

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS

M9317 PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (RESIT PAPER)

DATE: Wednesday 2nd August 2023 TIME: 9.30am-11.30am

Percentage of final mark carried by this paper: 40%

Materials permitted into Examination Hall: Copies of Brownlie's Basic Documents in International Law or Blackstone's Documents in International Law (ed. Malcolm Evans). Only underlining or highlighting to these may be done, absolutely no additional writing/text may be added to these books.

Answer TWO Questions

PLEASE TURN OVER

Q.1 'Despite all of their flaws, treaties still offer a satisfactory and predictable method of making international law.'

Drawing on your studies, discuss why you either disagree or agree with the foregoing statement.

Q.2 '... it is really, really important, I think, to understand this, so far as understanding the decision I took, and, frankly, would take again: if there was any possibility that [Saddam Hussein] could develop weapons of mass destruction, we should stop him. That was my view. That was my view then and it's my view now.

...

This isn't about a lie or a conspiracy or a deceit or a deception, it's a decision. And the decision I had to take was, given Saddam's history, given his use of chemical weapons, given the over one million people whose deaths he had caused, given 10 years of breaking UN resolutions, could we take the risk of this man reconstituting his weapons programmes or is that a risk that it would be irresponsible to take?'

(Former UK Prime Minister Rt Hon Tony Blair, Evidence to the Iraq Inquiry under the Chairmanship of Sir John Chilcot, 29th January 2010)

PLEASE TURN OVER

The former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair clearly still felt he had made the right decision regarding the invasion of Iraq, even many years after the operation began. Drawing on your studies, evaluate the legal basis of the former PM's decision and whether you think that he should have felt confident when he took that decision in 2003.

- Q.3** 'International Law continues to focus on states, which is why it finds it difficult to combat modern terrorism'.

Drawing on your studies critique the foregoing statement.

- Q.4** 'The question of what constitutes a state is ultimately a political one.'

Drawing on your studies, consider whether this is a fair and accurate one.

- Q.5** How does international law deal with those who perpetrate international crimes? Do you think it would be better for these criminals to be managed within international or national court systems?

PLEASE TURN OVER

END OF PAPER

INTERNAL EXAMINER: THÉRÈSE O'DONNELL

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER: DR. ANDREW TICKELL, GLASGOW
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