

Indigenous Peoples –Exam Reviewer

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Etymology of Indigenous

Indigenous comes from the Latin word *indigena*, meaning “sprung from the land” or “native.”

- **indu** = in, within
 - **gignere** = to beget or produce
 - It refers to people who are **native or originally connected to a particular place**.
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II. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Definition

Indigenous Peoples/Communities are groups with:

- distinct **cultures**
- distinct **languages**
- distinct **traditions**
- strong connections to their **ancestral lands**
- their own **social, economic, and cultural practices**

They are generally descendants of the **original inhabitants of a place** and maintain their own identity and traditions.

Important Point

There is **no single universally accepted definition** of Indigenous Peoples.

The modern understanding focuses on:

1. **Self-identification**
2. Cultural difference from dominant groups
3. Special relationship with traditional territory
4. Historical experience of **subjugation and discrimination**

Global Facts

- Estimates of Indigenous Peoples range from **250 million to 600 million**.
- There are around **5,000 distinct Indigenous peoples** worldwide.
- They are found in **every inhabited continent and climate zone**.
- Many are minorities within their own traditional territories.
- Many have experienced domination or discrimination by non-Indigenous groups.
- Indigenous identity is **not determined only by Western colonization**.

III. RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous rights are protected through:

- National legislation
- Treaties
- International law

ILO Convention No. [169 – 1989](#)

The **International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples** protects Indigenous peoples from discrimination.

It recognizes rights involving:

- Development
- Customary laws
- Lands
- Territories
- Natural resources
- Employment
- Education

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 2007

The **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** recognizes rights such as:

- **Self-determination**
- Protection of culture
- Identity
- Languages
- Ceremonies

- Experience poverty
- Maintain distinct cultures

Examples

Indigenous:

- Native American groups
- Australian Aboriginal peoples
- Philippine Indigenous groups such as Igorot and Lumad

Tribal:

- Bedouin tribes

X. CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

1. Connection to Ancestral Lands

Their land is important for:

- Livelihood
- Culture
- Spirituality
- Identity

They may depend on:

- Forests
- Rivers
- Mountains
- Farms
- Fishing areas

2. Cultural Identity

They preserve:

- Languages
- Rituals

- Education
- Healthcare
- Employment
- Political participation

3. Cultural Erosion

Modernization and assimilation can threaten:

- Languages
- Traditions
- Beliefs
- Community identity

XIII. FACTORS THAT MAKE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES VULNERABLE

1. Limited Access to Basic Services

Education

- Low school completion
- Few higher education opportunities
- Lack of school resources

Healthcare

- Remote healthcare facilities
- Limited preventive care

Water and sanitation

- Lack of clean drinking water
- Poor sanitation facilities

2. Economic Marginalization

Problems include:

