Human Rights Worksheet

Grade 9 – 10 social studies · civics and the UDHR

Name: Date: Score: / 26

Why 1948

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations in 1948, three years after the end of a war in which states had demonstrated, on an enormous scale, what they were prepared to do to people under their own control.

Its central claim is deceptively simple: rights are held by virtue of being human, not granted by a government. If a government does not give them, a government cannot take them away. That is what the words **universal** and **inalienable** are doing.

The Declaration is not itself a law. It is a statement of agreed principle, and countries have since turned parts of it into binding treaties that they **ratify** one by one. That gap between declaring a right and enforcing it is where most of the real argument about human rights takes place.

Part A — Vocabulary match each term to its meaning (8 marks)

1. Human rights	_____	A. Cannot be taken away or given up
2. Universal	_____	B. To formally agree to be bound by a treaty
3. Inalienable	_____	C. Rights to take part freely in public and political life
4. UDHR	_____	D. The 1948 declaration setting out rights agreed by UN members
5. Discrimination	_____	E. Entitlements every person holds simply by being human
6. Civil rights	_____	F. Treating someone worse because of who they are
7. Due process	_____	G. Applying to everyone, everywhere, without exception
8. Ratify	_____	H. The right to a fair and proper legal procedure

Part B — Fill in the blanks (6 marks)

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in _____.

2. Rights that cannot be taken away are described as _____.

3. Rights that apply to everyone everywhere are _____.

4. Treating someone worse because of who they are is _____.

5. The right to a fair and proper legal procedure is called due _____.

6. To formally agree to be bound by a treaty is to _____ it.

Part C — Rights in practice for each right, name one thing a government must do or must not do (6 marks)

Right	What it requires of a government
Everyone has the right to education	
No one shall be held in slavery	
Everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution	
Everyone is equal before the law	
Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and religion	
Everyone has the right to rest and leisure	

Part D — Read Article 1 (6 marks)

ARTICLE 1 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 1948

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

— the United Nations General Assembly

1. The article says people are born free and equal. What is the significance of the word "born" here?

2. The Declaration was agreed by governments. Explain the difficulty in asking governments to set limits on their own power.

3. Name one right from Part C and explain why it might be harder for a poor country to deliver than a wealthy one.

Human Rights Worksheet — Answer Key

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Part A — Vocabulary

1. **Human rights** → E
2. **Universal** → G
3. **Inalienable** → A
4. **UDHR** → D
5. **Discrimination** → F
6. **Civil rights** → C
7. **Due process** → H
8. **Ratify** → B

Part B — Fill in the blanks

1. **1948**
2. **inalienable**
3. **universal**
4. **discrimination**
5. **process**
6. **ratify**

Part C — Rights in practice

Accept any reasonable answer. Some rights require a government to act (build schools, run courts); others require it to refrain (not enslave, not imprison without trial). Noticing that difference is the point.

1. Everyone has the right to education — **Article 26**
2. No one shall be held in slavery — **Article 4**
3. Everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution — **Article 14**
4. Everyone is equal before the law — **Article 7**
5. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and religion — **Article 18**
6. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure — **Article 24**

Part D — Article 1

1. **"Born" means the rights arrive with the person, not from any authority.**
   Nothing has to be earned, granted or qualified for, which is what makes them inalienable.
2. **The bodies most able to violate rights are the ones being asked to guarantee them.**
   A declaration agreed by governments has no enforcer above those governments. Accept any answer noting the conflict of interest or the absence of a higher authority.
3. **Rights that require spending — education, health, rest — cost money a poorer state may not have.**
   Rights that require a government only to refrain, such as not enslaving people, cost nothing. Accept any answer drawing that distinction.