

Date: 22-10-25

Day: Wednesday

Name Ume-Farwa

Batch 83 (41203)

Mock Exam (V)
(10:30 to 1:30)

PAKISTAN
Affairs

PART - II

Question No. 2

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

Date: _____

Day: _____

and governance? Explain.

Introduction

The evaluation of Pakistan's political system after 1999 has been a complex mix of military dominance, constitutional restructuring and fragile democratic recovery. From General Musharraf's controlled regime to **post 2008** democratic revival the state's political culture has oscillated between authoritarianism and constitutionalism. While reforms such as the **18th Amendment** restored parliamentary authority, governance remains constrained by institutional imbalance and political

polarisation.

1. Musharraf Era (1999-2008):

Authoritarian Restructuring

General Pervez Musharraf's coup dismantled parliamentary democracy and introduced a military-led order.

Through the Legal Framework Order (2002) and 17th Amendment he centralised power in the presidency and legitimised military rule under a civilian facade.

The 2002 elections produced a weak parliament dependent on the establishment. Though local government reforms

Date: _____

Day: _____

and media freedom were introduced, they mainly served regime legitimacy rather than genuine decentralisation.

2 The Lawyers' Movement and Democratic Revival (2007-2009):

The dismissal of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry in 2007 triggered a nationwide movement that **revived** civil society and judicial independence.

The 2008 elections ended nine years of military rule, restoring a civilian government. However the restored judiciary soon became assertive

occasionally encroaching upon executive functions — reflecting Pakistan's tendency toward institutional confrontation rather than cooperation.

3 The 18th Amendment (2010):

Restoring Federal Parliamentary Balance

The 18th Amendment reversed authoritarian distortions.

- Revived parliamentary supremacy.
- Enhanced provincial autonomy and
- Removed **Article 58(2)(b)**

It represented rare political consensus and reinforced constitutional

Date: _____

Day: _____

Continuity though provinces later faced fiscal and administrative challenges.

4 Security and Constitutional Ex^{ce}p^{ti}ons (2014-2017)

Terrorism threats especially after the **APS attack (2014)** led to the **21st Amendment** establishing military courts. Though temporary, it showed civilian dependence on military institutions and the recurring tension between security and democracy.

5 Democratic Continuity amid Polarisation

(20/3 - 2022)

Three elected governments completed terms an unprecedented achievement yet, politics remained divisive dominated by power struggles protests and judicial interventions. The 2022 no confidence motion showed constitutional maturity but deepened political polarisation.

6 Evaluation and

Governance Challenge

Pakistan's Constitutional continuity stands firm but democratic culture lags behind. Civil-military imbalance weak

Date: _____

Day: _____

parties and personally based politics hinder effective governance.

Thus democracy function procedurally not substantively.

Conclusion

Since 1999, Pakistan has made constitutional progress but limited political transformation. The 18th Amendment ensured continuity yet governance remains undermined by instability and institutional mistrust. For genuine democracy constitutionalism must be accompanied by tolerance accountability and institutional respect.

Question No. 3

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.

Introduction

Pakistan's economic crisis stems mainly from deep-rooted structural flaws though political economy factors have worsened them. Chronic fiscal deficits low productivity

Date: _____

Day: _____

and an import dependent structure are outcomes of weak institutions and flawed economic design not just a political mismanagement.

1 Structural Flaws as the Core Issue

- (i) Narrow tax base: The tax to GDP ratio remains below 10%. Causing reliance on debt and IMF bailouts.
- (ii) Energy inefficiency: Circular debt, line losses and untargeted subsidies drain fiscal resources.
- (iii) Low exports: Pakistan's export basket is narrow and low value making

Date: _____

Day: _____

external accounts highly vulnerable.

(iv) Human Capital deficit:

poor education health and skill formation restrict productivity and innovation.

(v) SOE losses: State

owned Enterprises operate under inefficiency adding to fiscal pressure.

2 Political Economy

as a Reinforcing Factor

Short-term populism
patronage politics, and
weak policy continuity
block reforms. Governance
avoid unpopular decisions
like broadening the tax
net or cutting subsidies

Date: _____

Day: _____

worsening structural gaps.

3 Policy Measures to Address Challenges.

(i) Tax and fiscal reform:

Expand the tax base
digitise FBR and cut
exemptions to increase
revenue.

(ii)

Energy Sector Overhaul

Rationalise tariffs reduce
line losses and attract
private investment.

