

Question no 1

Explain the
significance of SCO for
Pakistan? (CSS-2017)

Answer:-

1- Introduction:-

The Shanghai
Co-operation Organization (SCO),
founded in 2001 with six
members, has now expanded
to nine full members, with
Pakistan and India joining in
2017 and Iran in 2023 and

DATE: _____
Berlaus in July 2024

The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and international security organization of ten member state. The SCO has become one of the largest regional organizations, covering $\frac{3}{5}$ of Eurasia, 42% of global population and nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of the world's GDP. For Pakistan, this platform is vital to strengthen regional ties and utilize its geostrategic location as a bridge b/w South Asia, China, central Asia and Russia.

2- An Overview OF SCO

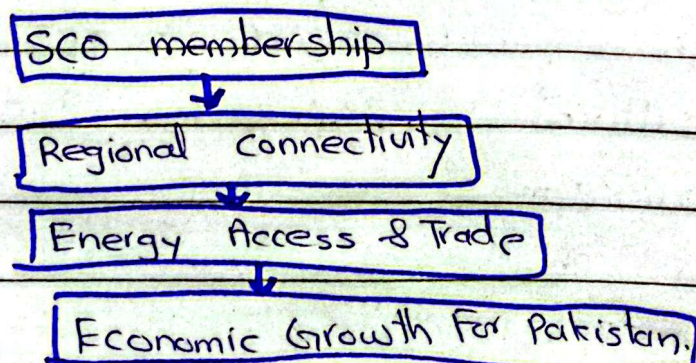
Originally created to resolve border disputes and ensure security between China, Russia and central Asia Republics, the SCO has evolved into a forum promoting Peace, security cultural co-operation and economy. Pakistan's membership offers it the chance to gain

economic, political and security dividends while also reducing isolation in global affairs

3- Importance of SCO For Pakistan

1- Economic Dimension of SCO for Pakistan

The SCO offers Pakistan access to Central Asia, a region rich in oil and gas resources. Through connectivity projects like CPEC, Pakistan can link its ports with Central Asia states and Russia, becoming a trade and transit hub. SCO also provides Pakistan a chance to diversify its economy by trading in regional currencies and reducing dependence on Western financial institutions.



B- Security and Strategic Importance:-

Through the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), Pakistan can co-operate against terrorism and separatism. They can join military drills and intelligence sharing with China, Russia and central Asia strengthen Pakistan's defense Capacity. At the same time, SCO membership helps Pakistan counterbalance India and secure support from Russia and China in regional Politics.

C- Geo-political and Social Importance.

Geopolitically, SCO provides Pakistan with an alternative to SAARC and a regional platform to build stronger ties with Russia and central Asia. In Social terms, the SCO supports co-operation

in health, education and technology as seen during COVID-19. when member states shared vaccines and medical research.

SCO 09 Permanent Member States



Critical Analysis:-

Despite its potential, SCO face hurdles such as rivalry between China, India, and Russia, as well as US interference in the region. For

Pakistan, domestic instability and weak economic management also limit gains. However, by promoting regional trade in local currencies, strengthening co-operation in health and technology and adopting a collective department approach, the SCO can remain effective. For Pakistan, success depends on consistent foreign policy, internal reforms and proactive diplomacy.

Conclusion:-

The SCO is significant for Pakistan as it offers opportunities in economy, security and diplomacy. To benefit fully, Pakistan must ensure stability and act as a bridge between South and central Asia. With these policies, SCO can become a turning point in Pakistan's regional and global standing.