

## 2019- PAK AFFAIR- Q 8

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Efficient use of natural resources can make Pakistan a prosperous nation. Discuss in the light of present situation of Pakistan.

### INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is blessed with immense natural resources. From a young population to the natural topography aiding in energy generation. The country sits in those sets of country where nature blesses it once more with 4 seasons and twice yearly rain i.e. the monsoons. However, where nature has blessed our country so much; Incompetence and mismanagement have taken their toll on the country. There is a popular saying that

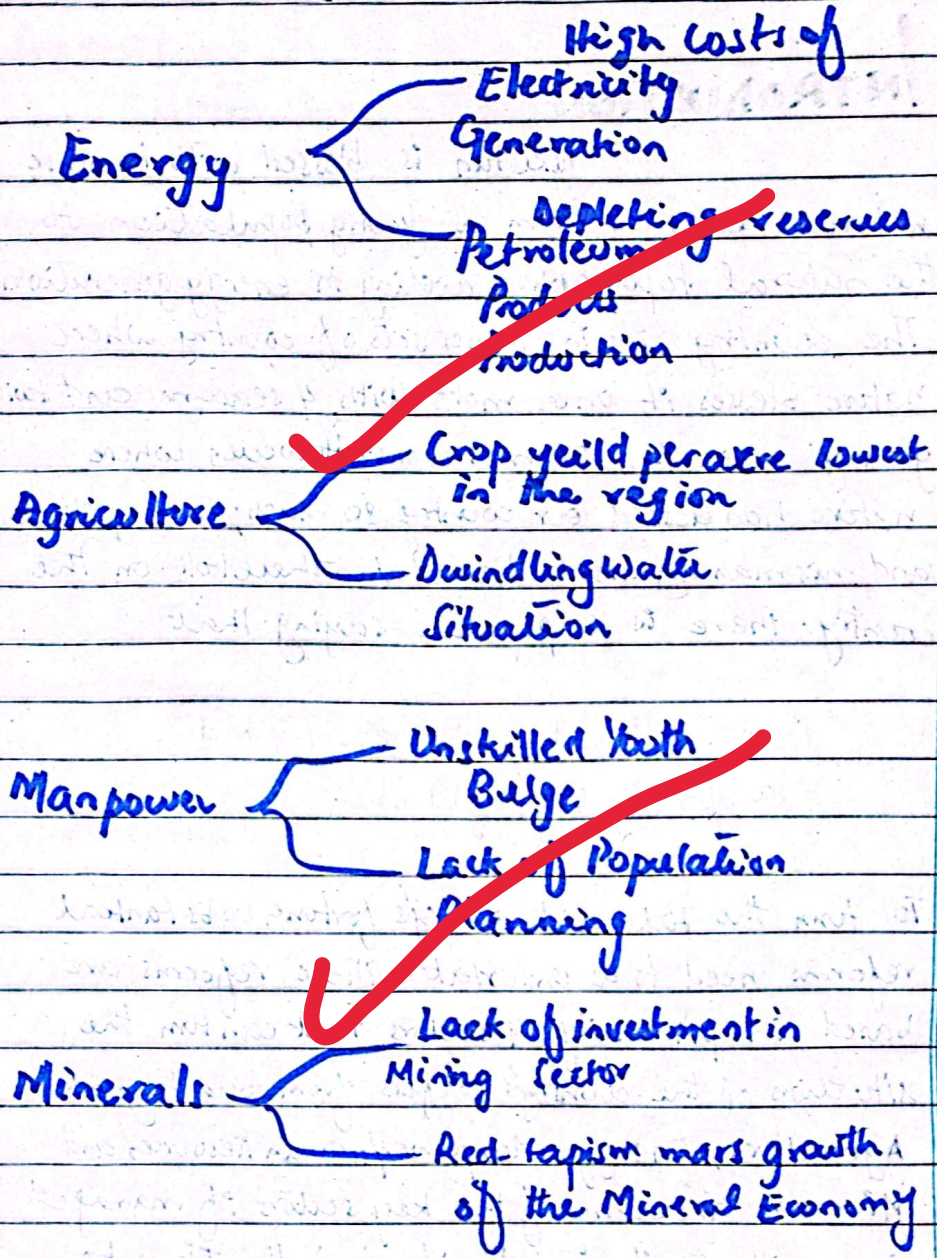
'Pakistan is not a poor country but a poorly managed one'

To turn the tide and country's fortune, substantial reforms need to be undertaken. These reforms are based in primarily 4 sectors that can turn the situation of the country's affairs from bad to good. Agriculture, Energy, Manpower/Human Resources, and Minerals are some of the key sectors if managed right will result in dividends in the times to come.



