

Rights Under the Lens

Use the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to evaluate oppression.

10.10a "Following World War II, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) was written. This provides a set of principles to guide efforts to protect threatened groups."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two rights named in paragraph 2. Circle two apartheid policies in paragraph 3 that conflict with those rights.

A Standard for Human Dignity

- ① World War II atrocities strengthened demands for human rights. Nazi Germany and its collaborators murdered six million Jews in the Holocaust and persecuted and killed other targeted groups. The UN was founded in 1945. Later trials at Nuremberg and Tokyo prosecuted individual leaders for international crimes, showing that official positions did not automatically shield them from responsibility. These experiences formed part of the setting for broader UN principles protecting human dignity.
- ② The UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1948. Its thirty articles address rights belonging to every person without discrimination. Article 1 affirms equal dignity; Article 5 rejects torture. Article 13 recognizes movement and residence within a state's borders, and Article 21 addresses participation in government. Other articles protect expression, religion, education, and an adequate standard of living. The declaration is not itself a treaty or an automatic enforcement system. It provides a shared standard that influenced later treaties and human-rights advocacy.
- ③ Apartheid, entrenched in South Africa from 1948, enforced racial hierarchy through law. White minority rule denied equal political participation. Racial restrictions controlled where Black South Africans could live and travel; forced removals uprooted communities. These policies violated equality, movement, and political-participation principles. Struggle and negotiations dismantled apartheid, culminating in the 1994 democratic election. Applying the declaration identifies specific rights, helping explain what protection and institutional change require.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did wartime atrocities and postwar trials shape the setting for the declaration?

2 According to the passage, what makes the declaration universal, and what is its legal status?

3 Name two apartheid policies described in the passage. Then name one declaration principle that those policies conflicted with.

4 Why does naming violated declaration principles make an evaluation of oppression stronger than simply calling treatment unfair?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Hypothetical case: a government bars a religious minority from voting and choosing where to live. In three sentences, identify the group and actions, apply two declaration principles, and explain needed protection.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two rights named in paragraph 2. Circle two apartheid policies in paragraph 3 that conflict with those rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did wartime atrocities and postwar trials shape the setting for the declaration?	Atrocities strengthened demands for human rights. Trials demonstrated individual accountability for international crimes; these experiences informed broader principles for human dignity.
2	According to the passage, what makes the declaration universal, and what is its legal status?	Its rights and freedoms belong to every person regardless of nationality, race, religion, sex, language, or other status. It is not itself a treaty, but it established a shared standard.
3	Name two apartheid policies described in the passage. Then name one declaration principle that those policies conflicted with.	Policies included reserving political power mainly for white citizens, restricting where Black South Africans could live, work, and travel, and forcing families from homes. They conflicted with equality, freedom of movement, or participation in government.
4	Why does naming violated declaration principles make an evaluation of oppression stronger than simply calling treatment unfair?	It identifies the specific rights denied, explains why a threatened group needs protection, and points toward the changes justice requires.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The government denies a religious minority voting rights and a choice of residence. These actions conflict with equal political participation and freedom of movement and residence within the state. Protection requires ending the discriminatory restrictions and securing equal access to these rights.

Accept accurate connections to equality, political participation, and movement or residence. The three-sentence response should identify the discriminatory actions, apply two relevant principles, and explain protection.