

Grade 8 Life Orientation Worksheet

Human Rights

Test on human rights

What are human rights?

Human rights are the basic rights that everyone has, simply because they are human. The list of human rights protected in South Africa is contained in the Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the South African Constitution, the highest law in our country.

What are human rights violations?

If someone ignores or abuses your rights, it is called a violation of those rights. For example, if someone treats a person differently because of his or her race, gender, age or ethnic group, that person's right to equality is being abused or violated.

Activity 1

a. Look at the following statements and answer 'Yes' if you think that they are human rights violations and 'No' if you think they do not violate human rights.

	STATEMENT	Yes	No
1	Themba steals money from his work and is put into prison.		
2	Young girls are kidnapped and taken to work as prostitutes in foreign countries against their will.		
3	A reporter discovers that a famous South African actress is HIV-positive. She has not disclosed her status. He writes the sensational story as a feature article for his newspaper.		
4	Mr Shabalala is 53 years old. He is fired from his job because the company says that they want to employ a younger person, in keeping with their 'young and hip' image.		
5	Moses Simelane (a black man) is given a job, instead of Tom Smith (a white man), even though Tom Smith is better qualified for the position.		
6	A large corporation is prosecuted for causing chemical pollution in a large river.		
7	Workers from a company are fired for going on strike.		
8	Police arrest and detain a suspected criminal and beat him to try and get information.		
9	Two teachers in the same school, teaching similar subjects, earn different incomes. They have been teaching at the school for the same length of time. One teacher is female and the other is male.		
10	A young woman is shot dead when her house is broken into.		

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b. State what human right (if any) was violated in each of the above. Supply only the bold heading from the summary below.

Summary of the South African Bill of Rights

- **Equality:** You cannot be discriminated against. But affirmative action and fair discrimination are allowed.
- **Human Dignity:** Your dignity must be respected and protected.
- **Life:** You have the right to life.
- **Freedom and security of the person:** You cannot be detained without trial, tortured or punished cruelly. Domestic violence is not allowed.
- **Slavery, servitude and forced labour:** Slavery and forced labour are not allowed.
- **Privacy:** You cannot be searched or have your home or possessions searched.
- **Freedom of religion, belief and opinion:** You can believe and think whatever you want and can follow the religion of your choice.
- **Freedom of expression:** All people (including the press) can say whatever they want.
- **Assembly, demonstration, picket and petition:** You can hold a demonstration, picket and present a petition. But you must do this peacefully.
- **Freedom of association:** You can associate with whomever you want to.
- **Political rights:** You can support the political party of your choice. If you are a citizen, and at least 18 years old, you can vote.
- **Citizenship:** Your citizenship cannot be taken away from you.
- **Freedom of movement and residence:** You can go and live anywhere in South Africa.
- **Freedom of trade, occupation and profession:** You can do whatever work you choose.
- **Labour relations:** You may join trade unions and go on strike.
- **Environment:** You have the right to a healthy environment.
- **Property:** Your property can only be taken away from you if the proper rules are followed.
- **Housing:** The government must make sure people get access to proper housing.
- **Health care, food, water and social security:** The government must make sure you have access to food and water; health care and social security.
- **Children:** Children under the age of 18 have special rights, like the right not to be abused.
- **Education:** You have the right to basic education, including adult basic education, in your own language (if this is possible).
- **Language and culture:** You can use the language you want to and follow the culture that you choose.

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- **Cultural, religious and linguistic communities:** Communities can enjoy their own culture;
- practice their own religion; and use their own language.
- **Access to information:** You have the right to any information, which the government has.
- **Just administrative action:** Actions by the government must be fair.
- **Access to courts:** You can have a legal problem decided by a court, or a similar structure.
- **Arrested, detained and accused persons:** This right protects people who have been arrested, imprisoned or accused.

NOTE: ALL THESE RIGHTS CAN BE LIMITED IF IT WOULD BE FAIR TO DO SO.

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	10	See grid below.
2	10	1. Arrested, detained and accused persons and access to courts. 2. Slavery, servitude and forced labour. 3. Privacy, human dignity 4. Equality, human dignity 5. The equality right allows for affirmative action and fair discrimination. 6. Environment 7. Labour relations 8. Arrested, detained and accused persons 9. Equality 10. Life
Total	20	

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3	A reporter discovers that a famous South African actress is HIV-positive. She has not disclosed her status. He writes the sensational story as a feature article for his newspaper.	Yes	
4	Mr Shabalala is 53 years old. He is fired from his job because the company says that they want to employ a younger person, in keeping with their 'young and hip' image.	Yes	
5	Moses Simelane (a black man) is given a job, instead of Tom Smith (a white man), even though Tom Smith is better qualified for the position.		No
6	A large corporation is prosecuted for causing chemical pollution in a large river.	Yes	
7	Workers from a company are fired for going on strike.	Yes	
8	Police arrest and detain a suspected criminal and beat him to try and get information.	Yes	
9	Two teachers in the same school, teaching similar subjects, earn different incomes. They have been teaching at the school for the same length of time. One teacher is female and the other is male.	Yes	
10	A young woman is shot dead when her house is broken into.	Yes	