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**COMPETITIVE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
INTO IRIC 2005/2006**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER

Time : 2 hours

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (10 marks)

Read the following text and answer the questions below, using as far as possible your own words.

**REINFORCING AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM TO PROTECT CIVILIANS IN
CONFLICT.**

The focus by governments on the threats of international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction since the events of September 11th has resulted in trends that have made civilians in conflict even more vulnerable than before. Governments are failing to make the fullest efforts to protect civilians caught in neglected conflicts. Donor governments have diverted humanitarian aid to strategic countries. Governments have undermined the independence and impartiality of humanitarian aid. All these measures threaten to erode the body of international law and obligations that are the only foundations we have to protect civilians across the world. Some of these events and moves by governments have shaken the United Nations to the core. Questions have been raised in many people's minds: what is the role of the United Nations? What is the point of acting through multilateral structures?

Unfortunately, since 2001, the UN Security Council has once more been overwhelmed by geo-political events, rather than rising to the challenge. Some trends have been deeply worrying. If governments act unilaterally or in narrow coalitions, without the support and sanction of the Security Council, they not only undermine the legitimacy of their immediate actions, they also undermine the strength of the multilateral system, which is the only means of organising concerted action against violence, coercion, and deprivation. UN agencies have also been undermined by cuts to their funding from donors.

However, as this report shows, the world does need multilateralism in order to address widespread death and suffering. The leadership of the UN Security Council is crucial. Despite the failures of the Security Council to fulfil its vital mandate to uphold 'international peace and security', it remains the only body that can authorise actions, such as Operation Artemis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that can be indispensable to save lives. Such interventions are desperately needed; they are practical proof of the existence of a committed international community that seeks to protect civilians wherever they are threatened.

Equally vital are the many tools that the UN agencies have developed, through years of work on the ground responding to conflict. Led by Kofi Annan, the current Secretary General, the UN has paid far more attention to the practicalities of protecting civilians in the past few years. These pragmatic steps are useful, but more work is needed to extend protection to all civilians caught in conflict.

International humanitarian law sets universally accepted standards for the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Refugee law demands that civilians who have fled for their lives are allowed to find protection in another country without fear of being sent back. Like the UN Charter, these rules have been painstakingly negotiated by governments in order to ensure respect for minimum standards for the protection of the right to life with dignity, despite conflict. Humanitarian principles of distinction, precaution, proportion, and impartiality are set out in law to be respected in every crisis. These principles are only as strong as the commitment of all parties to enforce them and adhere to them. Upholding international law in all conflicts, with the rights of civilians, refugees, and displaced people at the forefront, is critically important in order to set a precedent where violations are no longer accepted.

From Amelia Bookstein.
"Beyond the headlines". P. 48

Questions

1. Give the meanings of the following word as used in the passage. (2 marks)
 - Vulnerable
 - Concerted
 - Indispensable
 - Pragmatic
2. Why are civilians in conflict more vulnerable than before? (2 marks)
3. What has been the role of the UN in the protection of civilians in conflict? (2 marks)
4. How do refugee laws promote human dignity? (2 marks)
5. What should all parties do to stop conflict? (2 marks)

SECTION B: VOCABULARY (6 marks)

Choose the right words from the brackets and write them out (3 marks)

1. The graduating students were awarded _____
(decrees, licence, diplomas, food)
2. We have never suffered from _____ in my village.
(hungry, hunger, food, clothe)
3. Thousands of militants will be denied the _____ to participate fully
in the elections.
(reason, fact, opportunity, time)
4. People who drive in the highway must always be _____ in every
step they take.
(worried, nonchalant, cautious, different)
5. Camerounians always have _____ about the political situation of
their country. (component, rumour, point, word)
6. The boy was _____ enough to fight with his father.
(carefully, kind, encourage, bold)

II. Choose the word in brackets that has the same meaning as the underlined word in the sentence and write it down (3 marks)

- a) The judge adjourned the case between John and Mary.
(cancelled, postponed, explained, read)
- b) Women are always meticulous with their work.