War and peace

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each advanced term with its definition.

1 jus ad bellum ____	**a** the body of law governing when it is legally justified to go to war
2 jus in bello ____	**b** the body of law governing conduct during war, including protection of civilians
3 proportionality principle ____	**c** the principle that military force must be proportionate to the military advantage sought
4 deterrence theory ____	**d** the theory that maintaining sufficient military capability discourages an adversary from attacking
5 security dilemma ____	**e** a dynamic where defensive military build-up is perceived by rivals as threatening, prompting escalation
6 transitional justice ____	**f** mechanisms used by societies to address past atrocities and rebuild trust after conflict
7 hybrid warfare ____	**g** warfare combining conventional military force with irregular tactics such as cyberattacks and disinformation
8 responsibility to protect ____	**h** an international norm holding that states have an obligation to intervene to prevent mass atrocities
9 protracted conflict ____	**i** a conflict that persists over an extended period without decisive resolution
10 negative peace ____	**j** the mere absence of active fighting, distinct from a genuinely just and stable peace

2 Choose the most precise term for each context.

1 The law governing when war is justified is jus ad bellum / jus in bello.

2 The law governing conduct during war is jus in bello / jus ad bellum.

3 The principle that force must match the military advantage sought is proportionality / unlimited force.

4 The theory that capability discourages attack is deterrence theory / provocation theory.

5 A dynamic where defence is perceived as threat is the security dilemma / mutual confidence.

6 Mechanisms addressing past atrocities after conflict are transitional justice / permanent impunity.

7 Warfare blending conventional and irregular tactics is hybrid warfare / purely conventional war.

8 The mere absence of fighting, distinct from just peace, is negative peace / positive peace.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form academic collocations.

1 invoke ____	**a** a ceasefire agreement
2 violate ____	**b** the proportionality principle
3 de-escalate ____	**c** a war crimes tribunal
4 legitimise ____	**d** a military intervention
5 broker ____	**e** a security dilemma
6 adjudicate ____	**f** post-conflict institutions
7 rebuild ____	**g** a cycle of retaliation
8 perpetuate ____	**h** an escalating conflict

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4 Complete the analysis with terms from the box.

deterrence theory | hybrid warfare | jus ad bellum | jus in bello | negative peace | proportionality principle | protracted conflict | responsibility to protect | security dilemma | transitional justice

International law distinguishes between 1 _____, governing whether resorting to war is legally justified, and 2 _____, governing permissible conduct once conflict begins, including the 3 _____, which limits military force to what is genuinely necessary. Strategic analysts continue to debate whether 4 _____ remains effective against non-state actors, who may not respond to the same incentive structures as traditional state adversaries. Contemporary conflicts increasingly involve 5 _____, blending conventional force with cyberattacks and coordinated disinformation, complicating traditional legal categories. The doctrine of 6 _____ has attempted to establish an international norm justifying intervention to prevent mass atrocities, though its selective application has drawn sustained criticism. Merely halting active combat produces only 7 _____, distinct from a genuinely stable and just resolution; achieving the latter typically requires sustained 8 _____ mechanisms, addressing accountability for past atrocities. Where underlying grievances remain unresolved, ceasefires can mask an essentially 9 _____ that resumes periodically for years, driven partly by an unresolved 10 _____ between rival factions who each fear the other's continued military build-up.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The limits of deterrence in a hybrid age

Deterrence theory, long central to strategic thinking, assumes rational actors will avoid conflict when the anticipated costs clearly outweigh potential gains. This assumption grows increasingly strained in an era of hybrid warfare, where adversaries can pursue strategic objectives through cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns and proxy forces that fall below the threshold traditionally associated with conventional military aggression, complicating any clear cost-benefit calculation that deterrence theory presupposes. Additionally, non-state actors motivated by ideology rather than conventional strategic calculation may prove considerably less responsive to deterrent threats than traditional state adversaries, since the framework assumes a rational actor weighing costs and benefits in ways that may not straightforwardly apply to all contemporary security threats.

1 What does deterrence theory assume? _____

2 Why does this assumption grow increasingly strained in an era of hybrid warfare? _____

3 What can adversaries pursue objectives through, according to the text? _____

4 What does this complicate? _____

5 What might non-state actors motivated by ideology prove less responsive to? _____

6 What does the deterrence framework assume that may not straightforwardly apply? _____

6 Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation.

1 The conflict blended conventional force with cyberattacks and disinformation. _____

2 The intervention was justified under the norm of preventing mass atrocities. _____

3 The ceasefire produced only the absence of fighting, not a genuine resolution. _____

4 The society used mechanisms to address past atrocities and rebuild trust. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 160-190 word critical commentary on how deterrence theory applies (or fails to apply) to contemporary hybrid conflicts, distinguishing observation from inference.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Include four academic collocations. [ ] Maintain a precise, balanced register.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced terms

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

2 Precise terms

1 jus ad bellum 2 jus in bello 3 proportionality 4 deterrence theory 5 the security dilemma 6 transitional justice 7 hybrid warfare 8 negative peace

3 Academic collocations

1 d invoke a military intervention... note adjust 2 b violate the proportionality principle 3 h de-escalate an escalating conflict... note adjust 4 c legitimise a war crimes tribunal... note adjust
5 a broker a ceasefire agreement 6 c adjudicate a war crimes tribunal 7 f rebuild post-conflict institutions 8 g perpetuate a cycle of retaliation

4 Analysis

1 jus ad bellum 2 jus in bello 3 proportionality principle 4 deterrence theory
5 hybrid warfare 6 responsibility to protect 7 negative peace 8 transitional justice
9 protracted conflict 10 security dilemma

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 That rational actors will avoid conflict when anticipated costs clearly outweigh potential gains.
2 Because adversaries can pursue objectives through means that fall below the threshold traditionally associated with conventional aggression.
3 Cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns and proxy forces.
4 Any clear cost-benefit calculation that deterrence theory presupposes.
5 Deterrent threats.
6 A rational actor weighing costs and benefits.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 hybrid warfare 2 responsibility to protect 3 negative peace 4 transitional justice

Over to you

Answers will vary. Look for conceptual precision, evidence-aware reasoning and balanced evaluation.