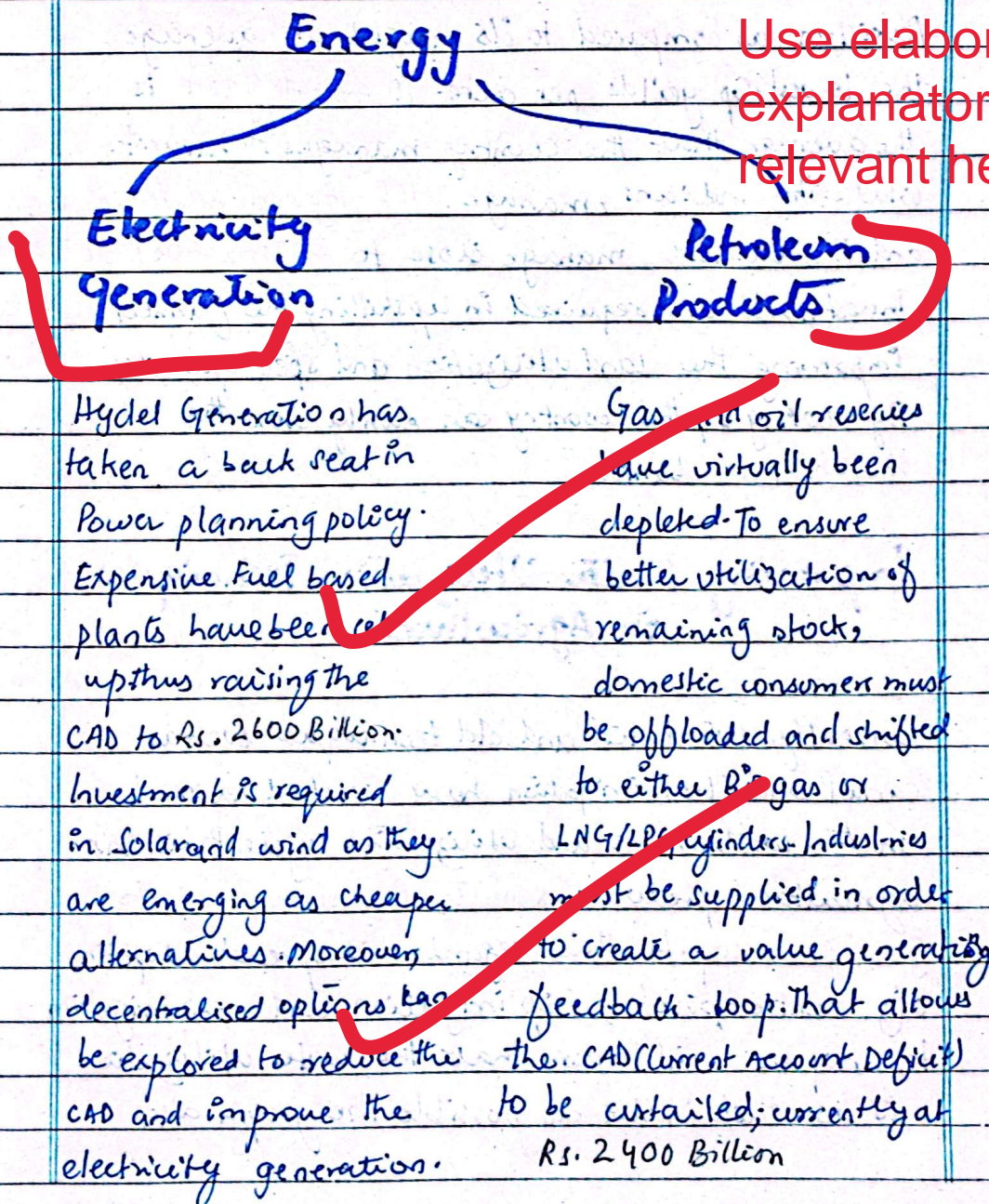
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# BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION





# EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES - WAY FORWARD





## Agriculture

### Increasing Yield per acre through Sustainable Farming Techniques

Pakistan as compared to its neighbours average the lowest crop yields per acre. 90 maunds/acre is the average that the country manages to harvest. While the Indians, manage 150-160 maunds/acre and the Chinese manage close to 200 maunds/acre. Investments are required in upskilling the farmer, improving the land utilization and seed quality. By doing so, the country can easily cross the 100 maunds/acre barrier.

