

Read the articles and answer the questions below

1st Article

War is generally defined as violent conflict between states or nations.

Nations go to war for a variety of reasons. It has been argued that a nation will go to war if the benefits of war are deemed to outweigh the disadvantages, and if there is a sense that there is not another mutually agreeable solution. More specifically, some have argued that wars are fought primarily for economic, religious, and political reasons. Others have claimed that most wars today are fought for ideological reasons.

In the United States, the legal power to declare war is vested in Congress; however, the president is the commander-in-chief of the military, so he or she holds power to conduct a war once it has been declared. In many instances, the president has used military force without declaring war.

In Western tradition, there is a sense that the reasons for war must be just. This idea dates back to ancient times, but is most clearly traced to the writings of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. They attempted to justify war, and reconcile it with the Christian belief that taking a human life is wrong.

To Aquinas, a war must be just in both the reasons for going to war and how war is fought. Reasons for going to war—*jus ad bellum*—are just if (1) war is declared by an appropriate authority; (2) the war is waged for a just cause; and (3) the war is waged for just intentions. An appropriate authority is a proper, governing authority. A “just cause” may include self-defence or a response to injustice. “Just intentions” mean that it must not be fought for self-interest, but for justice or a common good. In addition, (4) there must be a reasonable chance of success; (5) the good that will be achieved must outweigh the bad; and (6) war must be a last resort.

Once just reasons for going to war are satisfied, conduct in the war—*jus in bello*—must be just as well. Just conduct in a war means that it must be specific and proportional. That is, noncombatants and civilians must not be deliberately targeted. Further, only such force as is necessary must be used, and harms must be proportionate to the goal sought. Some of the just war theories have been adopted as parts of international agreements and incorporated into the law of war (i.e., international law) that regulates the resort to armed force, the conduct of hostilities, and the protection of war victims.

The Geneva Conventions, for example, are a series of international treaties that are designed to protect noncombatants, civilians, and prisoners of war. The treaties were negotiated in Geneva, Switzerland, between 1864 and 1977. The First and Second Geneva Conventions apply to sick and wounded soldiers and sailors. They contain provisions related to protecting the wounded and sick, as well as medical personnel and transports. The Third Geneva Convention applies to prisoners of war, and the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to people in occupied territories. The Third Convention requires humane treatment of prisoners, including adequate food and water. The Fourth Convention includes provisions that forbid torture and the taking of hostages, as well as provisions related to medical care and hospitals.

Answer the questions by choosing the letter of the correct answer.

1: Why do some believe nations go to war?

- A. Solely for self-interest.
- B. If they deem the benefits of war outweigh the disadvantages.
- C. Only for religious reasons.

D. If the president desires.

2: In the United States, who legally holds the power to declare war?

- A. The military.
- B. The president.
- C. Congress.
- D. The Supreme Court.

3 :What was one of the main concerns of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas about war?

- A. The economic costs of war.
- B. The reconciliation of war with Christian beliefs about taking human life.
- C. The number of soldiers involved.
- D. The political advantages of war.

4: According to Aquinas, what does "Just intentions" in war mean?

- A. Fighting solely for territorial gains.
- B. Fighting for self-interest.
- C. Waging war for justice or a common good.
- D. Fighting to conquer other nations.

5.Which is NOT one of the requirements for a war to be considered just according to Aquinas?

- A. War must be declared by a popular celebrity.
- B. There must be a reasonable chance of success.
- C. The good that will be achieved must outweigh the bad.
- D. War must be a last resort.

6. What does the term "jus in bello" refer to?

- A. Reasons for going to war.
- B. Conduct during the war.
- C. The aftermath of the war.
- D. The economic benefits of the war.

7: What are the Geneva Conventions primarily concerned with?

- A. Establishing the rules for declaring war.
- B. Designing military uniforms.
- C. Protecting noncombatants, civilians, and prisoners of war.
- D. Setting economic sanctions on warring nations.

8: Which of the following is NOT a provision found in the Fourth Geneva Convention?

- A. Forbidding the taking of hostages.
- B. Provisions related to fashion and clothing during wartime.
- C. Provisions related to medical care and hospitals.

D. Forbidding torture.

2nd Article

Air pollution causes seven million casualties a year. Two of the chief contributors are lax vehicle emissions standards and traditional cooking methods, according to the findings of a recent World Health Organization analysis of air quality data from more than 4,300 cities in 108 countries.

