

United Nations History and Function Study Guide

Name: Study Guide Answer Key

What is the primary function of the United Nations?

To promote international peace and security around the world

To promote human rights

List and explain three reasons why the League of Nations failed:

1. Unanimous decisions to take action
2. Collective Security: all members respond to any attack on a member as if it is an attack on themselves
3. Excluded Germany, Russia, and others
4. United States did not join because President Wilson didn't include Republicans in the process of writing the League Charter
5. No way to enforce their decisions

What year was the United Nations formed?

June 25th, 1945

What United States President helped to write the United Nations Charter?

Franklin D Roosevelt

Please define the three priorities of the United Nations Charter in your own words:

Sovereignty- the authority of the government in place within a state to govern its land and peoples as they see fit without outside interference

Self-determination- the right of peoples to choose how they want to be governed

Territorial Integrity- borders of states cannot be changed by force

Please describe a situation in which one or more of the priorities of the UN Charter might conflict with one another.

If a government is violating the human rights of their citizens and those citizens want to change the government. The UN would have to find a resolution that allows for the sovereignty of the government to be maintained while also honoring the right to self-determination.

Why is the Security Council the most powerful section of the United Nations?

They are the only part of the UN that has the power to enforce their decisions. Any resolutions passed by the Security Council have the force of law. There are 5 permanent members of the Security Council who have the power to veto any resolution.

To pass a resolution the Security Council needs at least 9 votes in favor of a resolution passing and no permanent member to use their veto

Name the five countries that have permanent seats on the Security Council and therefore have the power to veto any resolution.

1. United States
2. Great Britain
3. China
4. Russia
5. France

How are the other 10 seats on the Security Council selected and how are they divided among the rest of the world?

10 elected seats
5 seats reelected every two years, terms are for 4 years
Current practice allocates
five elected seats to African or Asian states,
two to Latin American states,
one to an Eastern European state
and two to Western European states.

Human Rights are the rights that ALL humans have regardless of age, where they are born, gender, etc.
(YOU ONLY NEED TO BE ABLE TO NAME ONE OR TWO)

Examples of Human Rights:

Article 1	Right to Equality	Article 16	Right to Marriage and Family
Article 2	Freedom from Discrimination	Article 17	Right to Own Property
Article 3	Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security	Article 18	Freedom of Belief and Religion
Article 4	Freedom from Slavery	Article 19	Freedom of Opinion and Information
Article 5	Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment	Article 20	Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association
Article 6	Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law	Article 21	Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections
Article 7	Right to Equality before the Law	Article 22	Right to Social Security
Article 8	Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal	Article 23	Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions
Article 9	Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile	Article 24	Right to Rest and Leisure
Article 10	Right to Fair Public Hearing	Article 25	Right to Adequate Living Standard
Article 11	Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty	Article 26	Right to Education
Article 12	Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence	Article 27	Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community
Article 13	Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country	Article 28	Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document
Article 14	Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution	Article 29	Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development
Article 15	Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change It	Article 30	Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights