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## Pakistan affairs

Q5

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## Introduction :

Democracy is the most essential and fundamental system for managing affairs of a society. It has certain important principles like citizen participation, equality, political tolerance, accountability, transparency, periodic, free and fair elections, multi-party system and the rule of law. True democratic states always follow these principles. True democracy leads to sustained social, economic and

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political stability and growth of a country. In Pakistan various steps have been taken to make it a true democratic country.

Unfortunately, true democracy could not flourish in true spirit in Pakistan and this remains a hurdle in the way of development of Pakistan.

## History of Evolution of Democratic System of Pakistan :-

a) 1947-1958:

The first ~~decade~~ decade after Pakistan's independence was marked by a struggling democracy trying to impose itself on Pakistan's landscape. This first decade in fact laid the groundwork for the civil-military imbalance that would come to define Pakistan in the coming years. Pakistan's founders harboured ~~great~~ genuine existential fears of India threatening action against Pakistan, and this fear led to Pakistan diverting scarce resources to the military. This Indian threat also led to Pakistan seeking a patron on the international level that would guarantee Pakistan's security. This line of thinking led Pakistan to entrench itself firmly in the cold war camp on the hopes that America would protect Pakistan's territorial integrity. The ~~patronage~~ patronage the military enjoyed from the Pakistani state and from America led to the military modernizing on a far more rapid scale than Pakistan's civilian establishment. Pakistan's

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first experiment with democracy thus came to an ignominious end on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1958, when the then President Iskander Mirza abrogated the constitution and declared martial law in Pakistan.

b) 1958-1971:

Iskander Mirza's control of the state would turn out to be short lived as well. The army chief Ayub Khan took power in his own hands. Ayub Khan then installed himself as Pakistan's president and presided over a decade that has been defined as a turning point in Pakistan's economic trajectory, but which also witnessed Pakistan fighting a war with India in 1965. The economic policies Ayub Khan promulgated were also in large part responsible for East Pakistan breaking apart from Pakistan. Ayub was critical about his disdain for parliamentary democracy from the beginning. Ayub's 1962 constitution, which interestingly did not initially include the 'Islamic Republic' in its title, envisioned an electoral college of 80,000 people who would elect the President. The Basic Democracies system was in fact a multi-layered and complex system that meant that Pakistan's president who inevitably was to be Ayub Khan would be indirectly elected. Ayub harbingered the green revolution in Pakistan and also set Pakistan on the path of industrial development. This growth however gave birth to regional

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inequalities. An Pakistan's famed economist, Mehbub-ul-Haq, for instance, dubbed Ayub's economic policies 'the Doctrine of Functional Inequality' and highlighted the stark inequality that had emerged in Pakistan in the 1960s. This inequality forced Ayub to resign in 1969. The former Army Chief, however, chose not to hold elections and instead passed on the baton to the then army chief, Yahya Khan. Although Yahya was the first leader to hold direct elections in Pakistan on the basis of 'one person one vote', his role in the subsequent political crisis highlights his inherent bias and disdain for sharing power with East Pakistan.

### c) 1971-1988:

The division of Pakistan meant Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) found themselves governing the country. This was perhaps the best time for civilian politicians to assert themselves over the military, since the latter found itself humiliated and devoid of pride and public support after the 1971 incident. Although Bhutto had soared to popularity on his socialist mandate of 'roti, kapra, makaan', and he did nationalise many industries in the country, his failure to implement his land reforms and his actions against prominent trade unions highlight a sharp dichotomy and dissonance in his ideology. As opposition to Bhutto mounted, General Zia-ul-Haq

led 'operation Fairplay' on the 5th of July, 1977 and ended Bhutto's rule. Zia's abrogation of the 1973 constitution. Zia's tenure was another significant setback to the democratic project in Pakistan since his constitutional amendment and use of religion as a political gimmick were to shape Pakistan's political landscape for decades to come.

#### d) 1988-1999:

Pakistan's 1990s oscillated between rule by Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto. It was the 18th amendment that paved the way for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's dismissal of Benazir's government in 1990. The 1990 elections saw Nawaz Sharif's Islamic Jamhuri Movement come to power, but his tenure was too marked by conflict with the military and the President. His time in office too was cut short when the military forced both him and Ghulam Khan to resign in 1993. 1993 and 1996 were the next election cycles which saw Benazir emerge victorious in the former with Nawaz coming to power again in 1996. It was his heavy mandate that allowed him to pass the 13th amendment that limited the President's powers and finally gave breathing space to civilian rule. Nawaz, however, triggered inter-institutional conflict when his supporters first led a raid on the Supreme Court in 1997 and later when he tried to remove army Chief Pervez Musharraf. The

latter action, proved to be too much for the army to digest, with the military triggering a military coup, and once again pushing Pakistan into the grips of military rule.

