**Preparation Topics for MA Entrance Interview in International Relations**

1. **Core Theories of International Relations**
   1. Realism (classical, neorealism)
   2. Liberalism (idealism, neoliberal institutionalism)
   3. Constructivism
   4. Marxism and Critical Theories
2. **Key Concepts and Debates**
   1. Sovereignty and the state system
   2. Power: hard power, soft power, smart power
   3. Balance of power vs. collective security
   4. Security dilemma and deterrence
   5. Global governance and international regimes
   6. Anarchy and order in world politics
3. **Actors in International Relations**
   1. States as primary actors
   2. Role of international organizations (e.g., UN, NATO, WTO)
   3. Non-state actors: MNCs, NGOs, terrorist groups, diasporas
   4. Influence of great powers vs. small states
4. **Contemporary Global Issues (basic awareness expected)**
   1. War in Ukraine and shifts in global security
   2. U.S.–China rivalry / Indo-Pacific strategy
   3. Israel–Palestine conflict
   4. Migration and refugee crises
   5. Energy politics and global supply chains
5. **Globalization and Its Critics**
   1. Economic globalization (trade, finance, inequality)
   2. Political and cultural impacts of globalization
   3. Anti-globalization movements and populism
6. **Regional Dynamics (awareness level only)**
   1. European integration and challenges (Brexit, far-right rise)
   2. U.S. foreign policy trends
   3. BRICS and emerging powers

**Sample Interview Questions, IR MA**

**General & Theoretical Questions**

1. What is the difference between realism and liberalism in International Relations? (Follow-up: Which one do you find more convincing in today’s world and why?)
2. What is state sovereignty, and why is it a central concept in IR?
3. Explain the concept of "soft power." Can you give an example of a country that effectively uses it?
4. What roles do international organizations (like the UN, NATO, or the WTO) play in world politics today?
5. What is the 'security dilemma'? Provide an example from a recent or historical case.

**Applied / Analytical Questions**

1. Choose a recent international conflict (e.g., Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Gaza, India-Pacistan) and briefly explain how IR theory helps understand the causes of that conflict.
2. How has globalization changed the nature of state power in international politics?
3. Do you think non-state actors (e.g., multinational corporations, NGOs, terrorist groups) have become more influential in world politics than states? Why or why not?
4. Some argue the world is becoming more multipolar. Do you agree? What does this mean for global stability?