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11 BA-2, Paper-4, Unit-1

12 Introduction to International Relations

13 International relations is a study of inter-
14 connectedness of Politics, economics and law
15 on global level. It is either a field of
16 Political Science or an interdisciplinary field
17 of study. It is a study of political
18 entities and the wider world systems.
19 The history of international relations based
20 on sovereign states often traced back
21 to the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648
22 a stepping stone in the development
23 of modern state system.

19 Normativity - IR theories can be categorised
20 on the basis of normativity. Empirical
21 theories seek to explain why certain
22 events and trends exist in world politics
23 whereas normative theories are concerned
24 with the events or trends that should
25 exist and how to make ethical judgements
26 accordingly.

Epistemology - IR theories are also roughly

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08 divided into two epistemological camps -
"Positivists" and "Post-positivists". Positivist
09 theory aim to replicate the methods of
the natural sciences by analyzing the
10 impact of material forces. They typically
focus on features of international relations.
11 Post-positivist rejects the idea that the
social world can be studied in an objective
12 and value free way. It rejects the ideas
of neo-realism/liberalism, such as rational
13 choice theory, on the grounds that the
scientific method can not be applied to
14 the social world.