

UN Quiz Bee Category C Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. What is the primary function of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)?**
 - A. To enforce international law**
 - B. To promote international economic and social cooperation and development**
 - C. To oversee peacekeeping missions**
 - D. To regulate global environmental policies**
- 2. How long are terms for elected members of the Security Council?**
 - A. One year**
 - B. Two years**
 - C. Three years**
 - D. Five years**
- 3. What is the main function of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?**
 - A. To provide military support to countries**
 - B. To promote and stabilize international monetary cooperation**
 - C. To monitor environmental issues**
 - D. To promote cultural exchanges**
- 4. Which of the following is a principal organ of the UN responsible for coordinating international cooperation on economic and social issues?**
 - A. Trusteeship Council**
 - B. Security Council**
 - C. Economic and Social Council**
 - D. General Assembly**
- 5. What is a key feature of the UN Security Council?**
 - A. It has no permanent members**
 - B. It focuses only on economic issues**
 - C. It has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security**
 - D. It holds annual meetings with no binding resolutions**

- 6. What is the main objective of the UN's annual climate change conference (COP)?**
- A. To explore future trade agreements**
 - B. To review UNFCCC implementation and negotiate climate action**
 - C. To establish military alliances for climate issues**
 - D. To promote tourism in affected areas**
- 7. Which country, not signing the Charter at San Francisco, is still considered an original member?**
- A. India**
 - B. Poland**
 - C. Brazil**
 - D. Sweden**
- 8. Who commands the UN Peacekeeping Operations?**
- A. The Secretary-General through a special representative**
 - B. The President of the Security Council**
 - C. The General Assembly**
 - D. The World Security Council**
- 9. Where is the headquarters of the United Nations University (UNU) located?**
- A. New York, USA**
 - B. Geneva, Switzerland**
 - C. Tokyo, Japan**
 - D. Paris, France**
- 10. Which of the following is a central tool of the UN action to consolidate peace?**
- A. Military intervention**
 - B. Development assistance**
 - C. Political treaties**
 - D. Peace treaties**

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary function of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)?

- A. To enforce international law**
- B. To promote international economic and social cooperation and development**
- C. To oversee peacekeeping missions**
- D. To regulate global environmental policies**

The primary function of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is to promote international economic and social cooperation and development. Established in 1945, ECOSOC serves as a central forum for discussing and coordinating international efforts to tackle economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues. It works to enhance the standard of living and improve living conditions worldwide by facilitating discussions among member states, civil society, and various stakeholders on key development challenges. Through its various mechanisms, such as the organization of thematic debates, high-level panels, and the promotion of sustainable development goals, ECOSOC aims to foster partnerships, mobilize resources, and implement policies that encourage cohesive development strategies. This focus on cooperation and development is crucial for addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and economic instability. The other options represent roles or functions that are handled by different UN bodies or specialized agencies—enforcing international law relates more to the International Court of Justice, overseeing peacekeeping missions is primarily the responsibility of the UN Security Council, and regulating global environmental policies falls under the purview of bodies like the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. How long are terms for elected members of the Security Council?

- A. One year**
- B. Two years**
- C. Three years**
- D. Five years**

Elected members of the United Nations Security Council serve terms of two years. This structure is designed to provide continuity and stability within the Council while allowing for new members to bring in fresh perspectives and ideas. The two-year term helps maintain a balance between continuity and the inclusion of diverse member states over time. Additionally, the composition of the Security Council ensures that not all elected members leave at the same time, with elections held on a staggered basis. This system allows for a regular refresh of the Council's membership, ensuring that various geopolitical interests are represented. The other options do not accurately reflect the term length designated for elected members. One year is too short to fulfill the responsibilities required in the Council, while three years and five years extend beyond the standard two-year term set forth in the UN's rules governing the Security Council.

3. What is the main function of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- A. To provide military support to countries**
- B. To promote and stabilize international monetary cooperation**
- C. To monitor environmental issues**
- D. To promote cultural exchanges**

The primary function of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is to promote and stabilize international monetary cooperation. This involves overseeing the international monetary system to ensure exchange rate stability and facilitate balanced growth in international trade. The IMF provides policy advice, financial assistance, and technical assistance to its member countries. Its primary goals are to foster global monetary cooperation and ensure that the global economy remains stable, which is crucial during economic crises or when countries face balance of payments issues. In this context, the IMF also plays an important role in providing economic surveillance, offering guidance on economic policies, and helping countries build the capacity to manage and stabilize their economies. By doing so, the IMF contributes to a sustainable economic environment that can lead to greater international economic growth and stability, which aligns perfectly with its mission. The other options, while relevant to various global issues, do not pertain specifically to the IMF's main objectives and functions.

4. Which of the following is a principal organ of the UN responsible for coordinating international cooperation on economic and social issues?

- A. Trusteeship Council**
- B. Security Council**
- C. Economic and Social Council**
- D. General Assembly**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) serves as a principal organ of the United Nations specifically tasked with fostering international cooperation on a wide array of economic and social issues. Established to facilitate discussions and coordinate efforts among member states, ECOSOC plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges such as poverty, education, and social development. Unlike the Security Council, which is primarily concerned with maintaining international peace and security, ECOSOC focuses on social progress and sustainable development, promoting policies that enhance the economic and social well-being of people worldwide. Its unique position allows it to engage with diverse stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, making it a vital forum for dialogue and collaboration on economic and social challenges. The Trusteeship Council, while historically significant, is no longer functioning in its original capacity, as it was primarily responsible for overseeing the administration of trust territories, which are now largely self-governing. The General Assembly, while also pivotal in the UN structure and addressing a broad range of issues, does not specifically focus on coordinating international economic and social cooperation to the same extent as ECOSOC.

