

## **HUMR5502 - Ethnic Challenges to the Nation State: Studying State Responses from a Human Rights Perspective - Home examination**

Answer one -1- of the following questions:

### 1. Citizenship and Human Rights

Citizenship has been defined as ‘the state of being vested with the rights, privileges and duties of a citizen’, ‘the character of an individual viewed as a member of society’ or ‘the status of having the right to participate in and to be represented in politics’. Originally, the demand for citizenship involved the enjoyment of legal and political rights as against the sovereign of a territory, but early in the twentieth century citizenship was redefined to include social or welfare rights.

What are the main elements of the concept of citizenship and how does this concept differ from that of nationality? How has human rights affected these concepts? What are some of the main challenges facing individual citizens in exercising their rights at the national and the international level in the contemporary world? You can use a specific country and a specific right or set of rights to illustrate your answer.

### 2. Ethnicity and Human Rights

It is often argued that ‘ethnic’ or ‘cultural’ grievances are the cause of an increasing share of violent conflicts and wars during the last four decades (approx. 1975-present). Is this a good and useful interpretation of contemporary world history? What are the arguments against or in favor of this reading?

Choose two examples of violent conflict and discuss the advantages and limitations of understanding the conflict as ‘ethnic’ with a particular emphasis on the effects of this reading as a basis for human rights-based political and/or humanitarian action.

### 3. Autonomy and Human Rights

Define the concept of ‘autonomy’ and give different examples of how this term is used in international human rights law (e.g., in treaties, general comments, and cases). Use material from the reading list to explore at least two examples of nation-states with autonomy arrangements and discuss the pros and cons of this way of accommodating cultural cleavages within a sovereign nation-state.