

UN YPP 2014	
Job family	Human Rights
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	January 15, 2015 (Literally just to add a missing full-stop on MCQ #3)
Updated version may be posted at	http://miadjojowasito.com/2014/10/21/non-acting-stuff-un-ypp-2014/ (if I think of something or suddenly remember)

Side notes
- Personally, I liked these questions more than the Social Affairs 2012 questions. - Because it was so laidback, I also managed to eat 3 Snickers bars and drink a can of coffee (I don't recommend it, however—it has a way of making one a little hyper and jittery) and a bottle of water this time. This isn't random: I'm trying to illustrate how much less tension the Human Rights 2014 questions gave me compared to the Social Affairs 2012 ones. - Sometimes at night I think of how I'm not Amal Clooney and I cry myself to sleep. #CryForHelp

1	General Paper
	Précis writing
	Condense a 850-ish word (?) text to approx. 300 words.
	- Text about climate change (global warming, weather-related disasters, floods, rising sea levels, drought, pollen, cold-blooded-animal-borne disease) - Tons of stats and years (something to do with the last 3 decades, earth temperature since 1850, etc.) - Vulnerable groups/individuals (the elderly, children, disabled, those with pre-existing chronic diseases, etc.) - Most vulnerable areas (coastal communities, microstates, developing countries, including specific geopolitical regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, methinks? I forget) It's all over the place! Which is why they give you scrap paper, it's not like 'summarising' an article off a magazine/textbook. Because if it were published material, some editor must have taken a look at it to ensure the article is structured in a logical order. Instead they 'scattered' points that should be in a single, topical paragraph all over the place. Naturally they don't use some of those words I listed above; instead they'll say "changes in global climate", "people with infirmaries", and so on. Add: Someone just posted on one of the LinkedIn groups, apparently the text source was: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/ (I copied and pasted the contents of this page in case the WHO deletes it or moves it to another part of the site, see: page 5 below).
	MCQs
1	The Rome Statute establishes... LOL. You could answer this in French even if you don't speak French.
2	Something about which legal instruments govern something... a. UDHR, ICCR, ICESCR, Terrorism Convention

	b. Other variations (with omissions of some of those)
3	Which applies during armed conflict: IHL, human rights law first, or both but IHL first.
4	Something to with right to water (during armed conflict, if a state or party to a conflict's water resources were attacked, what would that make it? An attack on right to water, violation of humanitarian law, or something else). Sorry! But memory's really fuzzy on this one.
2	Specialised Paper
	Essay
2.1	Optional (there were two, you had to pick one)
	How does the internet (including social media) impact human rights, positively and negatively. And how have governments dealt with this? OMG. Such a broad answer: You could answer everything from censorship, access to education, channels of reporting abuse, privacy/surveillance (IRT counter-terrorism), IHL (attacking key infrastructure—such as water resources—in cyber warfare), libel, whistle-blowing, rights of children/child abuse, free speech/freedom of information. Personally I ended up doing entire grids, I think I had: Three-four boxes on two pages (two columns per page: one page for positive/negative impacts for human rights, and the next page elaborating how governments dealt with the impacts).
2.2	Compulsory
	State X just had its government overthrown (or something along those lines, can't remember if this involved conflict or a relatively non-violent coup). So the UN sets shop in the country to monitor the country and stuff (I don't think there was any mention of peacebuilding, just that there's a country office). And after a successful election, they have a new government in place. Now after 4 years, they think they've transitioned so successfully into democracy that they're stable enough to kick your and your staff out of the country. To which you're like...  Your tasks is to write a brief aimed at the senior staff of said country office, containing: 1. Political reasons why the UN should remain in the country (uhm, you're four years old and we should stay around at least for your second election, let alone a newly-reformed state). 2. Other reasons/justifications, including what the UN's presence can offer if allowed to stay (aid incentives, we can help forward rights of whichever marginalised group is particularly persecuted/discriminated against or women's rights or whatever).

	This one sort of left an iffy taste in my mouth—probably because I’m from a former military dictatorship that’s only been ‘democratised’ in 1998? It makes me think of that French & Saunders “Expat Wives ‘95” sketch (the original version, not the second one from ~2004). In which Saunders’ character—who, by the way, seems to have alcoholic tendencies—waffles on about handing over governments to the natives citizens of a country: “Because they [the local servants and other house staff] do so like to work foh the Brit-tish. It’s another one of my big worrehs, you see, is that we sometimes handover the reins of government fah, faaaah, too quickleh... to people. Befo’ they understand—I suppose, it’s right, yes... It’s right... Befo’ they understahnd the complexehtehs of... the thing. And they themselves [are] full of tribal conflict... And make a mess of iht.” [All the while, French’s character is rolling her eyes into her skull and back.] LOL. Sorry, couldn’t help myself. But seriously, her character is so patronising and hilarzballs.
3	Short answers
	I think we were supposed to pick 4 our 6 or something. Answering more than the assigned amount of question doesn’t give you extra points. Don’t bother, it’ll impress no one.
3.1	Name three groups which are vulnerable to human rights violations and list two types of violations each are prone to. Example: - LGBTQIA - Why is all the queer content getting censored by the Indonesian government and I’m getting 404’s (or, rather, what appears to be fake 404 pages set up by the government and service providers under their thumb) when I don’t have my proxy thing on? Does Grindr even work in this country—why can’t I seem to locate that dude from “Top Gear”? - Why does the LGBTIQ film fest I volunteered at being physically harassed by organisations like FPI and why didn’t the Indonesian government at the time (SBY, I’m looking at you and the First Lady, man) condone it? Why can’t I just watch my queer films without being paranoid about raids and having to sprint? - Indigenous peoples - Right to live their ways of life, and keep their land rights, without stupid people signing stupid petitions because they don’t know what “cultural relativism” is. - Basically every other issue faced by most indigenous peoples: Everything that everyone, from Papuans (Indonesian Melanesians) to the Sami people, have in common. And there a ton of them! The end. - Women (and girls) - OMG, stop trying to impregnate me already. What am I, your bloody broodmare? - OMG, let me pursue that Ph.D. in cyberwarfare so I can give those geezers at NATO a piece of my mind because the Tallinn Manual is so lacking and the moderator at a Q&A on geopolitics wouldn’t give me the time of day because he only addressed attendees with penises during the whole thing. Oh wait, but you won’t even let me have a basic education... Because you’re making me into a child-bride. Never mind. Because you know what? That’s YOUR LOSS.

3.2	Explain to a friend why the World Bank should promote human rights? I found this strange, like the first thing that came to mind was arm-twisting/blackmailing (but then again I'm inherently evil, so naturally I thought that). Actually, what I assume the appropriate answer to that question would be more like: 1. Because otherwise, the World Bank would be indirectly violating human rights by enabling (funding) a human rights-violating government/regime; 2. Because why not? Lost opportunity to twist a few arms. Eh. I squirmed a bit with point #1 because it reminded me of Vesper's train scene on "Casino Royale" and I'm like, "No, Mia... That's art imitating life, not the other way around... So it's not gross or tacky at all! Now answer the damn question." NEXT!
3.3	A member of a terrorist group detained, he has intel on a bomb set to go off within 24 hours. Why should law enforcement not waterboard to extract information on the location of the bomb and/or how to dismantle it even if waterboarding him could save hundreds of lives—versus torturing this one subject? Personally, I still don't know if a terrorist threat justifies torture. I really don't (I don't know the Vulcan answer, let alone the Homo sapiens one). The choices we have to make in life... No really, what <i>is</i> the correct answer? Go download the Convention Against Torture or something. I'm done thinking for today. My brain hurts.
3.4	This one made me think of London's anti-homeless spikes for some reason, although they never explicitly mentioned any use of spikes: An NGO has alerted you about a new regulation which makes it illegal for people to sleep on the streets. Which rights have been violated here, and what measures can be taken? List three available internationally avenues and two nationally. As in why are they sleeping in the first place anyway? Like no shelters or lack of job security/welfare schemes? Is there no place for victims of domestic violence/LGBTIQ individuals to go? I totally failed at the avenues (I should have kept myself updated on that—learn from my mistake, people).
3.5	List two human rights issues in each of these countries: 1. Columbia 2. CAR (?) 3. I forget 4. I forget I didn't pick this question.

Climate change and health

Fact sheet N°266

Reviewed August 2014

Key facts

- Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.
 - Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.
 - The direct damage costs to health (i.e. excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation), is estimated to be between US\$ 2-4 billion/year by 2030.
 - Areas with weak health infrastructure – mostly in developing countries – will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.
 - Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy-use choices can result in improved health, particularly through reduced air pollution.
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Climate change

Over the last 50 years, human activities – particularly the burning of fossil fuels – have released sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to trap additional heat in the lower atmosphere and affect the global climate.

In the last 100 years, the world has warmed by approximately 0.75°C. Each of the last 3 decades has been successively warmer than any preceding decade since 1850¹.

Sea levels are rising, glaciers are melting and precipitation patterns are changing. Extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent.

What is the impact of climate change on health?

Although global warming may bring some localized benefits, such as fewer winter deaths in temperate climates and increased food production in certain areas, the overall health effects of a changing climate are likely to be overwhelmingly negative. Climate change affects social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.

Extreme heat

Extreme high air temperatures contribute directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, particularly among elderly people. In the heat wave of summer 2003 in Europe for example, more than 70 000 excess deaths were recorded².

High temperatures also raise the levels of ozone and other pollutants in the air that exacerbate cardiovascular and respiratory disease.

Pollen and other aeroallergen levels are also higher in extreme heat. These can trigger asthma, which affects around 300 million people. Ongoing temperature increases are expected to increase this burden.

Natural disasters and variable rainfall patterns

Globally, the number of reported weather-related natural disasters has more than tripled since the 1960s. Every year, these disasters result in over 60 000 deaths, mainly in developing countries.

Rising sea levels and increasingly extreme weather events will destroy homes, medical facilities and other essential services. More than half of the world's population lives within 60 km of the sea. People may be forced to move, which in turn heightens the risk of a range of health effects, from mental disorders to communicable diseases.

Increasingly variable rainfall patterns are likely to affect the supply of fresh water. A lack of safe water can compromise hygiene and increase the risk of diarrhoeal disease, which kills almost 600 000 children aged under 5, every year. In extreme cases, water scarcity leads to drought and famine. By the 2090s, climate change is likely to widen the area affected by drought, double the frequency of extreme droughts and increase their average duration six-fold³.

Floods are also increasing in frequency and intensity. Floods contaminate freshwater supplies, heighten the risk of water-borne diseases, and create breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects such as mosquitoes. They also cause drownings and physical injuries, damage homes and disrupt the supply of medical and health services. Rising temperatures and variable precipitation are likely to decrease the production of staple foods in many of the poorest regions – by up to 50% by 2020 in some African countries⁴. This will increase the prevalence of malnutrition and undernutrition, which currently cause 3.1 million deaths every year.

Patterns of infection

Climatic conditions strongly affect water-borne diseases and diseases transmitted through insects, snails or other cold blooded animals.

Changes in climate are likely to lengthen the transmission seasons of important vector-borne diseases and to alter their geographic range. For example, climate change is projected to widen significantly the area of China where the snail-borne disease schistosomiasis occurs⁵.

Malaria is strongly influenced by climate. Transmitted by *Anopheles* mosquitoes, malaria kills almost 800 000 people every year – mainly African children under 5 years old. The *Aedes* mosquito vector of dengue is also highly sensitive to climate conditions. Studies suggest that climate change could expose an additional 2 billion people to dengue transmission by the 2080s⁶.

Measuring the health effects

Measuring the health effects from climate change can only be very approximate. Nevertheless, a WHO assessment, taking into account only a subset of the possible health impacts, and assuming continued economic growth and health progress, concluded that climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050; 38 000 due to heat exposure in elderly people, 48 000 due to diarrhoea, 60 000 due to malaria, and 95 000 due to childhood undernutrition⁷.

Who is at risk?

All populations will be affected by climate change, but some are more vulnerable than others. People living in small island developing states and other coastal regions, megacities, and mountainous and polar regions are particularly vulnerable.

Children – in particular, children living in poor countries – are among the most vulnerable to the resulting health risks and will be exposed longer to the health consequences. The health effects are also expected to be more severe for elderly people and people with infirmities or pre-existing medical conditions.

Areas with weak health infrastructure – mostly in developing countries – will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.

WHO response

Many policies and individual choices have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and produce major health co-benefits. For example, cleaner energy systems, and promoting the safe use of public transportation and active movement – such as cycling or walking as alternatives to using private vehicles – could reduce carbon emissions, and cut the burden of household air pollution, which causes some 4.3 million deaths per year, and ambient air pollution, which causes about 3.7 million deaths every year.

In 2009, the World Health Assembly endorsed a new WHO work plan on climate change and health. This includes:

- **Advocacy:** to raise awareness that climate change is a fundamental threat to human health.
- **Partnerships:** to coordinate with partner agencies within the UN system, and ensure that health is properly represented in the climate change agenda.
- **Science and evidence:** to coordinate reviews of the scientific evidence on the links between climate change and health, and develop a global research agenda.
- **Health system strengthening:** to assist countries to assess their health vulnerabilities and build capacity to reduce health vulnerability to climate change.

References

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