

- comparison of the operation and effects of conventional media messages and Social Network Systems on the internet
- political and economic aspects

### **17. Intercultural communication**

- factors of differences in communication cultures

- anxiety in intercultural communication and overcoming tools, face saving
- intercultural communication within one society: communication with the undercast, gender aspects

### **18. Application of conflict theories in the field of environmental and water conflicts**

- stages and levels of conflicts, solutions and prices
- typical patterns of environmental conflicts
- role of sustainable development principles in conflict resolution

### **19. Background factors of water and environmental conflicts. Conflict management skills**

- demography, historical ethnic and religious tensions
- rising and declining powers
- food as a possible trigger and condition of conflicts
- conflict management processes
- preparing for the process
- engaging in the process
- managing the process and its outcomes

### **20. Harnessing the limits of International law in conflict management**

- What does international law offer for conflict management
- What are the limits and how to overcome them
- various alternative dispute resolution techniques
- definitions and comparison

### **21. Water conflicts in military history from antiquity to the 20th century**

- describe the significance of water conflicts in the 21st century based on a freely chosen armed conflict
- describe the importance of water in the historical armed conflicts and crises of the Middle East

### **22. Global challenges and problems (energy, water and raw material scarcity) and their security consequences**

- assessment of the global water scarcity problem and its security implications

### **23. The US foreign policy in historical perspective: the Cold War**

- meaning of containment and the Long Telegram
- institutionalization of the Cold War (Truman doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, Warsaw Pact)
- nuclear deterrence and the US strategies (mass retaliation, flexible response, missile defense)
- the Soviet Union in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s
- briefly summarize the most important events (Berlin crisis, Suez and the Hungarian revolution, Cuban missile crisis, détente and the Helsinki Process, opening to China; the high level talks of the 1980s)

### **24. Theories of International Relations**

- the basic assumptions related to the theory (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism)
- evolution of the theories

- What do the theories say about: states, international relations, and the international system?
  - What is the central motivation behind international relations (eg. power, security, cooperation, beliefs)?
  - explain a recent international event (eg. the war in Ukraine)
- (very) short description of the event
- explain the event according to the chosen theory
  - drivers of the event (what caused it)
  - main actors
  - main goals
  - possible solutions and consequences

## **25. Hydro-diplomacy**

- the concept of hydro-diplomacy – definitions
- the concept of hydro-diplomacy – comparison with other concepts related to transboundary water management
- various track of hydro-diplomacy and their applications

## **26. Explanation of the difference between community water and commodity water. How would you ensure a sustainable and equitable water resource use?**

- initial distribution
- production input, allocation, allocation efficiency
- monitoring
- legal environmental constraints
- examples case

## **27. Is it a good idea to help economic entities (farmers, industrial producers) by subsidizing water use? What are the benefits and drawbacks of such a subsidy from an individual and a public perspective (with examples)? What are the feasible alternatives of subsidies of water use?**

- production input allocation by prices
- regulate production efficiency differences
- lack of innovation
- vested interests
- access to new markets, improving bargaining power, co-operation among farmers along the product value chain

## **28. Management of transboundary water projects (TWPs)**

- projects – definition, classifications, examples of TWPs
- project management cycle and processes
- results-based approach to project management – key features, logic models
- use of logical framework
- management of TWPs through river basin organizations – key features, opportunities, benefits, challenges

## **29. International water governance (IWG)**

- water-related challenges that the institutions for IWG deal with
- factors affecting IWG
- role of the institutions for IWG (in dealing with hydro-political resilience / hydro-political vulnerability) & Institutional typology of IWG – key features of global, regional, basin, and bilateral institutions

### **30. Transboundary water cooperation in the Danube river basin**

- history and main challenges of cooperation
- legal framework for cooperation – Belgrade Convention, Sofia Convention, Sava Agreement, bilateral agreements
- institutional framework for cooperation – Danube Commission, ICPDR, Sava Commission, bilateral commissions
- role of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

### **31. The notion of water governance and its relationship to water management, water law, and water policy. The four dimensions of water governance**

- notion of governance
- relationship between government and governance
- what is water governance? components of main definitions
- critical relationships: water management, water policy, water E-law
- the four dimensions of water governance: social, economic, political, environmental
- ethical and value-based considerations

### **32. What are the core water governance functions and institutional variables that shape the design of water governance systems?**

- policy- and law (rule)-making
- administrative decision-making and supervision
- actual management of water resources
- main design variables: degree of centralization/autonomy, geographical scale, role of non-governmental actors

### **33. Geography of transboundary water governance**

- what are transboundary river basins?
- describe the number and distribution of transboundary river basins around the world
- basin typology and their impact of hydro-politics
- what are federal rivers and how do they relate to transboundary river basins

### **34. Hydro-political hotspots in the world**

- what is a hydro-political hotspot?
- describe three major contemporary hotspots and the nature of the underlying conflict

### **35. The hydro-political cooperation dilemma and the key hydro-political theories**

- the spatial misfit, the collective action problem of shared waters and the hydro-political cooperation dilemma
- the main relevant hydro-political theories
- water wars thesis
- water nationalism
- hydro-hegemony
- institutionalism

**36. Key questions of transboundary water governance addressed by international water law**

- water allocation
- water quantity
- hydrological variability
- institutional questions
- institutional questions (procedures for interventions in the basin with transboundary impacts, monitoring and exchange of information, institutional frameworks of cooperation, dispute settlement)