5. What is a key feature of the UN Security Council?

- A. It has no permanent members**
- B. It focuses only on economic issues**
- C. It has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security**
- D. It holds annual meetings with no binding resolutions**

The primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security is a fundamental aspect of its role within the United Nations. This means that the Security Council is tasked with identifying and addressing threats to peace, whether these arise from conflicts between nations, internal strife within countries, or acts of aggression. It has the authority to impose sanctions, authorize military action, and establish peacekeeping operations, demonstrating its crucial power in directing collective action to prevent and resolve conflicts. Understanding this role emphasizes the Council's importance in global governance and diplomatic efforts, making it a prominent body in international relations tasked with upholding peace and ensuring security around the world. In contrast, the other options mischaracterize the Council's structure and responsibilities, as it does indeed have permanent members, addresses a wide range of issues including military and humanitarian crises—not limited solely to economic matters—and makes binding decisions on member states.

6. What is the main objective of the UN's annual climate change conference (COP)?

- A. To explore future trade agreements**
- B. To review UNFCCC implementation and negotiate climate action**
- C. To establish military alliances for climate issues**
- D. To promote tourism in affected areas**

The primary aim of the UN's annual climate change conference, known as COP (Conference of the Parties), focuses on reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and negotiating climate action among its parties. This conference serves as a crucial platform where countries communicate their progress, substantiate their commitments to mitigate climate change, and discuss strategies for adaptation and financing. The negotiations held during COP are pivotal, as they allow nations to set binding agreements and targets to limit global warming and address the impacts of climate change. The discussions also facilitate collaboration on technological advancements and financial support for developing nations, enhancing their resilience against climate-related challenges. Other options provided either focus on unrelated themes, such as trade agreements or military alliances, which do not directly correlate with the climate agenda, or suggest tourism promotion, which is not a core objective of the COP. The emphasis is strictly on climate agreements and action progression, making the focus on reviewing the UNFCCC implementation and negotiating climate measures absolutely central to the conference's purpose.

7. Which country, not signing the Charter at San Francisco, is still considered an original member?

- A. India**
- B. Poland**
- C. Brazil**
- D. Sweden**

Poland is considered an original member of the United Nations even though it did not sign the Charter at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. This status is due to Poland's representation through the Polish National Council, which was in exile during the war, and its recognition by the other Allied nations. When the UN was established, it was important for the organization to include all major players involved in the war and the formation of the UN, leading to Poland being granted original member status despite its absence from the signing ceremony. The historical context reflects Poland's significant role in the war and the post-war rebuilding efforts, solidifying its inclusion in the UN's founding member list. The other countries listed either signed the Charter or were involved in different capacities during the formation of the UN, which is why they do not share the same status as Poland in this specific context.

8. Who commands the UN Peacekeeping Operations?

- A. The Secretary-General through a special representative**
- B. The President of the Security Council**
- C. The General Assembly**
- D. The World Security Council**

The United Nations Peacekeeping Operations are commanded by the Secretary-General, who acts through a special representative. This structure ensures a cohesive and coordinated approach to peacekeeping missions, as the Secretary-General has the authority to deploy peacekeeping forces and create operational strategies. The special representative serves as a direct liaison between the UN's leadership and the peacekeeping troops on the ground, overseeing their operations and ensuring that they align with the UN's broader objectives for peace and stability in conflict-affected regions. This arrangement allows for a centralized command that can rapidly respond to changing situations in the field, enabling effective management of resources and logistics, and ensuring that peacekeeping efforts are consistent with the UN's principles and mandates. Other bodies, such as the President of the Security Council and the General Assembly, play supportive roles in the context of authorizing missions and providing oversight, but they do not directly command the operations themselves. As such, the role of the Secretary-General and the special representative is paramount in the functioning of UN Peacekeeping Operations.

9. Where is the headquarters of the United Nations University (UNU) located?

- A. New York, USA**
- B. Geneva, Switzerland**
- C. Tokyo, Japan**
- D. Paris, France**

The United Nations University (UNU) is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. Established in 1975, UNU serves as a global think tank and postgraduate educational institution. Its mission is to contribute to the resolution of global problems through research, education, and capacity-building initiatives that address issues that are relevant to the United Nations' objectives and principles. Tokyo was chosen as the location for UNU headquarters due to Japan's longstanding commitment to international cooperation and sustainable development, as well as its strategic significance in the Asia-Pacific region. This positioning allows UNU to engage more effectively with regional partners and address challenges that are specific to this area. The other locations mentioned—New York, Geneva, and Paris—host various other key UN agencies and related organizations, but they are not the headquarters for UNU. New York, for example, is the main headquarters for the United Nations itself, while Geneva is known for its numerous specialized agencies and international offices. Paris is home to UNESCO and other international entities. Therefore, while those cities play vital roles within the UN system, the specific institution of the United Nations University is based in Tokyo.

10. Which of the following is a central tool of the UN action to consolidate peace?

- A. Military intervention**
- B. Development assistance**
- C. Political treaties**
- D. Peace treaties**

Development assistance is a central tool of the UN's action to consolidate peace as it focuses on addressing the underlying socio-economic issues that can lead to conflict. When the UN provides development assistance, it helps to improve infrastructure, health, education, and livelihoods in post-conflict areas. This support is integral to building stable societies that can sustain peace over the long term. Development initiatives often aim to create opportunities for economic growth and social cohesion, which are crucial for reducing tensions among communities. By fostering development, the UN works to establish a foundation for durable peace, which includes not only the absence of war but also the presence of justice, economic stability, and social well-being. In contrast, options like military intervention, political treaties, and peace treaties may have roles in peacekeeping and conflict resolution but are typically more focused on managing conflict rather than addressing the broader socio-economic factors that contribute to lasting peace.