

BLOGS

Multiple Choice Questions on Public International Law- Part I

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1. Which of the following is NOT listed as a principal source of international law under Article 38 of the ICJ Statute?

- A) Treaties and conventions
- B) Customary international law
- C) General principles of law
- D) Resolutions of the UN General Assembly

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: UNGA resolutions are not considered a primary source under Article 38; they may reflect political consensus but are not binding legal sources.

2. Under the Montevideo Convention (1933), which of the following is NOT a criterion for statehood?

- A) A permanent population
- B) A defined territory
- C) A stable economy
- D) A government and capacity to enter relations with other states

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: A stable economy is not a requirement; the core criteria are population, territory, government, and international capacity.

3. According to the “declaratory” theory of recognition, recognition of a state:

- A) Is required to create the state’s legal existence
- B) Has no legal effect whatsoever
- C) Merely acknowledges a state’s already-existing legal status once criteria are met
- D) Must be unanimous among all other states to be valid

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The declaratory theory views recognition as a political acknowledgment, not a legal necessity for statehood.

4. Which of the following crimes is typically subject to universal jurisdiction?

- A) Money laundering
- B) Genocide
- C) Traffic violations committed abroad
- D) Copyright infringement

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Genocide is a core international crime subject to universal jurisdiction due to its gravity and impact on humanity.

5. Under the restrictive doctrine of state immunity, which act is NOT protected by immunity?

- A) Acts of a sovereign nature
- B) Governmental decisions
- C) Signing a commercial contract with a private firm
- D) Legislative functions

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Commercial acts (*jure gestionis*) are not immune under the restrictive theory; only sovereign acts (*jure imperii*) are.

6. A reservation to a treaty is NOT allowed if:

- A) The treaty permits all reservations
- B) The reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty
- C) The reservation concerns procedural obligations
- D) The reservation is communicated to other parties

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: A reservation that undermines the treaty's core purpose is prohibited, regardless of formalities.

7. What is the legal effect of a treaty that conflicts with a jus cogens norm?

- A) It is void
- B) It remains valid until amended
- C) It is voidable
- D) It is suspended

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Treaties conflicting with peremptory norms of international law are void ab initio and without legal effect.

8. Which of the following is NOT required for state responsibility to arise?

- A) Attribution of conduct to the state
- B) Breach of an international obligation
- C) Intent to violate international law
- D) Conduct by a state organ

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: State responsibility is objective; intent is not a necessary element.

9. An international organization's treaty-making capacity depends on:

- A) Approval from the host country
- B) Its own founding documents and rules
- C) Consent from the UN General Assembly
- D) Universal customary practice

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The organization's own charter or rules determine its competence to enter into treaties.

10. Which right under the ICCPR is non-derogable even during emergencies?

- A) Freedom of expression
- B) Freedom from torture
- C) Freedom of assembly
- D) Right to join a union

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The right to be free from torture is absolute and cannot be suspended under any

circumstances.

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