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Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

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Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 4 The United Nations (Organization)

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about United Nations which is an international organization that works to maintain peace, protect human rights, provide humanitarian aid, uphold international law and promote sustainable development.

The first organization formed after World War I was the League of Nations with the objective of maintaining peace among the nations. But it failed and the World War II caused more destruction. While the Second World War was on, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the President of the USA, and Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain, initiated the idea of forming a powerful organization.

In 1944, representatives from some countries met at Dumbarton Oaks to prepare the draft proposal. In 1945, a conference was held in San Francisco. The Charter for United Nations was discussed and on 24 October 1945, the United Nations Organization came into being.

✓ The headquarters of the United Nations are in the New York City, USA. The original membership of the UN was 51. Today,

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193 countries are the members of the UN. The membership being open to all nations who agree to follow the UN Charter. There are six official languages of the UN - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Objectives of the UN

1. To maintain peace and security in the world.
2. To develop friendly relations among countries.
3. To promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. To achieve worldwide cooperation in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems.
5. To provide a common platform to countries for coordinating their actions towards achieving common ends.

Principles of the UN.

1. All member countries are equal.
2. All member countries should obey the UN Charter.
3. The member countries to adopt peaceful means to settle their mutual disputes.
4. All member countries must offer unconditional support to the UN.
5. The UN shall not interfere in domestic affairs of the member countries.

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There are six principal organs of the United Nations. Let us study about them one by one.

- 1) The General Assembly is like the 'World Parliament'. All members of the UN are members of the General Assembly. Each member country can send delegation of five members. But each member country has one vote. The General Assembly generally meets once a year to discuss issues of international importance.

The main functions of the General Assembly are:-

1. To admit new members on the recommendation of the Security Council.
2. To appoint Secretary General on Security Council recommendation.
3. To discuss reports put forth by the main organs and agencies of the UN, and take decisions on them.
4. To draw attention of the Security Council whenever it finds that the world peace is endangered.
5. To consider and pass the annual budget of the UN.

- 2) The Security Council is the most powerful organ of the UN. It has two types of members - permanent and non-permanent. The

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five permanent members are:-

China, U.K, France, Russia and USA. These members have the veto power. The non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years. The Security Council meets as and when required.

Functions

1. To maintain world peace by examining and settling disputes among the nations.
2. It can impose economic sanctions against countries that do not act on its directions.
3. It can order military action against a country which proves to be a threat to world peace.
4. It can ask the General Assembly to expel a country from the membership of the UN if that country fails to act according to the UN Charter.

3) International Court of Justice is the judicial wing of the UN. and has fifteen judges. They are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Their term is for nine years, with one third retiring every three years. The headquarters of the ICJ are at the Hague, in Netherlands.

The International Court of Justice settles disputes between member countries. It also provides legal advice to other organs of UN.

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|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. League of Nations | 5. 51 |
| 2. Britain | 6. New York |
| 3. Declaration of Atlantic Charter | |
| 4. 1945 | 7. Hindi |

State True or False

1. True
2. True
3. False

Fill in the blanks

1. Six
2. September
3. five, one
4. China, U.K, France

Home Assignment

1. Short answer type questions 1, 2, 3
2. Long answer type questions 1, 2, 3.