# Cosmic Civics: Governance and the Universe

Civics & Government · Practice Test · 18 Questions

**1. Which international treaty, ratified in 1967, established the foundational principles for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies?**

A) The Outer Space Treaty
B) The Treaty of Versailles
C) The Geneva Conventions
D) The Antarctic Treaty

**2. The concept of 'sovereignty' in international law, which pertains to the supreme authority of a state within its territory, has been debated in the context of celestial bodies. What is the primary governing principle established by the Outer Space Treaty regarding territorial claims on the Moon and other planets?**

A) No state can claim sovereignty over outer space or any celestial body.
B) Sovereignty can be claimed through exploration and settlement.
C) Celestial bodies are divided among major spacefaring nations.
D) International organizations have exclusive sovereignty rights.

**3. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) plays a role in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Which of the following is a key objective of UNOOSA?**

A) To encourage the development of space law and policy.
B) To fund private space exploration ventures.
C) To regulate asteroid mining operations.
D) To establish a global space military alliance.

**4. When considering the governance of space exploration, the 'common heritage of mankind' principle, often applied to celestial bodies, suggests that resources found on these bodies should be:**

A) Used for the benefit of all humanity, with equitable sharing of benefits.
B) Owned and exploited by the nation that discovers them.
C) Reserved for use by technologically advanced countries only.
D) Subject to international taxation to fund Earth-based projects.

**5. The International Space Station (ISS) is a prime example of international cooperation in space. Which of the following agreements governs the legal framework and operational responsibilities for the ISS?**

A) The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).
B) The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
C) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
D) The Paris Agreement on climate change.

**6. In the context of space law, the 'liability regime' addresses damages caused by space objects. What is the fundamental principle of liability for damage caused by a space object?**

A) The launching state is absolutely liable for any damage caused.
B) Liability is determined by the nationality of the victim.
C) Damage is only compensated if it's intentional.
D) Space objects are immune from liability for any damages.

**7. The 'freedom of exploration' enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty means that states have the right to explore space without:**

A) Obstruction from other states.
B) Paying usage fees.
C) Environmental impact assessments.
D) International oversight bodies.

**8. Which celestial body is known for its prominent ring system, composed primarily of ice particles and dust, and is the sixth planet from the Sun?**

A) Saturn
B) Jupiter
C) Uranus
D) Neptune

**9. What is the most abundant element in the universe, making up approximately 75% of its elemental mass?**

A) Hydrogen
B) Oxygen
C) Carbon
D) Helium

**10. The 'Pale Blue Dot' photograph, famously taken by the Voyager 1 spacecraft, is a powerful image depicting Earth from a vast distance. This perspective highlights the planet's place within which larger astronomical structure?**

A) The Solar System
B) The Andromeda Galaxy
C) The Oort Cloud
D) The Milky Way

**11. Which planet in our Solar System is known for having the highest surface temperature, primarily due to a runaway greenhouse effect?**

A) Venus
B) Mercury
C) Earth
D) Mars

**12. The establishment of the 'International Astronomical Union' (IAU) is significant for standardizing astronomical nomenclature and classification. What is one of the IAU's key roles?**

A) Defining and naming celestial bodies and features.
B) Regulating private space companies.
C) Enforcing international space traffic management.
D) Allocating mineral rights on asteroids.

**13. The concept of 'due diligence' is often considered in international relations. In the context of space activities, what might 'due diligence' require a state to do regarding potential space debris?**

A) Take all reasonable measures to prevent the creation of space debris and mitigate its risks.
B) Ignore the problem as it is unavoidable.
C) Leave debris management to private entities.
D) Only address debris if it directly impacts national assets.

**14. The 'Salvage Convention' in maritime law has parallels in space law concerning objects lost or abandoned in space. However, space salvage is complicated by the lack of a universal agreement on:**

A) Ownership of salvaged space objects.
B) The cost of retrieval missions.
C) The legal status of non-state actors.
D) The environmental impact of salvage.

**15. What is the name of the galaxy that contains our Solar System?**

A) The Milky Way
B) Andromeda
C) Triangulum
D) Whirlpool

**16. The 'principle of non-appropriation' in space law, stemming from the Outer Space Treaty, directly prohibits:**

A) National claims of ownership over celestial bodies.
B) The launch of satellites for communication.
C) International scientific collaboration.
D) The use of space for peaceful purposes.

**17. Which planet is characterized by its distinctive red color, often referred to as the 'Red Planet', due to iron oxide on its surface?**

A) Mars
B) Jupiter
C) Mercury
D) Venus

**18. The 'space debris' issue poses a significant threat to operational satellites. What is a primary contributing factor to the increase in space debris?**

A) The fragmentation of satellites and rocket bodies.
B) Natural meteoroid impacts.
C) Solar flares.
D) The gravitational pull of the Moon.