



National Officers Academy
Mock Exams CSS-2026
October 2025(Mock-4)
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE-III
(PAKISTAN AFFAIRS)

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS PART-I(MCQS): MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES	PART-I (MCQS) PART-II	MAXIMUM MARKS = 20 MAXIMUM MARKS = 80
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NOTE:

- i. **Part-II** is to be attempted on the separate **Answer Book**.
- ii. Attempt **ONLY FOUR** questions from **PART-II**. **ALL** questions carry **EQUAL** marks.
- iii. All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
- iv. Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q. Paper.
- v. No Page/Space be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of Answer Book must be crossed.
- vi. Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.

PART-II

Q2. Critically evaluate the evolution of Pakistan's political system and culture after 1999. How have constitutional developments in this era shaped democratic continuity and governance? Explain.

Q3. The current economic challenges of Pakistan are challenges of Political Economy or the issues are deep rooted in structural flaws in our economy. Take a side and suggest policy measures to address these challenges.

Q4. Analyze the trajectory of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the post-2021 period of current regime in Afghanistan. How have border security, refugee issues, and regional realignments influenced bilateral ties?

Q5. Assess the changing dynamics of Pakistan-US relations in the context of strategic realignments and global power shifts after new governments in both the countries. Do you think, the nature of relationship is strategic partnership or a transactional cooperation? Discuss

Q6. Discuss the role of ideology in Pakistan's nation-building process. How the interpretation of ideological contours evolved over time in Pakistan's political and social discourse?

Q7. Is the climate change or Pakistan's environmental-hazardous-development model that takes Pakistan to the top of V20 (Vulnerable 20)? Argue in favor or against and recommend a strategy to mitigate environmental risks and enhance resilience.

Q8. Evaluate the role of key political and social ideologies in the Pakistan Movement between 1930 to 1947. How did events such as the AlaAbad Address, Congress Ministries of 1937 and Lahore Resolution influence the demand for a separate homeland?

May success follow you in Exams!

Question No: 2

day / date:

The evolution of Pakistan's Political system and cultural since 1999 military coup has been marked a cyclical struggle between military dominance, democratic consideration consolidation efforts, and significant constitutional changes aimed at strengthening civilian governance.

Evolution Of the Political System

The Post 1999 period began with the military dictatorship of General Pervez Musharraf, continuing Pakistan's pattern of alternating between periods of corrupt civilian rule and military dictatorships.

1. Musharraf's Era (1999-2008):

- Musharraf's rule was characterized by authoritarian tendencies and attempts to create his own form of controlled democracy.
- A significant cultural shift with the radical liberalization of the media, leading to proliferation and of television and radio stations that increased government transparency and public awareness.
- Despite this liberalization, the military remained dominant institution, continuing to assert its primary and intervene in critical policy areas.
- The period saw an economic growth, but Musharraf's commitment to internal political reform often waned for political expediency.



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- The political culture saw mass mobilization, notably the Civil Society Movement in 2007 (Lawyer's movement) that successfully mobilized for an independent judiciary and against military rule.

2- **Return to Civilian Rule**

And Democratic Continuity (Post 2008)

- The 2008 General Election initiated the Rebirth of the democratic institutions.

- A critical milestone in democratic continuity was achieved in the 2013 General Elections marking the first time in Pakistan's history that an elected civilian government completed its full term and facilitated a peaceful transfer of power to another elected government via ballot box. This signaled a potential change in the mode of power transfer and diminished the army's ability to manipulate the political process.

However, the military continues to cast a large shadow over civilian government exercising veto power even when out of power. The system remains stuck in an intermediate "gray zone" between full democracy and military autocracy.

Constitution Development And Governance

The key constitutional development during this era was the passage of Eighteenth Amendment in 2010, which profoundly shaped government.

1- Reversing the Military Centralization

The 18th Amendment restored the balance of powers as envisaged in the 1973 Constitution. Critically, it reversed the centralizing effects of previous military-era amendments (like Zia's 18th Amendment). The amendments removed the military executive prerogative, Article 58(2)(B), which military rulers had codified and used repeatedly to dismiss elected governments between 1998 and 1996.

2- Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy:

The amendment formally returned to a Parliamentary democracy where the prime minister serves as the chief executive. The outgoing PPP government also took steps to assert greater civilian responsibility for foreign and defense policy, traditionally the army's domain.

3. Devolution And Federation:

The 18th Amendment gave greater political autonomy to the provinces.

- It eliminated the Concurrent List, transferring legislative authority in these areas exclusively to the provinces. This was intended to re-organize Pakistan as a genuine federation.
- Simultaneously, Seventh National Finance Commission (NFC) Award provided provinces a significant increased share of federal budget, enhancing their financial power.
- This move was seen as a mitigating historical centre-province tensions rooted in centralized authority and perceived Punjabi dominance.

