

## Long Answer Questions

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**Q.1. Describe the process of evolution of the UN.**

**Or**

**Describe the UN.**

**Ans.** The First World War encouraged the world to invest in an international organisation to deal with conflict. Many believed that such an organisation would help the world to avoid war. As a result, 'League of Nations' was established in 1920. But it could not succeed in its objectives. Second World war began on 1st September 1939. Many more people died and were wounded in this war than ever before. The UN was founded as a successor to the 'League of Nations'. It was established in 1945, immediately after the second world war. The UN's objective is to prevent international conflict and to facilitate cooperation among states. It was founded with the hope that it would act to stop the conflicts between states escalating into war and if war broke out, to limit the extent of hostilities. Furthermore, since conflicts often arose from lack of social and economic development, the UN was intended to bring countries together to improve the prospects of social and economic development all over the world. The organisation was set up with 51 founder members and by 2017, the UN had 193 members. These included almost all independent states. In the UN General Assembly, all members have one vote each. In the UN security council, there are five permanent members. These are: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China. These states were selected as permanent members as they were the most powerful immediately after the second world war and because they constituted the victors in the wars. The UN's representative head is the Secretary General. The present Secretary General is Antonio Guterres from Portugal. He is the ninth secretary General of the UN.

**The main organs of UN are as follows:**

1. General Assembly,
2. Security Council,
3. Economic and Social Council,
4. Trusteeship Council,
5. International Court of Justice,
6. Secretariat.

**The UN consists of many different structures and agencies which are as follows:**

1. World Health Organisation (WHO)
2. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
3. The United Nations Human Right Commission (UNHRC)
4. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

5. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
6. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

**Q.2. Describe main components/organs of the UN.**

**Ans.** The United Nations Organisation was founded in order to stop the conflicts between states, to prevent the world from being faced the negative effects of the second world war, to promote peace, brotherhood and human development. 51 members states were included in it and have increased upto 193 now. Following are its main organs according to the UN Charter:

**1. General Assembly:** All the UN member states are involved in the General Assembly. Each member state can nominate a maximum of 5 representatives but only one vote can be given by each member state. Usually, only one conference is held for the General Assembly. However, several conferences can be held if the need be. Its main functions are to think and propose effective solutions to problems related to peace and safety, to pass the UN budget and to elect members of other organs of the UN.

**2. Security Council:** It is the most important organ of the UN. It has America, Britain, China, France and Russia as five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members. The non-permanent members serve only for two years at a time and are elected regionally by the General Assembly. Its main functions are to establish peace in the world, to resolve conflicts and propose solutions and use its powers against any country (if the need be). It elects judges of the International court of Justice with the help of the General Assembly.

**3. Economic and Social Council:** This integral organ of the UN has 54 members. These members are elected by the General Assembly. Member states have tenure of 3 years. But 1/3 members are chosen every year. The country can again be chosen as a member of economic and social council by completing its tenure of 3 years. To take measures related to economic, social, cultural, health and cure and to organise international summits are its functions.

**4. Trusteeship Council:** The countries which are kept under control and care of other UN member countries are taken care by the council. Evolution and progress of these countries is the responsibility of this council. Since, all the countries have become capable enough to maintain their system, no significance of trusteeship council can be observed.

**5. International Court of Justice:** There are a total of 15 judges. The General Assembly and the Security Council choose the judges. Tenure of judges is 5 years. Members and non-members of the UN can take their cases to the International Court of Justice. Court resolves all the matters presented to it. International Court of Justice is main judicial unit of the UN. It is situated at Hague, Holland.

**6. Secretariat:** This is the UN head office, headed by the Secretary General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year renewable term. All permanent member countries of the UN should agree. Its role is to control and supervise the different organs of the UN spread all over the world. The UN General-Secretary takes part in conferences of the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council. Its role is to maintain a record of all the actions.

**Q.3. Describe any six criteria for the new membership of Security Council as suggested after 1997.**

**[CBSE Delhi 2015]**

**Ans.** ix criteria for the new membership of Security Council are as follows:

- (i) A major economic power.
- (ii) A major military power.
- (iii) A substantial contributor to the UN budget.
- (iv) A big nation in terms of its population.
- (v) A nation that respects democracy and Human Rights.
- (vi) A country that would make the council more representative of the world's diversity in terms of geography, economic systems and culture.

**Q.4. Highlight the role played by India in the UN.**

**[CBSE Sample Paper]**

**Ans.** India has been a member of the UN from its day of foundation, 24th October, 1945. It has shown deep respect towards the principles mentioned in the UN charter and considers the UN an integral organisation for world peace. Following are the roles played by India in the UN:

**1. Considering the UN universal:** India wants that all countries of the world become a part of the UN. India played a major role in making Bangladesh, Ireland, Hungary and Sri Lanka, a member of the UN. China and Pakistan always opposed India but India still favoured them.

**2. Disarmament:** All the countries have been demanding for disarmament after the second world war. India is one of them. India has been constantly supporting eliminating the use of nuclear weapons. The Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT) signed by the US, UK and USSR was welcomed by India. Foreign Minister of India was chosen as a representative in the UN's disarmament summit.

**3. Supporting the revolt against colonialism and apartheid:** India has always revolted against colonialism, apartheid and racism. It is due to this reason that in 1961,

India was the representative in the council of 17 countries made by the UN against colonialism. It also criticised American attack on Libya, Grenada, etc.

