BLOGS

Logical Reasoning Questions for CLAT UG 2026- PART VI

Ruchika Mohapatra · 07 Aug 2025

PASSAGE

The international human rights framework is built on the premise that certain rights are universal, inalienable, and applicable to all individuals, irrespective of their nationality, culture, or political system.

This principle has led to the development of treaties, conventions, and monitoring bodies aimed at ensuring that states uphold these rights. However, the assertion of universality often collides with claims of national sovereignty, the idea that each state has the authority to govern itself without external interference.

Some states argue that human rights norms, particularly those concerning gender equality, freedom of speech, and minority rights, reflect the cultural and political values of specific regions and are not universally applicable. They contend that attempts to impose such standards constitute a form of moral imperialism that undermines self-determination.

Proponents of universality counter that cultural relativism can be used to justify oppression and evade accountability. They argue that allowing states to pick and choose which rights to recognize weakens the moral foundation of the human rights regime.

This tension raises questions about how to reconcile respect for cultural diversity with the enforcement of international norms, especially in a global order that lacks a central enforcement authority.

1. What is the primary philosophical conflict described in the passage?

A. The dispute between civil and political rights
B. The balance between economic development and legal compliance
C. The tension between universal human rights and national sovereignty
D. The role of religion in international politics

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The passage centers on the conflict between the universal enforcement of human rights and states' claims to govern independently.

2. Which of the following is most likely to be argued by a cultural relativist state in response to international human rights pressure?

A. All rights must be implemented in full as per global treaties

B. Human rights norms are shaped by Western liberal ideologies and may not suit all societies

C. International courts should override national decisions

D. Universal human rights protect only majority groups

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Cultural relativists argue that universal norms often reflect Western values and may not align with local traditions.

3. Which assumption underlies the proponents' argument in favor of universal human rights?

A. Cultural diversity should always be preserved, even at the cost of rights

B. Human dignity requires certain basic protections that transcend cultural differences

C. National sovereignty is incompatible with ethical governance

D. All international law is automatically binding

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Universalists believe that some rights are so fundamental that they should apply regardless of culture or national context.

4. Suppose a country denies education to girls, citing traditional customs. Which of the following would most support the universalist position against this policy?

A. The country has signed treaties guaranteeing gender equality

B. The tradition is supported by a majority of citizens

C. Similar practices exist in neighboring countries

D. The government offers financial compensation to families

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Universalists would argue that international commitments override local customs when they violate human rights norms.

5. What is the main practical challenge to enforcing international human rights mentioned in the passage?

A. Inadequate legal education in developing countries

B. The absence of a central authority to compel state compliance

C. Lack of interest among international NGOs

D. Overabundance of international courts

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The passage points out that the global order lacks a centralized enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance.

6. What would be the likely response of a cultural relativist to the claim that their practices justify oppression?

A. That oppression is acceptable under traditional norms

B. That each society should define rights based on its own cultural and historical context

C. That only economic rights are truly universal

D. That rights can only be guaranteed through religious law

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Cultural relativists often argue that universalism imposes external values and ignores legitimate cultural differences.

7. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument for strict cultural relativism in human rights enforcement?

A. Some cultural traditions have persisted for centuries

B. Universal human rights violations lead to mass exodus and regional instability

C. Public opinion polls favor traditional governance

D. Human rights treaties are optional and non-binding

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: If ignoring universal norms causes harm beyond borders, it weakens the justification for cultural relativism.

8. If the international community imposes sanctions on a country for violating rights of minorities, which principle is being prioritized?

A. Cultural pluralism

B. Non-intervention

C. Enforcement of universal norms

D. Bilateral diplomacy

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Sanctions reflect an effort to uphold international human rights standards over national autonomy.

9. Which of the following reflects a key criticism of universality mentioned in the passage?

A. It ensures fairness and equality for all societies

B. It neglects to include Western democracies

C. It may be used to impose external moral standards on sovereign states

D. It lacks support from any legal tradition

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The passage critiques universalism as sometimes becoming a tool for external moral or political dominance.

10. What broader international legal dilemma does the passage reflect?

A. The problem of defining criminal liability in armed conflict

B. The trade-off between international cooperation and legal uniformity

C. The struggle to balance state sovereignty with global ethical obligations

D. The conflict between public and private international law

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The core issue is how to uphold human rights while respecting the sovereign autonomy of nations.