

CONFLICT & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Case Study Examination #1: Sample Questions

The case study for examination is “XXX”. For the purposes of this examination, assume everything in the case study is factually accurate. Clearly note any additional assumptions you make about events, intentions, actions, etc., that are not explicitly stated in the case study.

Referencing this case study, respond to the following questions, using complete sentences.

Example Part A: The events of this case study clearly represent a conflict that grew rapidly in size. A *conflict* occurs when there is a perceived divergence of interests or incompatible aspirations, and the *size* of a conflict refers to the apparent extent of the divergence of interests, and the apparent ease with which the conflict can be resolved. In class, we also saw *three* factors that make conflict seem larger

Explain how the events in this case study fit these definitions of conflict and conflict size, and how those three factors increased the size of this conflict. That is, you need to do the following (in whatever order is logically appropriate):

1. Explain why the events in this case study satisfy the definition of conflict,
2. Explain why these events demonstrate a conflict that is increasing in size,
3. Clearly label and briefly explain each of the three factors increasing the size of conflict in general, and
4. Show how each of those three factors appears during the conflict in the case study.

Example Part B: The events of this case study reflect a wide variety of strategic choices made in response to conflict. A *conflict* occurs when there is a perceived divergence of interests or incompatible aspirations, and *strategic choice* refers to the choice of strategy for dealing with such a situation. Two such strategies are *contending*, where one tries to impose his or her own preferred outcome on others, and *yielding*, where one lowers his or her aspirations and gives others the outcome they want. In class, we listed *fifteen* conditions influencing strategic choice.

Name the *two* conditions appearing in the case study that you believe are most responsible for encouraging *contending* strategies by participants, and *one other* condition that you believe is most responsible for encouraging *yielding* strategies. For each condition influencing strategic choice that you name, be sure to do the following (in whatever order is logically appropriate):

1. Clearly label and briefly explain that condition in general and what strategies (contending and/or yielding) it tends to influence,
2. Show how this condition appears during the conflict in the case study, being sure to specify who the condition appears to influence and what strategy (contending or yielding) it may cause them to adopt, and
3. Justify why you believe it is most responsible for influencing strategic choice (for either contending or yielding) in this specific conflict.

Case study examination #1 will consist of *four* such parts.