### e) 1999-2008:

Pervez Musharraf's rule was another defining period in Pakistan's history. Musharraf promulgated 17th amendment that undid a lot of the democratic gains Pakistan achieved in the thirteenth amendment. Pakistan's exposure to democracy and to globalisation through a vibrant digital media, and the societal changes that emerged out of rising middle class, however, proved too much for Musharraf's stronghold in the political landscape, which culminated in Musharraf giving up power.

### f) 2008 - Present:

2008 marked a decade since Pakistan has had uninterrupted democratic rule. This period has seen tremendous democratic gains such as the passing of 18th amendment, the passage of seventh NFC award and the Thirtieth Amendment Bill that paves the way for FATA's merger with KPK. This decade, however, has not been bereft of civil-military conflict. With the end of the incumbent Parliament's tenure on the 31st of May 2018, however, it seems that democracy is finally entrenching itself in Pakistan. All parties united on holding elections on 25th of July. Imran Khan became Prime Minister.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Khan became the country's first Prime Minister to be deposed through a no-confidence motion in Parliament. After Khan's removal from power, PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Use elaborate and self explanatory

## Reasons for ~~failure~~ of Democracy in Pakistan:

### a) Electoral Reforms

The election process in Pakistan is one of the key reasons for the failure of democracy. To elaborate, the results of general election 1977 were widely contested. So much so that the democratic process was suspended, once again, by dictator's intervention, owing to the deteriorating law and order situation.

Similarly, fast forward to 2013, the election results were challenged again by opposition parties, whereby Muslim League (N) gained the majority. Lastly, the 2018 elections also met with widespread allegations and were announced to be rigged. Hence, every single election is followed by large scale protests and is discredited by the opposition parties. This situation proves to be fatal for democracy, as every newly elected government's energy are directed towards their survival, they fail to consolidate and deliver. Furthermore, the process of discrediting elections also serve to confirm the growth of democratic culture in society.

In conclusion, the lack of electoral reforms in Pakistan is one of the key factors behind weak democracy.

### b) Illiteracy and Education Crisis

According to the Economic Survey 2017-18, Pakistan's literacy rate is 58 percent. Ironically, a country which recognizes literacy as any person who can read and write a paragraph in any language, democracy cannot take roots. As the adage goes, "Democracy is not a process, it is a culture." For ~~society~~ democracy to take roots in the society, the society should be well versed with democratic norms and high social values and common awareness of their rights and duties. Hence illiteracy is also a factor behind failure of democracy in Pakistan.

### c) Devolution of Power:

The essence of democracy is empowerment of masses at the grass root level. That is the establishment of Local Government in Pakistan. However, in Pakistan the duties of Local Government system have been taken by assemblies. In addition to the legislation, assemblies also perform the duty of resource and fund allocation, a task originally designated to Local Government system. Therefore, democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan.

### d) Institutional Imbalance

Pakistan inherited institutional imbalance at the

Use elaborate and self explanatory headings.

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time of independence. The state apparatus, i.e., the bureaucracy, the military and the intelligence services, was more organized and developed than the political and democratic institutions. The degeneration of the political machinery was in sharp contrast to the increasing efficiency, discipline, and the confidence of the military. These developments accentuated institutional imbalance and worked to the disadvantage of the civilian leaders. To conclude, institutional imbalance led to the failure of democracy in Pakistan.

### e) Political Parties and Leadership :

In Pakistan, political parties have traditionally been weak and unable to perform their main function in an effective and meaningful manner. The role of political parties has suffered due to, inter alia, periodic restrictions on political activities under military rule, infrequent elections, weak organizational structure and poor discipline among the members, absence of attractive socio-economic programs, and a paucity of financial resources. There is a strong dynastic orientation. At the grass root level has been deprived of fruits of democracy and a narrow section of society has enjoyed power and authority for personal gains.

Democracy in Pakistan faced a host of difficulties which did not let the democratic principles, institutions and processes develop from

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**Give conclusion.**

roots in the polity. Pakistan started with the Parliamentary system of governance but the legacy of institutional imbalance and authoritarianism problems encountered in the setting of the new state the external security pressures and the fear of the collapse of the state adversely affected the prospects of democracy.

