War and peace

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each precise term with its definition.

1 attrition warfare ____	**a** a strategy of gradually wearing down an opponent's resources and morale rather than seeking a decisive battle
2 collateral damage ____	**b** unintended harm to civilians or civilian property during military action
3 demobilisation ____	**c** the process of disbanding military forces and returning soldiers to civilian life
4 war of aggression ____	**d** a conflict initiated without legitimate justification, such as self-defence
5 asymmetric warfare ____	**e** a conflict between opponents with significantly unequal military capability or resources
6 peacekeeping force ____	**f** international troops deployed to help maintain or restore peace in a conflict zone
7 war crime ____	**g** a serious violation of the laws of war, such as targeting civilians
8 non-combatant ____	**h** a person not directly participating in hostilities, such as a civilian
9 reconciliation ____	**i** the process of restoring positive relations between former enemies
10 arms embargo ____	**j** an official ban on supplying weapons to a particular country or group

2 Choose the word with the most suitable connotation.

1 For gradually wearing down an opponent's resources: attrition warfare / a swift decisive victory.

2 For unintended civilian harm: collateral damage / deliberate targeting.

3 For disbanding military forces after conflict: demobilisation / continued mobilisation.

4 For a conflict initiated without legitimate cause: a war of aggression / a defensive war.

5 For a conflict between unequal forces: asymmetric warfare / an even conventional battle.

6 For troops deployed to maintain peace: a peacekeeping force / an invading army.

7 For a serious violation of the laws of war: a war crime / lawful combat.

8 For restoring relations between former enemies: reconciliation / continued hostility.

3 Complete the conflict collocations with one word.

1 a war of _____ (= a strategy of gradually wearing down)

2 minimise _____ damage (= unintended civilian harm)

3 _____ of troops (= disbanding forces after conflict)

4 _____ warfare (= between unequal forces)

5 deploy a _____ force (= troops to maintain peace)

6 commit a war _____ (= a serious violation of the laws of war)

7 a process of _____ (= restoring relations between former enemies)

8 impose an arms _____ (= a ban on weapons supply)

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4 Complete the case notes with words and phrases from the box.

arms embargo | asymmetric warfare | attrition warfare | collateral damage | demobilisation | non-combatant | peacekeeping force | reconciliation | war crime | war of aggression

Case A: Analysts described the prolonged conflict as a classic 1 _____, with neither side able to achieve a decisive breakthrough.
Case B: International observers criticised the strike for causing significant 2 _____, affecting civilian infrastructure.
Case C: The conflict was widely characterised as 3 _____, given the vast disparity in military capability between the two sides.
Case D: Investigators examined whether targeting a hospital constituted a 4 _____ under international law.
Case E: A United Nations 5 _____ was deployed to monitor the fragile ceasefire.
Case F: The international community imposed an 6 _____ in response to the invasion, widely condemned as a 7 _____.
Case G: 8 _____ of former soldiers proved slow, complicating efforts to begin genuine 9 _____ between communities.
Case H: Every 10 _____ killed in the strike renewed international outrage.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The changing nature of modern conflict

Military analysts note that contemporary conflict increasingly departs from the conventional model of state-versus-state warfare, taking the form of asymmetric warfare between formal armies and non-state actors employing markedly different tactics. This shift complicates traditional legal frameworks designed for conventional warfare, since determining what constitutes legitimate military action versus a war crime becomes considerably harder when combatants deliberately operate among civilian populations, blurring the distinction between combatant and non-combatant. Peacekeeping forces designed for traditional interstate conflict often struggle to adapt their mandate to these more fragmented, asymmetric conflicts, where a lasting ceasefire may prove considerably harder to negotiate or enforce than in conflicts between clearly defined state actors.

1 What do military analysts note about contemporary conflict? _____

2 What form does this increasingly take? _____

3 What does this shift complicate? _____

4 Why does determining legitimate military action become harder? _____

5 What do peacekeeping forces often struggle to do? _____

6 What may prove harder to negotiate or enforce in these conflicts? _____

6 Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals. Do not change the meaning.

1 The strike caused unintended harm to civilians. COLLATERAL DAMAGE _____

2 The conflict involved forces of very unequal strength. ASYMMETRIC WARFARE _____

3 The attack on the hospital was investigated as a violation of the laws of war. WAR CRIME _____

4 Troops were sent to help maintain the fragile ceasefire. PEACEKEEPING FORCE _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 120-150 word account analysing how modern conflicts differ from traditional warfare, distinguishing observation from interpretation.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Control connotation carefully. [ ] Avoid unsupported assumptions.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Precise terms

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

2 Connotation

1 attrition warfare 2 collateral damage 3 demobilisation 4 a war of aggression 5 asymmetric warfare 6 a peacekeeping force 7 a war crime 8 reconciliation

3 Collocations

1 attrition 2 collateral 3 demobilisation 4 asymmetric 5 peacekeeping 6 crime 7 reconciliation 8 embargo

4 Case notes

1 attrition warfare 2 collateral damage 3 asymmetric warfare 4 war crime 5 peacekeeping force
6 arms embargo 7 war of aggression 8 demobilisation 9 reconciliation 10 non-combatant

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 That it increasingly departs from the conventional model of state-versus-state warfare.
2 Asymmetric warfare between formal armies and non-state actors.
3 Traditional legal frameworks designed for conventional warfare.
4 Because combatants deliberately operate among civilian populations, blurring the distinction between combatant and non-combatant.
5 Adapt their mandate to these more fragmented, asymmetric conflicts.
6 A lasting ceasefire.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The strike caused collateral damage. 2 The conflict was asymmetric warfare.
3 The attack was investigated as a war crime. 4 A peacekeeping force was sent.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check lexical precision, appropriate connotation and separation of fact from inference.