

## Justifications

### Website Sample Reading Task: Multiple Choice Questions

#### UN Norms for Business

##### Example 0

The text says “The Norms [...] set out in a single, succinct statement a coherent and comprehensive list of the human rights obligations of companies.” The word “should” carries the same meaning as “obligation”. Therefore the correct answer is:

**D “how companies should follow the current human rights legislation”**

A is wrong because it mentions “new human rights legislation” but the text states that “They (i.e. the Norms) do not create new legal obligations”.

B is wrong because there is no reference to future recommendations of the UN Sub-Commission in the text, which says what the Sub-Commission did in the past (“the Norms **were** put together”).

C is wrong because there is no reference to setting up new businesses in the text.

##### Q1

The text says “the entire thrust of the UN Norms is to encourage the development of stable environments for investment and business, regulated by the rule of law”. The words “entire thrust” mean the same as “main purpose”. Therefore the correct answer is:

**B “make sure that business is conducted in accordance with the law”**

A is wrong because the text uses the word “environment” to mean the context or setting for business and investment, not to mean surroundings or nature.

C is wrong because although the text mentions corruption, it says the scope of the Norms is limited to reducing not eliminating corruption, and this is in any case only one of several sub-goals, not the main goal.

D is wrong because the text refers neither to expanding or reducing companies’ range of responsibilities but to responsibilities as defined under current legislation.

Q2

The text says “In both cases, victims suffered violations of their right to life and health“. The words “both cases“ refer back to the two locations mentioned earlier namely Bhopal and Nigeria. In addition the text goes on to say in the same paragraph that “victims suffered violations of their right to redress, to livelihood and to an adequate standard of living“. The words “suffered violations“ mean the same as “were adversely affected“, and many examples are given. Therefore the correct answer is:

A **“people’s human rights were adversely affected in several areas”**

B is wrong because the text does not mention “severance pay”.

C is wrong because the text contains no reference to the improvement of safety standards.

D is wrong because there is no mention of court orders.

Q3

The text says that “the UN Norms for Business would help create a level playing field“. The metaphor “create a level playing field“ means to impose the same conditions or regulations on all parties, i.e. companies in the context of this paragraph. Therefore the correct answer is:

C **“ensure that all companies would be treated the same”**

A is wrong because the text makes no reference to treating companies differently.

B is wrong because there is no mention of punishment.

D is wrong because there is no reference to building regulations (“a level playing field” does not refer to real land).

Q4

The text says that “the UN Norms [...] have been subjected to intensive and concerted attacks largely based on false or misleading information by industry bodies“. The words “attacks” and “criticism” mean the same; in addition the words “business sources” and “industry bodies” mean the same. Therefore the correct answer is:

C **“came from business sources”**

A is wrong because the text states that the information was “false or misleading”, not “accurately documented”.

B is wrong because the text makes no mention of criticism coming from government sources.

D is wrong because the UN Sub-Commission is not mentioned in this context.

Q5

The text says that “The principle argument in opposition to the UN Norms is that **governments, not corporations**, are responsible for the enforcement of human rights obligations”. The words “responsible for the enforcement” mean the same as “should be upheld”. Therefore the correct answer is:

A **“be upheld by governments alone”**

B is wrong because the text does not mention sharing the obligations.

C is wrong because there is no mention of any standards set out by business or industry.

D is wrong because the text says the opposite: “Instead of holding business accountable, industry groups say that efforts should only be directed to ensure that **states** develop and adequately enforce domestic human rights standards” i.e. in this area governments (= states) are responsible, not industry groups.

Q6

The text states in a quotation ascribed to Amnesty International's Secretary General that “Human rights [...] must be respected and upheld at all times under all circumstances, by all actors, state or corporate.” Therefore the correct answer is:

D **“to be supported by all parties”**

A is wrong because the Secretary General's statement doesn't mention when abuses of human rights should be reported.

B is wrong because the same statement says that corporate actors i.e. business have a duty to respect and uphold human rights.

C is wrong because the statement doesn't say anything about “prosperous countries”.