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### Outline:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Population growth as a reason of fast depletion of natural resources
- 3) Remedies to control population growth
  - a) A little less makes a lot of difference
  - b) Quality Education for all
  - c) Global Justice and Sustainable Economies
  - d) Making people aware of family planning
  - e) Social Marketing
- 4) Conclusion

## Introduction:

Pakistan is a sovereign state in South Asia and spans an area of 340,509 square miles, making Pakistan the 33rd largest country in the world. Pakistan has a population of more than 212 million people, making the country the 6th most populous country in the world. In 2016, it had a nominal GDP of \$271 billion and GDP based on purchasing power parity \$946,667 million. In the same year, per capita GDP was \$1,561. According to economic complexity index the country was ranked the 67th largest country in the export index. The fiscal year of 2015-2016 the country's exports were valued as \$20.8 billion and imports stood at \$44.76 billion. According to the World Bank, the country is endowed with resources and has the potential of developing. Population size, growth rate, and its composition play an important role in the social and economic development of a country. The growth of population causes great burden on production of natural resources. Population growth in developing countries like Pakistan is very high. ~~At the same time~~, ~~the world~~ Pakistan is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources but also one of the ~~poorest~~ poorest.

among them in their management which is the reason for fast depletion of natural resources.

### Population growth as a reason of fast depletion of natural resources:

Pakistan is among those developing countries where population growth is fairly high. According to Pakistan Economic Survey, at present it is the sixth most populous country in the world. According to World Population Data Sheet 2013, Pakistan with population of 36.3 million in 2010 is expected to retain the same position. The population growth in Pakistan is 2.0 percent, which is higher than average growth rate of South Asian countries. Population growth in developed countries puts a lot of pressure on global resources and environment. Lack of resources and the destruction of natural habitats are a clear and unacceptable consequence of population growth and its impact. As population increase and the intensity of land use increases, more demand will increase the resource of particular piece of land or other resources. According to National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), estimated population of Pakistan is 224.78 million in 2021 of which 82.83 million reside in urban

areas whereas 141.96 million live in rural areas and population density is 282 per km<sup>2</sup> - Pakistan is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources but also one of the poorest among them. Their management

The country is abundant in the natural resources including that of energy, agriculture, minerals, population, and geography, but unlike the developed countries, these have not been properly exploited due to poor management, prevalent political diversity and instability, weak law and order and rampant corruption have catalysed the

Situation to resource development impasse. Contrary to economic potential of its natural resources, Pakistan is a dependant on foreign aid and debt, it is facing deficit in trade, acute energy crisis in industry and water stress for agriculture, to name a few challenges. Political instability, corruption, lack of law and order in the country has prevented full use of such resources.

### Remedies to control Population Growth

Although population growth in the 20th and 21st century has skyrocketed, it can be slowed, stopped and reversed through actions which enhance global justice and improve people's lives. Under the

Discuss this part in more detail by giving subheadings.

United Nations most optimistic scenario, a sustainable reduction in global population could happen within decades.

### a) A Little Less Makes a lot of difference

The United Nations makes a range of projections for future population growth, based on assumptions about how long people will live, what the fertility rate will be in different countries and how many people of childbearing age there will be. Its ~~own~~ population projection is in the ~~middle~~ ~~of~~ that ~~of~~ range - 9.7bn in 2050 and 10.4bn in 2100.

### b) Quality Education for all

Ensuring every child receives a quality education is one of the most effective levers for sustainable development - Many kids in developing countries are out of school, with girls affected more than boys. According to one study, African women with no education have, on average, 5.4 children; a woman who has completed secondary school has 2.7 and those who have a college education have 2.2. When family sizes are smaller, that also empowers women to gain education, take work and improve their economic opportunities.

### c) Global Justice and Sustainable

#### Economies

The UN projects that population growth over the next century will be driven

the world's very poorest ~~countries~~ countries - Escaping poverty is not just a fundamental human right but a vital way to bring birth rates down. In addition, lower child mortality through improved access to health care and better economic opportunities lead to smaller family size also.

The human overpopulation issue is the topic I see as the most vital to the well-being of our children and a good quality of life.  
~ Alexandra Paul.

d) Making People Aware of Family Planning  
As the population of this world is growing at a rapid pace, raising awareness among people regarding family planning and letting them know about serious after-effects of overpopulation can help curb population growth.

e) Social Marketing  
Social Marketing has already been initiated by some societies to educate the public on overpopulation effects. The intervention can be made widespread at a low cost. A variety of print materials can be distributed in places such as at ~~places~~ sporting events, local markets, schools etc.