### Improving Water Utilization Techniques in Agriculture

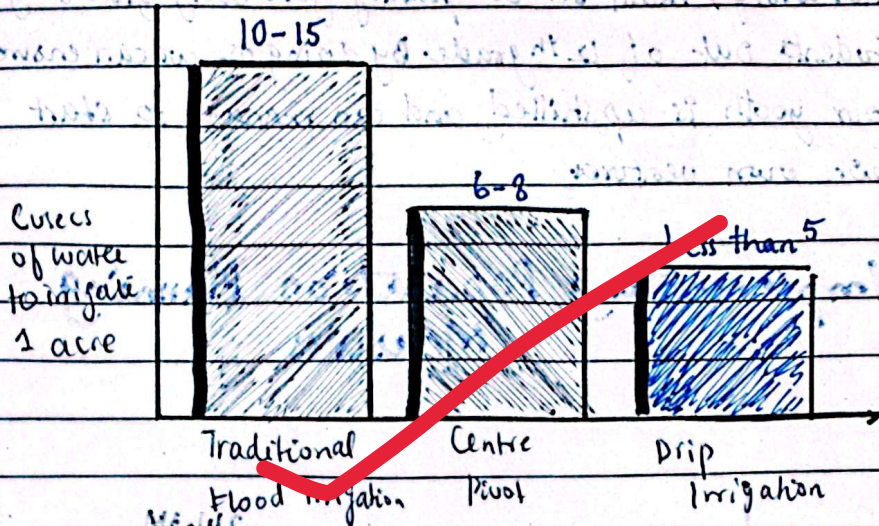
Currently, out-dated and old techniques such as canal and flood irrigation have wreaked havoc on the water table and utilization of water. Pakistan's agricultural produce 3x water as much as India to grow same crop. In this regard, widespread adoption of centre-pivot and drip irrigation and new irrigation techniques will ensure that the water utilization is as sustainable as possible. The graph also

Highlight references



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highlights the difference between various systems.



(Irrigated Agriculture of Pakistan: Nazir Ahmad)

## Human Resource/Manpower Management

### Developing Skilled Manpower

'Pakistan ranks in the bottom tier when it comes to productivity' (World Bank - Annual Pakistan Review 2023)

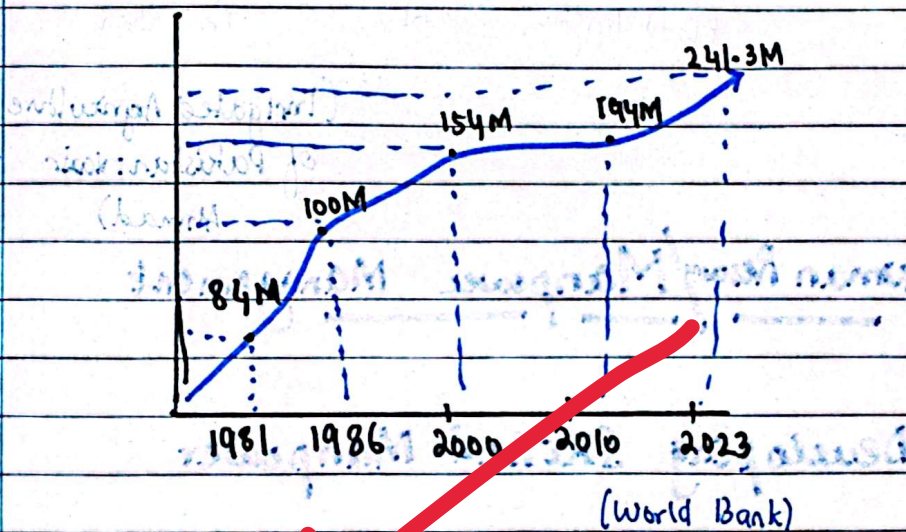
Skilled manpower is a serious shortage of Pakistan's economy. The 'youth bulge' is of no use; if the majority of the youth cannot equip themselves with the skills necessary to contribute towards the economy, the best way to upskill the youth is providing them



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quality technical education. In this regard, TEVTA<sup>courses</sup> (Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority) must be compulsory for every graduating students out of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. By doing so, we can ensure our youth is upskilled and can manage to start their own ventures.

## Implementing Population Planning Measures



Pakistan's population is growing at an annual growth rate of 2.04%. By the end of this decade, there will be more than 200 million mouths to feed. The resources will not be enough to fulfill demand. In order to protect from future strife, population planning measures need to be adopted that promote sustainable growth of population, while keeping

Relate the headings and arguments to the qs statement



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Societal concerns in view.

## MINEERAL EXPLORATION

### METALLIC DRES

Mining industry has always been neglected in policy making circles. Pakistan vast reserves of Copper, Chromite, Bauxite and various metals. In order to reap the maximum rewards, contracts should be done on the basis of setting up of indigenous refining and processing facilities. So that the final product can be sent and value addition can be achieved in the product.

### NON-METALLIC DRES

Marble, Gypsum, Limestone are all exported without refining/processing with sufficient investment from the government side, PPP (Public-Private Partnership) can be set up under the SPIC umbrella. The Marble Industry has a lot of potential, however exports are hampered due to the lack of finishing/processing plants of international standards. If these measures are set up, the exports could fetch more than they currently do.

Add more arguments. A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings



# CONCLUSION

Pakistan has a lot of potential. It has all the resources it needs for a self-sustaining economy. The country needs to only manage its resources, in order to reap the maximum reward. Whether it be generating power to manage the manpower, all things require political will and the resolve to force this country out of the quagmire.