

WALKER

UN: Relevance and Criticism (150 words)

The United Nations remains relevant because it provides a global platform for cooperation, conflict resolution, and development. It prevents wars through diplomacy, peacekeeping missions, and humanitarian assistance. Agencies like WHO, UNDP, and UNICEF support global health, poverty reduction, and education. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals guide international development efforts. It also plays a crucial role in climate negotiations and refugee protection.

However, the UN faces significant criticism. The Security Council's structure is outdated, giving disproportionate power to the five permanent members (P5). Veto powers often block resolutions, causing inaction in crises such as Syria, Gaza, and Ukraine. Peacekeeping missions sometimes lack resources or clear mandates. Bureaucracy, slow decision-making, and political influence reduce effectiveness. Critics argue the UN does not adequately represent developing countries and needs institutional reform. Despite flaws, the UN remains indispensable for multilateral cooperation.

□

□ Territorial Boundaries under UNCLOS (Maritime Zones + Sovereignty) (150 words)

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) defines the maritime rights and boundaries of coastal states. It establishes several zones. Territorial Sea (12 nautical miles): The state exercises full sovereignty similar to land territory, except for allowing innocent passage of foreign ships. Contiguous Zone (24 nm): The state can enforce laws related to customs, immigration, and security. Exclusive Economic Zone – EEZ (200 nm): The coastal state has exclusive rights to exploit natural resources such as fisheries, oil, and minerals, though other states enjoy freedom of navigation. Continental Shelf: Extends up to 200–350 nm, giving rights over seabed resources. Beyond these lies the High Seas, open to all states and governed by international law. UNCLOS ensures peaceful maritime use, environmental protection, and fair resource sharing. It strengthens sovereignty while promoting cooperation and reducing maritime disputes