(iii)

Export-led growth:

Promote IT, agriculture
processing and manufacturing

Date: _____

Day: _____

through special economic zones.

iv) Social Protection:

Replace blanket subsidies with targeted cash transfers, via BISP.

v) Governance and institutional reform:

Strengthen accountability depoliticise SOEs and ensure transparent procurement

vi) Human development

Invest in education and skills to support long-term productivity.

Conclusion

Pakistan's economic instability is the outcome of structural weaknesses compounded by political inertia. Sustainable growth requires addressing

Date: _____

Day: _____

the fundamentals tax
energy exports and
human capital through
consistent depoliticised
and evidence-based
policymaking.

Q No. 4

Answer

Introduction

After the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, Pakistan hoped for a cooperative neighbour and regional stability. However, relations have grown tense due to border insecurity, refugee pressure and shifting regional alignments reflecting the complex

Date: _____

Day: _____

interdependence of the two states.

1 Early Engagement and Diplomatic Optimism

Pakistan welcomed the Taliban regime expecting an end to cross border militancy and enhanced trade through the CPEC western corridor. Humanitarian aid and facilitation of Afghan transit trade reflected Islamabad's early goodwill.

2 Border Security and TTP Challenge

The main irritant has been terrorism by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

Date: _____

Day: _____

Operating from Afghan soil. Despite fencing the **Durand Line** Pakistan has faced frequent cross border attacks and border clashes in Kurram and Chitral. Kabul's reluctance to curb TTP activities stems from ideological and tribal linkages reviving Pakistan's security dilemma and eroding initial trust.

3 Refugee Pressure

Over 2.7 million Afghans live in Pakistan. New inflows after 2021 strained resources. The 2023 repatriation policy created friction. Afghan called it coercive; Pakistan cited security and economic limits.

DAY:

DATE:

4 Regional Dynamics

The U.S. withdrawal reshaped regional roles. China engages Kabul for CPEC and BRI links. Iran and Russia keep pragmatic ties shrinking Pakistan's influence. Pakistan now balances between global recognition of the Taliban and its internal security concerns.

5 Trade and Connectivity

Trade revived under APTTA, but frequent closures, visa curbs and smuggling hinder growth. Energy projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 remain stalled due to

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

instability.

Conclusion

Past-2021, Pak Afghan ties shifted from hope to cautious cooperation. Border tensions, TTP attacks, and refugee issues dominate over trade or diplomacy. Peace demands consistent dialogue, joint counter-terrorism action, and a move from security centric to economic centric engagement.

Q No. 5

PAKISTAN - US Relations:

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

Strategic or Transactional?

Introduction

Pakistan
- US relations have long oscillated between strategic partnership and transactional cooperation. In the post 2021 global order marked by the Taliban's return in Afghanistan and shifting power blocs (US-China rivalry, Indo Pacific focus) the relationship has become issue based and transactional rather than long term strategic.

1 Changing Context after

New Governments.

Under President Biden and post-2022 governments in Pakistan ties have focused on selective engagement.

Washington's priority has shifted from South Asia to the Indo-Pacific and strategic partnership with India while Pakistan aims to balance relations between China the US and Gulf allies.

2 Limited Cooperation

Areas

(i)

Counterterrorism:

After the Taliban takeover, Pakistan

DAY:

DATE:

Remains relevant in intelligence sharing and regional security.

(ii)

Economic engagement

U.S. aid has declined replaced by cooperation on climate resilience and trade access.

(iii)

Defence dialogue:

Continued but low-profile
e.g. F-16 maintenance support resumed in 2022
signaling limited trust

Overall, cooperation is functional not strategic.

3

Strategic Realignments

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

and Power Shifts.

The U.S. - India partnership under QUAD and Indo-Pacific Strategy sidelines Pakistan. Meanwhile Pakistan's growing alignment with China (CPEC, BRI) and economic outreach to Russia and Gulf states limit U.S. leverage. The U.S. now views Pakistan mainly through the lens of Afghanistan stability, counterterrorism and nuclear safety.

4 Nature of the Relationship

DAY:

DATE:

Current ties are transactional - driven by temporary interests not shared long-term vision. Pakistan seeks financial stability and diplomatic space the U.S. seeks regional counterterror cooperation. Strategic trust remains missing due to divergent geopolitical orientations.

Conclusion

Post 2021, Pakistan-U.S. relations have evolved into pragmatic engagement without strategic depth. Both countries cooperate where interests align but lack sustained political

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

of economic convergence.
Future stability depends
on **broadening** ties
beyond security-toward
trade, climate
technology and people
to people engagement.