More than 90 percent of the deaths occur in low- and moderate-income countries where families are more likely to cook with charcoal and kerosene. These materials release pollutants into the air that can cause heart disease, lung cancer, and other health issues.

Urban population growth compounds the problem: Air quality in many of the world's megacities is five times worse than what WHO recommends. But the organisation sees signs of hope in some nations, such as India and Mexico, that are initiating clean energy efforts and stricter vehicle standards.

Pollution enters the Earth's atmosphere in many different ways. Most air pollution is created by people, taking the form of emissions from factories, cars, planes, or aerosol cans. Second-hand cigarette smoke is also considered air pollution. These man-made sources of pollution are called anthropogenic sources.

Some types of air pollution, such as smoke from wildfires or ash from volcanoes, occur naturally. These are called natural sources.

Air pollution is most common in large cities where emissions from many different sources are concentrated. Sometimes, mountains or tall buildings prevent air pollution from spreading out. This air pollution often appears as a cloud making the air murky. It is called smog. The word "smog" comes from combining the words "smoke" and "fog." Air pollution is usually thought of as smoke from large factories or exhaust from vehicles. But there are many types of indoor air pollution as well.

Heating a house by burning substances such as kerosene, wood, and coal can contaminate the air inside the house. Ash and smoke make breathing difficult, and they can stick to walls, food, and clothing.

Naturally-occurring radon gas, a cancer-causing material, can also build up in homes. Radon is released through the surface of the Earth. Inexpensive systems installed by professionals can reduce radon levels.

Some construction materials, including insulation, are also dangerous to people's health. In addition, ventilation, or air movement, in homes and rooms can lead to the spread of toxic mould. A single colony of mould may exist in a damp, cool place in a house, such as between walls. The mould's spores enter the air and spread throughout the house. People can become sick from breathing in the spores.

Answer the questions by choosing the letter of the correct answer.

9. According to the extract, which two factors are highlighted by the World Health Organization as primary contributors to air pollution?

- a) Industrial smoke and second-hand cigarette smoke
- b) Lax vehicle emissions standards and traditional cooking methods
- c) Wildfires and volcanic eruptions
- d) Heating houses and toxic mould growth

10. In which types of countries do more than 90% of the air pollution-related deaths occur?

- a) High-income countries
- b) Countries with small populations
- c) Low- and moderate-income countries
- d) Countries without megacities

11. Which materials, when used for cooking, release pollutants that can lead to various health issues?

- a) Electricity and natural gas
- b) Solar energy and wind power
- c) Charcoal and kerosene
- d) Hydrogen and nuclear energy

12. What is the meaning of the word "smog"?

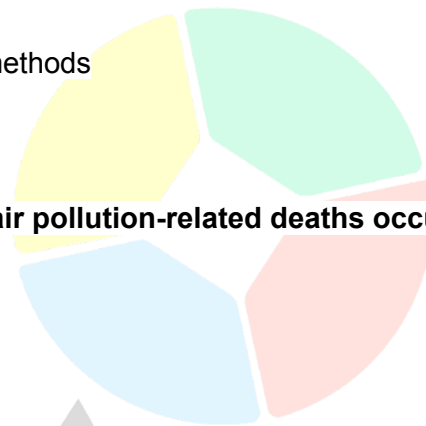
- a) Smoke from large factories
- b) Foggy air in mountains
- c) A combination of smoke and fog
- d) Air pollution from wildfires

13. What is the primary source of naturally-occurring radon gas mentioned in the extract?

- a) Released from burning coal
- b) Emitted from vehicles
- c) Released through the surface of the Earth
- d) Produced during volcanic eruptions

14. How can air pollution often appear in large cities, especially when prevented from spreading out by mountains or tall buildings?

- a) Clear and transparent
- b) As a thin white mist
- c) As smog that makes the air murky
- d) As a dense layer of fog

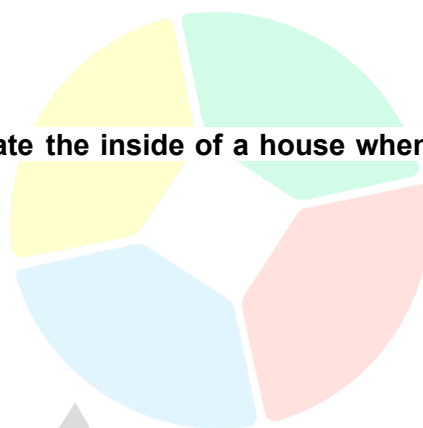


15. Which of the following is a potential hazard for indoor air pollution?

- a) Growing plants indoors
- b) Ventilation leading to the spread of toxic mould
- c) Use of LED lights
- d) Using electric heaters

16. What can cause breathing difficulties and contaminate the inside of a house when used for heating?

- a) Solar panels
- b) Electric heaters
- c) Kerosene, wood, and coal
- d) Ventilators and air purifiers



3rd Article

All-electric vehicles are simpler than gas-powered ones. They have no gas tanks, no pistons, no spark plugs—and no tailpipe. “The basic idea is, there’s less parts,” assembly specialist Chris Rehrig shouts to me over the plant’s whir and hum.

On the other hand, they have enormous batteries. At Volkswagen, battery packs weighing more than 1,000 pounds will be assembled across the street and carted in on self-driving vehicles. Each battery pack, sheathed in a plate veined with cooling fluid, will be bolted by automated screw gun to a car’s underbody. The same machine, when a gas-powered car approaches, will instead screw in a heat shield. Making all this work smoothly will take “a bit of a dance,” says Rehrig’s supervisor, Noah Walker, with a hint of weariness.

That Volkswagen and so many others are now attempting such a dance suggests that we’ve reached a crucial moment for the planet. This company, and this industry, are pivoting away from what made Volkswagen the world’s largest manufacturing company by revenue: the carbon dioxide-belching internal combustion engine.

As more people and governments push for urgent action on climate change, cars and trucks are undergoing their greatest makeover since the automobile’s inception more than a century ago. Start-ups and standard-bearers alike are fighting for a toehold in what industry leaders suddenly see as their best path forward: vehicles without tailpipe emissions. By almost every measure, their popularity is surging. Virtually overnight, the era of the electric car has arrived.

And yet, by the timetable needed to address the climate challenge, the transition away from gas-powered vehicles remains far too slow. Global temperature records keep getting crushed as greenhouse gas pollution rises, fueling punishing droughts and wildfires from the Arctic to Australia. Melting ice sheets are raising sea levels, increasing flooding just as storms grow more extreme. To avoid peril for millions of people, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says, the world needs to bring carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050, preferably much sooner.

With nearly a quarter of global emissions coming from all types of transportation, can we wean ourselves off petrol-powered cars fast enough to avoid the worst effects? And can we do it without sparking a new environmental calamity? Several upstart companies and quite a few from the stodgy

old guard are now betting their future—and ours—that millions of consumers are finally ready to make the switch. It's hard to argue that what we're witnessing is anything less than a revolution. In the 1990s, General Motors introduced an electric car, built fewer than 1,200, and recalled them. Today the pace of change is blistering.

The number of all-electric and plug-in-hybrid electric vehicles, or EVs, rose by nearly half last year, even as car sales overall fell 16 percent. The types of models available to drivers worldwide increased 40 percent, to about 370. In North America, the variety is slated to nearly triple by 2024, to 138. Already there are electric Mini Coopers, Porsches, and Harley-Davidsons.

Answer the questions by choosing the letter of the correct answer.

17. Why does the assembly specialist, Chris Rehrig, state that electric vehicles have "less parts" compared to gas-powered ones?

- A. Because they run on electricity.
- B. They don't need spark plugs or pistons.
- C. They have larger engines.
- D. They use premium gas.

18. What significant piece of equipment do all-electric vehicles have that contributes greatly to their weight?

- A. Larger engines.
- B. Enormous batteries.
- C. Extra gas tanks.
- D. Additional spark plugs.

19. What does Noah Walker imply when he says making the manufacturing process work will take "a bit of a dance"?

- A. It's easy and straightforward.
- B. The process is entertaining.
- C. It requires careful coordination and planning.
- D. It involves literal dancing.

20. Which major company's pivot towards electric vehicles indicates a significant change in the automotive industry's approach towards the environment?

- A. Harley-Davidson.
- B. General Motors.
- C. Volkswagen.
- D. Mini Cooper.

21. How are the effects of climate change becoming evident globally, as mentioned in the extract?

- A. Decline in car sales.
- B. Rise in the popularity of electric cars.
- C. Extreme weather conditions, rising sea levels, and increased flooding.
- D. Increase in electric vehicle manufacturing.

22. What significant change has occurred in the electric vehicle market compared to the 1990s, using General Motors as an example?

- A. Fewer companies are interested in producing electric cars.
- B. The pace of electric vehicle production has slowed down.
- C. Electric vehicles have become less popular.
- D. The production of electric vehicles has increased dramatically.

