

Day: _____

Date: _____

Essay Topic

Democratic Transition in Pakistan:

Reality or Illusion?

Outline

I. Introduction

a. Democratic Transition

b. Thesis Statement

Despite periodic elections and civilian governments, Pakistan's democratic transition remains largely an illusion.

II. Historical Patterns of Interrupted Democracy

a. 30 years of direct military rule; remaining years under indirect influence.

b. Regular Removal of Elected Governments before completion of Tenure.

III. Hybrid Governance Rather Than Genuine Democracy

a. Surveys consistently shows that 65% of major policy decisions in security and foreign affairs are made outside parliament.

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b. Parliament spends less than 20% of its sessions debating national policy, indicating weak democratic oversight.

IV. Weak Institutionalization of Democracy

a. Introduction of 27th Amendment reduced judicial power - an essential democratic pillar

b. Parliamentary attendance often falls below 60%.

V. Manipulated Electoral Processes

a. Election-related petitions filed after polls often number above 400 per cycle.

b. Pakistan's voter average turnout is 44-52%, significantly lower than global democratic average of 65%.

VI. Civil-Military Imbalance

a. Despite Article 91, major strategic decision making does not occur inside Parliament.

b. Civilian governments exercise limited control over security operations.

VII. Counter-Argument (Acknowledged but Rebutted)

Claim: Regular elections, media freedom, and civil society activism show democratic progress.

VIII. Conclusion

Consider democracy as a social and political process

Make a comprehensive outline

Avoid grammatical errors

Make proper counter argument