



**RIARA SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & DIPLOMACY**  
*NURTURING INNOVATORS*  
**MAY – AUGUST 2023 TRIMESTER**  
**EXAMINATIONS FOR DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & DIPLOMACY**  
**DAY PROGRAMME**  
**RIR 307: DOCUMENTS OF DIPLOMACY**

**DATE: AUGUST 2023**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- i. Students are NOT permitted to write on the examination paper during reading time.
- ii. This is a closed book examination. Text book/Reference books/notes are not permitted.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your REGISTRATION NO. Clearly on the answer booklet(s)
2. Answer Question One (COMPULSORY) and ANY One in Section B
3. Questions in all sections should be answered in answer booklet(s)
4. Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question.
5. PLEASE start the answer to EACH question on a NEW PAGE
6. For the questions, write the number of the question on the answer booklet(s) in the order you answered them
7. Write your answers in paragraph form unless stated otherwise
8. Keep your phone(s) SWITCHED OFF at the front of the examination room
9. Do not refer to any unauthorized material before or during the course of the examination
10. You are only allowed to leave the examination room 30 minutes to the end of the Examination

**SECTION A: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION (30 MARKS)**

### QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

- a) What is the purpose of an exequatur? (6 marks)
- b) Outline the actors in official correspondence. (6 marks)
- c) What are the credentials and letter of recall? (6 marks)
- d) Discuss characteristics of documents of diplomacy. (6 marks)
- e) Distinguish between internal and external diplomatic forms of correspondence. (6 marks)

### SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS (40 MARKS)

#### QUESTION TWO

- a) What is Diplomatic correspondence and its role in diplomatic practice? (10 marks)
- b) Elaborate on modern means of communication and diplomacy? (10 marks)

#### QUESTION THREE

- a) Discuss the importance of documents of diplomacy. (10 marks)
- b) Using theory, explain reasons for government secrecy. (10 marks)
  - **External Threat explanation**, suggests that government secrecy is designed to protect sensitive information from foreign powers and other external enemies;
  - assumes that state officials are motivated by a concern with the national interest and, especially, national security. In order to maintain and enhance this security, officials must withhold information from potential foreign rivals. Certainly a government cannot reveal national defense plans to its enemies, at least not without grave risks. Also, intelligence agencies must protect their sources and methods. Moreover, a state must withhold secrets, such as the details of trade negotiation strategies, even from relatively friendly countries with which it is, from time to time, in competition. So it is the governments of foreign countries, not members of the public, that are the objects of government secrecy. The approach implies that the government will make no effort to withhold information if the information is already known by the enemy powers. Moreover, the government will not usually withhold documents for very long periods, and as soon as certain practices or strategies are fully obsolete, the government will declassify the relevant documents.
  - **the Bureaucratic Politics explanation**, sees secrecy as a relatively unsystematic process that results from the (collectively) irrational features in any government bureaucracy;
  - assume that foreign policy, whatever its basis, is the result of a coherent strategy that is designed to achieve some assigned objectives. The Bureaucratic Politics approach challenges this assumption and argues that policy-making in all areas -- including information policy -- is rarely quite so simple. One of the most basic aspects of any bureaucratic entity is adherence to standard operating procedures, and this adherence can sometimes result in suboptimal or irrational outcomes
  - government officials may be motivated by parochial bureaucratic factors, interest group pressures, or other political considerations; however, the accepted standard of

bureaucratic discussion does not permit officials to frame their arguments in terms of these things and, instead, demands that the national interest be invoked to justify all foreign policy.

- **the Internal Threat approach**, argues that government officials use secrecy to mislead the populations of their own countries.
- argues that government officials use secrecy (at least partly) as a device to mislead the public and to ensure elite control over foreign policy.
- the use of secrecy and the selective dissemination of one-sided information will help the statesman to assert informed and responsible leadership, which realists like Morgenthau advocate.
- Selective information dissemination, advocated by Morgenthau, may sometimes involve deliberate misrepresentation

#### QUESTION FOUR

- a) Describe the structure and aim of verbal and personal notes? (10 marks)
- b) Discuss types of classified documents and the roles they play in diplomatic correspondence. (10 marks)

#### QUESTION FIVE

- a). Describe new challenges and threats of modern diplomacy on official correspondence. (10 marks)
- b) Identify the levels of classification and use examples to elaborate. (10 marks)
  - "Top Secret" shall be applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security.
  - Top Secret: information would cause "exceptionally grave damage to the national security" if there were an unauthorized release.
  - "Secret" shall be applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause serious damage to the national security.
  - Secret: information that would, with unauthorized release, be expected to cause "serious" damage to the national security.
  - "Confidential" shall be applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause damage to the national security.
  - Confidential: information that is determined to have the potential to cause danger to the national security with unauthorized release.