23. What does the increase in the variety and number of all-electric and plug-in-hybrid electric vehicles signify about the automotive market?

- A. The market is stagnant and not evolving.
- B. The demand for gas-powered vehicles is at an all-time high.
- C. The era of the electric car has arrived.
- D. Traditional cars are becoming more efficient.

24. Considering the excerpt, why is the transition from gas-powered vehicles to electric ones crucial for the planet?

- A. To increase car sales globally.
- B. To combat the rising effects of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
- C. Electric cars are more luxurious.
- D. Gasoline is becoming too expensive.

4th Article

A major advantage to using solar energy is that it is a renewable resource. We will have a steady, limitless supply of sunlight for another five billion years. In one hour, Earth's atmosphere receives enough sunlight to power the electricity needs of every human being on Earth for a year.

Solar energy is clean. After the solar technology equipment is constructed and put in place, solar energy does not need fuel to work. It also does not emit greenhouse gases or toxic materials. Using solar energy can drastically reduce the impact we have on the environment.

There are locations where solar energy is practical. Homes and buildings in areas with high amounts of sunlight and low cloud cover have the opportunity to harness the sun's abundant energy.

Solar cookers provide an excellent alternative to cooking with wood-fired stoves—on which two billion people still rely. Solar cookers provide a cleaner and safer way to sanitise water and cook food.

Solar energy complements other renewable sources of energy, such as wind or hydroelectric energy.

Homes or businesses that install successful solar panels can actually produce excess electricity. These homeowners or business owners can sell energy back to the electric provider, reducing or even eliminating power bills.

The main deterrent however to using solar energy is the required equipment. Solar technology equipment is expensive. Purchasing and installing the equipment can cost tens of thousands of dollars for individual homes. Although the government often offers reduced taxes to people and businesses using solar energy, and the technology can eliminate electricity bills, the initial cost is too steep for many to consider.

Solar energy equipment is also heavy. In order to retrofit or install solar panels on the roof of a building, the roof must be strong, large, and oriented toward the sun's path.

Both active and passive solar technology depend on factors that are out of our control, such as climate and cloud cover. Local areas must be studied to determine whether or not solar power would be effective in that area.

Sunlight must be abundant and consistent for solar energy to be an efficient choice. In most places on Earth, sunlight's variability makes it difficult to implement as the only source of energy.

Answer the questions by choosing the letter of the correct answer.

25. What makes solar energy a renewable resource?

- a) It uses advanced technology.
- b) Sunlight is consistently available for a limited amount of time.
- c) The sun is expected to provide sunlight for another five billion years.
- d) Solar energy relies on multiple sources like wind and water.

26. How does solar energy impact greenhouse gas emissions?

- a) It emits more greenhouse gases than fossil fuels.
- b) It does not emit any greenhouse gases after installation.
- c) It relies on greenhouse gases to produce energy.
- d) It converts greenhouse gases into clean air.

27. What advantage do solar cookers have over wood-fired stoves?

- a) They cook food faster.
- b) They provide a cleaner and safer method for sanitising water and cooking.
- c) They are more commonly available.
- d) They use wood as a primary source of energy.

28. How does solar energy potentially benefit homeowners financially?

- a) By allowing them to purchase more solar panels.
- b) By allowing them to sell excess electricity back to the provider.
- c) By providing tax benefits to manufacturers.
- d) By increasing the value of fossil fuels.

29. What is a significant barrier to the widespread adoption of solar energy for individual homes?

- a) The consistency of sunlight.
- b) The lightweight nature of the equipment.
- c) The low cost of solar technology equipment.
- d) The initial high cost of purchasing and installing the equipment.

30. What is essential for a building's roof to accommodate solar panels?

- a) It must be painted white.
- b) It should be oriented towards the moon's path.
- c) It must be strong, expansive, and directed towards the sun's trajectory.
- d) It must be at least 100 metres high.

31. What factor makes it challenging to rely solely on solar energy in most places?

- a) The consistent and non-variable nature of sunlight.
- b) Sunlight's variability and inconsistent presence.
- c) The lack of technology to harness solar energy.
- d) The government regulations on renewable energy.

32. In what way does solar energy work alongside other forms of renewable energy?

- a) It can replace all other forms of renewable energy.
- b) It complements other sources such as wind or hydroelectric energy.
- c) It makes other forms of renewable energy obsolete.
- d) It relies on wind and hydroelectric energy to function.

