

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

COURSE: IRL 422

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IRL 422: HUMAN RIGHTS

Lecturers: Prof. K. Amuwo and Mr. R. Loromeke

QUESTIONS

- 1- Discuss the various official documents that constitute the foundations of Human Rights
- 2- Discuss the various philosophical reflections on Human Rights
- 3- Are human rights universal?
- 4- With clear illustrations, examine the role of Amnesty International in the protection of Human rights.
- 5- With clear illustrations, examine the role of activists in the prevention of Human Rights abuses?
- 6- Examine the various mechanisms that can be used to enforce human rights
- 7- “There is an organic linkage between Human Rights and Law”. Discuss
- 8- With clear examples, discuss the following: Slavery, Apartheid and Genocide
- 9- Identify and examine the various generations of Human Rights?
- 10- Examine the evolution of Women’s rights.
- 11- Examine the evolution of Human rights.
- 12- ” There has been and continues to be debate over whether rights actually are universal or whether they are culturally based and, therefore, vary with time and place”. Discuss.
- 13- Discuss the factors militating against the enforcement of Human Rights.
- 14- “Terror regimes such as Abacha’s are frightened by the word, the power of ideas, the power of the pen, by the demands of social justice and the rights of man.”- Ken saro Wiwa. Discuss.
- 15- Account for the emergence of International Human Rights law.

MODEL ANSWERS IN ALTERNATE SEQUENCE (ODD NUMBERS)

QUESTION 1

The student is expected to discuss the various documents and the events that led to them: the Magna Carta, the English bill of rights, the American declaration of Independence, the French declaration of the Rights of Man and the citizen, the universal declaration of Human Rights and the African charter of Human and People’s rights.

QUESTION 3

There is no right or wrong answer to the question. The aim is to appreciate the various arguments of any position. The student is expected to discuss the various features that give human rights a universalistic connotation such as Universal declaration of Human rights. The student is also expected to show its universality in the fact that there is wide international agreement on the moral status of human rights. On the other hand, the student must also show that some of the issues H.R addresses are of specific and local content.

QUESTION 5

The student must show that activists can bring international attention to Human rights abuses. Also in recent times, through the use of rallies and protests and other legal tools at their disposition they can exert pressure on governments. The cases of Mandela, chief Gani, Fela kuti, are examples that the student can use.

QUESTION 7

The student will establish that all international agreements on human rights must be enshrined into the municipal laws before they can be justiciable. In other words, without that, they are mere words. It is the enactment into law that makes them enforceable. The student will also discuss the idea behind international law.

QUESTION 9

The classification model of “generations of human rights” was advanced by French jurist Karel Vasak. : The first generation of rights was meant to set limits to the power of the state vis-à-vis its citizens. These political and civil rights of individuals clearly reflect secular western values such as liberal individualism and laissez faire economics. The second generation of rights revolves around economic and social rights. They were essentially shaped by revolutionary movements in Russia and China. The third generation rights are sometimes referred to as solidarity or development rights and these are eloquently captured in the African charter on Human and people’s rights which asserts that the state has an obligation to pursue goals of human betterment and public good above and beyond the protection of the individual.

QUESTION 11

The factors militating against the enforcement of H.R. are: state sovereignty, the nature of the international system. Politics of the superpowers, weak institutions of third world countries...