**4. Safety of human rights:** India has always supported safety of human rights specified by the UN. India has revolted against slavery, arrest without any reason, prevention from freedom of expression and views, unacceptable behaviour and attitude towards prisoners, punishing writers for their works, etc.

**5. Efforts related to international peace and security:** Following are the efforts done by India related to international peace and security:

- In June, 1950, when North Korea attacked South Korea, militaries of 16 countries under the UN went for its security. When it tried to expand area of war by defeating the attackers, then India opposed it. Since, India was the President of peacekeeping commission, peace and exchange of prisoners of war were established and held in the supervision of India.
- India was Vice-president in resolving the conflicts between Indo-China in 1954. UN intervened to end the war. The problems were tried to solve in a peaceful manner.
- Britain, France and Israel attacked the Suez canal as soon as it got nationalised in 1956. India opposed this and played a key role in stopping the war.
- India criticised military actions taken by the USSR on Hungary in 1956.
- India tried to establish peace in Iraq-Iran war started in 1990.
- In 1990, after Iraq captured Kuwait, India strongly opposed Iraqi proposals passed by the UN.

**Q.5. Trace the evolution of the United Nations since its establishment in 1945. How does it function with the help of its structures and agencies?**

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

**Ans. Evolution of the UN:**

(i) The UN was founded as a successor to the League of Nations. It was established in 1945.

(ii) The UN was set up through the signing of the UN Charter by 51 Nations.

(iii) It was formed with the view that it would act to stop conflict and wars.

(iv) By 2006, UN had 192 members. These included almost all independent states.

**Its functioning:**

(i) In the UN General Assembly, all member nations have one vote each.

(ii) In the UN Security Council, there are five permanent members – Britain, France, US, Russia and China and 10 temporary members.

(iii) The UN consists of many structures and agencies

(iv) War, peace, and difference between the member states are discussed in the General Assembly.

(v) Social and Economic issues are dealt with by many agencies including WTO, UNDP, UNHRC, UNICEF and UNESCO.

(Any four points or any other relevant points)

**Q.6. Write the importance of the UN in unipolar world.**

**Ans.** With the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the US stands as the only superpower. Its military and economic power allow it to ignore the UN or any other international organisation. Secondly, within the UN, the influence of the US is considerable. As the single largest contributor to the UN, the US has unmatched Financial power. The fact that the UN is physically located within the US territory gives it additional influence. The power of the US and its veto power the US can stop any moves that it finds annoying or damaging to its interests or the interest of its friends and allies. The UN is not therefore a great balance to the US, Nevertheless, in a unipolar world in which the US is dominant, only the UN can initiate the talks between the US and various countries on different issues. UN provides an arena in which it is possible to modify US attitudes and policies. UN does provide a space within which argument and policies are heard and compromises and concessions can be shaped. The UN is an imperfect body, but without it the world would be worse off. Given the growing connections and independence, it is hard to imagine how more than seven billion people would live together without an organisation such as the UN.

**Q.7. List any four steps proposed by the member countries of UN in 2005 to make it more contemporary in the world.**

[CBSE Delhi 2012]

Or

**Keeping in view the changed scenario, highlight any four steps taken by the member countries in 2005 to make the UN more contemporary.**

[CBSE Delhi 2014]

**Ans.** The Question of UN membership is a serious one. As the UN completed 60 years of its existence, the heads of all the member-states met in September 2005 to celebrate the anniversary and review the situation. The leaders in this meeting decided that the following steps should be taken to make the UN more relevant in the changing context.

1. Creation of a peace building commission.
2. Acceptance of the responsibility of the international community in case of failure of national governments to protect their own citizens from atrocities.
3. Establishment of a Human Rights Council (Operational since 19th June, 2016)

4. Agreements to achieve the millennium Development Goals.
5. Condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
6. Creation of Democracy Fund.
7. An Agreement to wind up the Trusteeship Council.

It is not hard to see that these are equally contentious issues for the UN. What should a peace building commission do? There are many number of conflicts all over the world. Which ones should it intervene? Is it possible or even desirable for it to intervene in each and every conflict? Similarly, what is the responsibility of the international community in dealing with atrocities? What are human rights and who should determine the level of human right violations and the course of action to be taken when they are violated? How realistic is it for the UN to achieve any ambitious set of goal such as those listed in millennium Development goal? Can there be agreement on a definition of terrorism? How shall the UN use funds to promote democracy? Given that so many countries are still part of the developing world. How can we expect the UN to intervene in situation like this? Would that require a change in its jurisdiction? All these matters became a subject of debate because most of the member states of the UN are developing. Can a solution be expected from these states? This will depend upon time.

**Q.8. Which three complaints related to the UN Security Council were reflected in the resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 1992? Describe any three criteria that have been proposed for new permanent members of the Security Council.**

**[CBSE (AI) 2016]**

**Ans.** The three complaints related to the U.N. Security Council were:

- (i) The UNSC had become an arena of Superpower conflict and many perceived the veto to in conflict of democracy and sovereign equality.
- (ii) The UNSC had no representation from South America and Africa.
- (iii) The UNSC represented the World scenario of 1945 and need to change to reflect the contemporary world with Brazil and India.

**The three criteria proposed are:**

- (i) The nation should be an effective power in terms of military and economy.
- (ii) The nation should have a global reach in terms of capabilities.
- (iii) The nation should be based on the consensus of majority and have known leadership qualities in military campaigns, peace building and cultural sphere.

