

Cosmic Sovereignty and International Space Law

International Law · Answer Key · 17 Questions

1. Which treaty explicitly prohibits any State from claiming sovereignty over the Moon or any other celestial body?

- A) The Outer Space Treaty (1967)**
- B) The Moon Agreement (1979)
- C) The International Telecommunication Convention (1973)
- D) The Liability Convention (1972)

2. According to the Outer Space Treaty, what is the primary legal status of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies?

- A) The common province of all mankind**
- B) A territory subject to the first discoverer's rights
- C) A res nullius (ownerless property)
- D) A domain reserved for scientific research only

3. The principle of 'non-appropriation' in space law, as established by the Outer Space Treaty, prevents states from asserting ownership over what?

- A) Celestial bodies and their natural resources**
- B) Orbital slots for satellites
- C) The electromagnetic spectrum
- D) The atmosphere of exoplanets

4. Which international agreement, though not universally ratified, attempts to regulate the exploitation of the Moon and other celestial bodies as the 'common heritage of mankind'?

- A) The Moon Agreement**
- B) The Outer Space Treaty
- C) The Registration Convention
- D) The Principles Governing the Use by States of the Natural Resources of Outer Space

5. The concept of 'res communis omnium' as applied to outer space signifies that it is:

- A) Common to all nations and cannot be appropriated by any single one**
- B) Belonging to no one and can be claimed by the first to occupy it
- C) Under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United Nations
- D) A territory for commercial exploitation by private entities

6. What does the Outer Space Treaty stipulate regarding the liability for damage caused by space objects?

- A) The launching State is internationally liable for damage caused by its space object**
- B) Damage is the responsibility of the victim's State
- C) Only intentional damage incurs liability
- D) Liability is limited to damage caused within Earth's atmosphere

7. The principle of 'freedom of exploration and use' of outer space, enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty, applies to:

- A) All States, without discrimination, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law**
- B) Only States that have achieved a certain technological capability
- C) Member States of the United Nations
- D) Nations with existing space programs

8. What is the legal implication of a State launching a space object under the Outer Space Treaty?

- A) The State retains jurisdiction and control over that object and its personnel**
- B) The object becomes the property of the international community
- C) Jurisdiction transfers to the country where it lands
- D) It becomes subject to the laws of the nearest celestial body

9. The concept of 'peaceful purposes' concerning outer space, as per the Outer Space Treaty, prohibits:

- A) The placement of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies**
- B) All scientific experimentation involving celestial bodies
- C) The establishment of communication satellites
- D) The landing of probes on other planets

10. Which UN treaty mandates the registration of space objects launched into orbit?

- A) The Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Registration Convention)**
- B) The Outer Space Treaty
- C) The Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Moon Agreement)
- D) The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

11. Under international space law, the 'launching State' is defined as the State that:

- A) Promotes, or into the territory of which, such an object is launched**
- B) Is the primary destination of the space object
- C) Provides funding for the mission
- D) Has the most advanced space technology

12. The principle of 'due regard' in the Outer Space Treaty requires States to conduct their space activities in a manner that:

- A) Avoids harmful interference with the activities of other States**
- B) Prioritizes the interests of the launching State
- C) Is solely for the benefit of the nation conducting the activity
- D) Is exclusively for scientific research

13. What is the legal status of the atmosphere of celestial bodies under current international space law?

- A) It is considered part of the celestial body, and thus subject to non-appropriation**
- B) It is freely accessible and can be claimed by any State
- C) It is a separate domain governed by specific atmospheric treaties
- D) Its status is undefined and awaiting future treaties

14. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a UN agency, plays a crucial role in regulating what aspect of space activities?

- A) The allocation and use of the radio frequency spectrum for satellite communications**
- B) The territorial claims on the Moon
- C) The launch of nuclear weapons in orbit
- D) The mining of asteroids

15. Which of the following celestial bodies is explicitly mentioned as being subject to the Outer Space Treaty's prohibition on national appropriation?

- A) The Moon and other celestial bodies**
- B) Earth's orbit
- C) The International Space Station
- D) Comets

16. The concept of 'common heritage of mankind' for celestial bodies, as championed by the Moon Agreement, implies:

- A) Equitable sharing of benefits derived from their exploration and use**
- B) Exclusive ownership by the discoverer
- C) Free access for all without any benefit sharing
- D) No international oversight on resource extraction

17. What is the primary legal challenge in applying terrestrial legal concepts of property and sovereignty to celestial bodies?

- A) Their inaccessibility, vastness, and the inherent difficulty in establishing effective jurisdiction and control**
- B) The lack of international consensus on the definition of a celestial body
- C) The prohibition of scientific research on them
- D) The prohibitive cost of enforcing any such claims