Despite the developments, challenges persist in governance due to the provinces lacking the capacity (revenue and manpower) to handle their new mandates, effectively, potentially hindering service delivery in crucial areas like education and infrastructure.

Question No: 3

day / date:

The current economic challenges of Pakistan are fundamental challenges of Political Economy, which perpetually undermined and prevent the resolution of deep-rooted structural flaws.

Argument: The Political Economy

Pakistan's economic instability is rooted not just in a lack of resources, but in a governance structure defined by elite capture, patronage, and a deeply entrenched military bureaucratic dominance.

1. Elite Capture And Lack Of Fiscal Integrity:

A narrow elite, comprising the military, civil bureaucracy, landowners and political families, has resisted meaningful reforms to protect its interests. This is evident by Pakistan's dismal, inefficient and inequitable taxation system, which is characterized by rampant evasion, particularly among the wealthy and untaxed sectors like agriculture. The state's inability to raise sufficient domestic revenue leads to a perpetual budget deficit and forces like reliance on external borrowing and aid.

2. Defense v/s Development:

Pakistan's political economy is structured more for "defence" than for "development". Fear of India sustains the primacy of the military, leading to disproportionate allocation of resources where defence and debt servicing consume over 50% of the central government's expenditure. This crowds out vital investments in social sectors like education and health.

3- Policy Failure And Corruption:

Major structural problems, such as chronic energy crisis and soaring circular debt, are the result of colossal failures in public policy, lack of planning continuity, mismanagement, neglect, and systematic corruption rather than insurmountable resource scarcity. Governance issues are inextricably linked with effective economic policies.

Policy Measured Focused On Political Economy Reform:

Addressing Pakistan's challenges requires structural and political interventions to reform the incentive structure of the ruling elite.

1- Fiscal Justice And Revenue Mobilization:

- Reform to restore financial stability through a disciplined fiscal and monetary policies.
- Reform the taxation system to make it efficient and equitable. This includes taxing the wealthy and bringing politically exempted sectors, such as agriculture, into the tax net.

2. Governance And Institutional Strengthening:

- Tackle the endemic corruption and improve governance.
- Implement structural reforms and reconfigure the state's governance structures.
- Implement sweeping land reforms to address the structures which are old and of landownership and reduce the power of feudal elites in rural areas.

3. Rebalancing Security And Development Spending:

- Radically reduce the army's role in politics and redefine its functions primarily to defending frontiers.
- Shift spending priorities from non-productive expenditures (defense/administration) toward major investments in education and healthcare reform.

4. Energy Sector Stability:

- Develop and implement an Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) and a coherent strategy to address the chronic energy crisis.
- Address the systematic causes of circular debt, corruption and power theft.

Question No: 04

The nature of Pakistan-US relationship since 2001 has been transactional cooperation, frequently deteriorating into a "acrimonious codependency" or an "alliance of convenience" rather than a deep strategic partnership.

Dynamics And Strategic Re-alignment:

1. Post 9/11 Reliance:

The relationship underwent a dramatic shift post 9/11, transforming Pakistan from a pariah state to a key strategic ally. This alliance was primarily driven by U.S. counterterrorism needs in Afghanistan and Pakistan's urgent requirement for economic and military assistance (lifting sanctions, debt relief, military aid) to stabilize the Musharraf regime and offset India.

2- Conflicting Core Interests:

The foundational difference in strategic focus prevents true partnership. Pakistan's foreign policy is perpetually India-centric, seeking military parity and external "props" to counter its neighbor. The US' interests, however, has been situational (containing Communism, fighting terrorism) and increasing focused on India's assert as a counterweight to China.

3- Global Power Shifts:

Pakistan views the US' commitment to helping India become a global power (e.g., the Civilian Nuclear Deal) with unease, seeing it as proof that the US has chosen India. As the US focus shifts towards China's rise, Pakistan anticipates its own decreased salience and seeks to strengthen ties with China and Saudi Arabia to ensure economic and strategic support.

Transactional Cooperation vs. Strategic Partnership:

The evidence points strongly towards a transactional relationship.

Transactional Nature:

The relationship is one of convenience, based on immediate

expediency and short-term thinking, secured through a combination of coercion and bribery (aid).

Trust Deficit:

A severe trust deficit defines the relationship. Many Pakistanis believe the U.S. has historically used and abandoned them, citing sanctions and past betrayals. Anti-American sentiment is widespread and deeply rooted.

Divergent Objectives:

Pakistan pursued the alliance while maintaining its strategy of using militant proxies (like groups in Kashmir) of security objectives, leading to US accusations of "double-dealing".

Imbalance Of Power:

The US intervention bolstered Musharraf's military dictatorship while rhetorically supporting democracy; facilitating a political economy of predation. The military's enduring power ensures its veto over civilian foreign policy of Pakistan decisions.

Future Trajectory:

The relationship is expected to become more distant and narrowly focused on fewer issues after the immediate needs related to Afghanistan decline, reinforcing the transactional nature.