International Law Questions

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Review for Exam

LAW 305:
Public International Law

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QUESTIONS

1. Explain the term ‘International Law’.

2. Outline the sources of international law.

3. Differentiate between suspension, termination and invalidity of treaty.

4. Write brief notes on the following: negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement.

5. Distinguish between juristic works and international judicial decisions.

6. What is a State?

7. Explain your understanding of State sovereignty.

8. Differentiate between De Jure and De Facto Recognition.

9. Are there differences between the structures of intergovernmental organisations and international non-governmental organisations?

10. Describe the two types of international organisations.

11. What are the major distinctions between the African Union and the International Committee of the Red Cross?

12. Distinguish between the focus of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the African Union.

13. Highlight the main purposes of the United Nations.


15. Should the Charter of the United Nations be seen as providing a dramatic change in the international law concerning the use of force, or merely as a logical development from what had gone before?

16. Why is it of importance that Article 2(4) of the UN Charter be seen as customary international law?

17. Should acts of terrorism ever justify the use of force as defined in Article 51 of the UN Charter?

18. “While the requirements of self-defence for a justification of the use of force are theoretically clear, it seems all too apparent that this defence is
used by states with sufficient power to assert a right to use force for other reasons - even if those reasons seem incompatible with the Charter.” Discuss.

19. “International law contained in the Charter of the United Nations intended to proscribe the use of force in international relations, has proved inadequate. This is less the fault of the Charter than it is the fault of powerful member states and their allies who have ignored the Charter when it was thought that to do so was politically expedient.” Discuss.

20. What do you think are the significant differences between civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic social and cultural rights on the other?

21. Write brief notes on international instruments of human rights.

22. List the six core areas that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) covers.

23. Highlight five norms of international environmental law.

24. List the natural resources and environmental quality managed by international environmental law.

25. Briefly explain the four international crimes enunciated at the 1949 Geneva Conventions.


27. Briefly explain the structure of the International Criminal Court.

28. Explain the role of the international criminal court in combating international crimes.

29. Define and distinguish among the following:
   a. The territorial sea  
   b. Internal waters  
   c. The contiguous zone  
   d. The exclusive economic zone  
   e. The continental shelf  
   f. The high seas  
   g. The international seabed.

30. What are the positions of United Nations Convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS III) on sea-piracy and landlocked states?

31. What is the role of the international tribunal for the law of the sea?