Protecting Human Rights Questions

Use the Counterpoints textbook to answer these questions - pages 324-347

1. What are human rights?

2. Why is the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights significant?

3. What power does the United Nations have to enforce its Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

4. What is the purpose of the International Court of Justice?

5. What are some examples of United Nations tribunals that have prosecuted war crimes or genocide?

6. In Canada we follow the principle of "rule of law". What does that mean?

7. What was the Canadian Bill of Rights?

8. What was the weakness of the Canadian Bill of Rights?

Торіс	Year	Notes
Women	1917	
	1928	
	1929	
	1974	
Voting	1900	
	1917	
	1948	
	1960	
Aboriginal	1927	
	1960	
	1973	
	1985	
	2008	
Immigration	1903	
	1914	
	1977	
	2006	

9. Use the timeline on page 329 to complete this chart showing the evolution of Canadian human rights.

10. The Canadian government decided to apologize to certain groups because its actions violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Some of the reasons for these apologies include: the Japanese internment during World War Two (1988), the Chinese Head Tax and Chinese immigration exclusions (2006), and the treatment of Aboriginal children in residential schools (2008). Do you agree with the idea of government apologies? Explain.

11. What is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

12. What limits are placed on the charter?

13. What is the notwithstanding clause?

14. Why was the notwithstanding clause included in the charter?

15. What are the fundamental freedoms protected by the charter?

16. What are mobility rights?

17. What is extradition?

18. Why did the Supreme Court rule that Canadian citizens cannot be extradited to countries for crimes that might result in the death penalty?

19. What are equality rights?

20. What is affirmative action?

21. What are minority rights?

22. What rights do people arrested by the police have?

23. In cases of discrimination, what does the Canadian Human Rights Act cover?

24. What protections are given to British Columbians by the British Columbia Human Rights Code?

25. What is a precedent?

26. How can a decision of the Supreme Court regarding the charter be altered?

27. Look at figure 10-18 on page 341. Why do you think women have tended to earn only about 63% of what men earn? What changes do you think might improve women's average earnings?

28. What is employment equity?

29. Describe the challenge women face in the workplace.

30. What are equity groups?

31. What is reverse discrimination?

32. Read the section "preferential hiring practices" on page 342. Preferential hiring programs are controversial. Do you think they create fairness and equality or reverse discrimination? Explain.

33. What human rights apply to children?

34. What steps has the government of British Columbia taken to protect the rights of children?

35. How might child poverty be reduced in Canada?