

BLOGS

Multiple Choice Questions on Public International Law for CLAT PG 2026

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Q1. The principle of *pacta sunt servanda* means:

- (A) Treaties bind only if convenient
- (B) Treaties are binding upon the parties and must be performed in good faith
- (C) Treaties can be revoked unilaterally
- (D) Treaties bind only after ratification by all UN members

Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: This is a core principle of treaty law under the Vienna Convention — agreements must be honored in good faith.

Q2. Under the UN Charter, the use of force by states is prohibited except:

- (A) In any political dispute
- (B) For self-defense or when authorized by Security Council
- (C) For protection of economic interests abroad
- (D) To enforce domestic law abroad

Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: Article 2(4) prohibits force, with exceptions under Article 51 (self-defense) and Chapter VII authorizations.

Q3. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has:

- (A) Criminal jurisdiction over individuals
- (B) Jurisdiction over disputes between states
- (C) Jurisdiction over private corporations
- (D) Advisory jurisdiction over domestic courts

Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: The ICJ settles disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to UN bodies.

Q4. The doctrine of *jus cogens* refers to:

- (A) Non-binding principles
- (B) Peremptory norms from which no derogation is permitted
- (C) Regional customs only
- (D) Voluntary codes of conduct

Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: *Jus cogens* norms like prohibition of genocide and slavery override all conflicting treaties.

Q5. Recognition of a state can be:

- (A) Only de facto
- (B) Only de jure
- (C) De facto or de jure
- (D) Impossible without UN approval

Correct Answer: (C)

Explanation: Recognition may be provisional (de facto) or full legal recognition (de jure).

Q6. Under the law of the sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends:

- (A) 12 nautical miles
- (B) 24 nautical miles
- (C) 200 nautical miles
- (D) Beyond continental shelf only

Correct Answer: (C)

Explanation: EEZ extends up to 200 nm from baselines, giving sovereign rights for resource use.

Q7. Diplomatic agents are immune from:

- (A) All jurisdiction
- (B) Civil and criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state, with limited exceptions
- (C) Only criminal jurisdiction
- (D) Tax laws of home country

Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: Vienna Convention grants immunity from both civil and criminal jurisdiction, with

exceptions like private immovable property disputes.

Q8. The principle of *non-refoulement* applies to:

- (A) Diplomatic relations
- (B) Refugees and asylum seekers
- (C) Maritime boundaries
- (D) State succession

Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: It prohibits returning refugees to territories where their life or freedom would be threatened.

Q9. Under state responsibility, a breach of an international obligation:

- (A) Must always involve armed force
- (B) Requires reparations in the form of restitution, compensation, or satisfaction
- (C) Can be excused if due to economic hardship
- (D) Has no legal consequences

Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: States must make full reparation for internationally wrongful acts through restitution, compensation, or satisfaction.

Q10. The concept of *terra nullius* means:

- (A) Land belonging to no one
- (B) Land owned by multiple states
- (C) Disputed territory under UN control
- (D) Land granted to indigenous peoples

Correct Answer: (A)

Explanation: It refers to territory not under sovereignty of any state, historically subject to occupation.