

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: **M T W T F S S**

"Mock Exam"

Aswa Khalid

OB-46 RHP

(General Knowledge II)

Subjective part:

Q2) Saudi-Iran negotiations brokered by China shows that Beijing is ready to adopt the role of mediator. Critically evaluate the statement and analyze why China could be a better mediator than US.

Ans:- Saudi-Iran strained Relations:-

Saudi Arab and Iran are the two dominant OIL producing countries in the Middle-east.

Both the states are in continuous conflict in order to prove their dominance in the middle-east region. The reason behind the hostile bond between the both states is the

sectarian conflict between them. Iran being a Shiite dominant country finds ideological

differences with Saudi Arabia whose population comprises of the Sunni sect. Apart from

sectarian conflicts, another reason for the deteriorated relations between the both

states is their involvement in regional

conflicts. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia find themselves on opposite sides in regional

tensions. The former supports the proxy of Houthis in Yemen against the Saudi led

coalition government. While on the other

hand, Saudi was an active supporter of Iraq against Iran's revolutionary

government.

China's role as a mediator :-

China is playing an active role to carry out negotiations between the both rivals ~~and~~ in order to put an end to the hostilities between the both countries.

The efforts of China can bring a positive change in ~~South Asia~~ <sup>Middle East</sup> block, if it succeeds in its goal. Saudi Arabia and Iran both being dominant oil producing states in middle east can become powerful allies and can minimize the western influence in the ~~South Asia~~ <sup>Middle East</sup> with the assistance of China. China's motive behind this negotiation between the both countries

derives from its interest in the strategic location of middle east firstly, and secondly to buy oil in cheap prices from these states to assist its goal of expanding its economy.

China recently signed the 25 year agreement with Iran, aiming to invest 400 billion \$ in the regions different areas including IT sector and infrastructure development. Five representatives of Saudi government also recently visited China to ensure economic and security cooperation between the both countries. If these economic cooperation and friendly ties prosper among the three countries, it would make them a powerful block to counter the dominance of external powers in the region.

M T W T F S S

Why China can be a better mediator than US?

China can be a better mediator to end the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia because of its neutral position in the conflict. Whereas, US itself has strained and hostile relations with Iran. In 2019, US president Trump backed off from JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) by putting various sanctions on Iran, isolating it economically in the international arena. Due to its tensed relations with Iran, US can not prove to be a biased negotiator between the both states. Moreover, China aims to provide economic gains to both Iran and Saudi Arabia by creating trade relations with them, without the intent of intervening in to the states' personal matters.

Keeping in mind the above mentioned points, one can conclude that the efforts of China in the rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would be a positive change for all the three countries. Their economies would prosper through mutual economic cooperation and they would be able to form a strong bloc to counter the western influence in the middle east region.

22) There is an unprecedented rise in militancy in the merged districts, KP and other parts of Pakistan. Critically evaluate the reasons and find ways out.

Rise of militant groups in KP and other parts of Pakistan:-

Recent rise of militant activities in different areas of Pakistan is a threatening situation for the country. Pakistan has a long history of countering terrorism in the past. The country has gone through great devastation resulting through terrorist activities by TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban-Pakistan). The Malala incident and APS incident are such two examples of the long history of terrorism in Pakistan.

The recent militant activities that were observed in KP area of Pakistan and before that in Zhob area of Balochistan, are alarming for the security and peace of the country. A group of militants tried to enter the FATA region of KP to find their way in to the country. After a fighting session between the Pakistan army and the militant group, the militants were pushed back to Afghanistan.

Reasons for the <sup>recent</sup> rise of militant activities in the country:-

TTP group of Taliban had a long resentment against Pakistan government for not supporting them and allying with Americans in War of terror. Several terrorist activities were carried out in the

M T W T F S S

country to gain revenge against the anti-Taliban policy of Pakistan. However, in certain operations that were carried by Pakistani forces against terrorists, several members <sup>of TTP</sup> were successfully captured by the Pakistani forces. The roots of the problem can be traced back to the previous government's decision of freeing these terrorists without any negotiation with the Afghan Taliban's or setting any terms and conditions for state security. Islamabad took this decision of freeing these terrorists, aiming to develop better ties with the western neighbour.

However, the decision lacked the long sighted vision and repercussions of the situation. Such a weak decision of the state resulted in the rekindling of terrorism in the country.

The way out:

The present government should deal the current sensitive situation of the state security against terrorism with great sensibleness by taking proper measures to avoid such activities in the future. Negotiations should be carried out with the Afghanistan's Taliban regime to take strict actions against the TTP terrorists to not carry any further destructive activities against Pakistan from the soil of Afghanistan. Moreover, the governments should take such sensitive decisions with great care.

In the future, keeping in mind that the consequences of such decisions must not compromise the national security of <sup>the</sup> state.

Q7) The country is faced with unprecedented economic, political and constitutional crises. Critically evaluate the statement and give recommendations.

Ans: Pakistan is going through ~~the~~ <sup>a great</sup> economic, political and constitutional turmoil in the recent times, and all of these issues seem to be interconnected with one another. The economic crises is directly linked to the political instability in the region. Due to the weak policies designed by the government officials the country's economy is deteriorating rather than prospering. One of the major reasons for the weak economy of the state is the lack of FDI (Foreign direct investment) in the country. Pakistan going through the weak economic situation has failed to attract the foreign investors to invest in the country. De-dollarization of the state is another major setback for the country's economy. Pakistan doesn't have a balance in its exports and imports. The country's exports <sup>are</sup> more than its imports, which results in creating a disbalance in the dollar flow.

Corruption and theft are ~~another~~

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: **M T W T F S S**

major drawbacks for the state's economy. Goods and products are illegally transferred across borders. i.e., the recent illegal import of sugar to Afghanistan. Circular debt in energy sector also plays its part in weakening the economy of the country. Such illegal activities are directly the product of <sup>lack of</sup> law and order in the country. The constitution has also failed to play its part in ensuring law and order in the country. The political parties themselves do not pay enough respect to the constitution and manipulate it for their personal gains. The ~~parts~~ judiciary whose responsibility is to implement laws in the state, they themselves are appointed on political and establishment interests. Such weaknesses on political and judiciary level give rise to economical instability in the country.

Recommendations:-

To strengthen the economy of the state Islamabad should take strict measures against any sort of theft and corruption on every level. Moreover, the selection of politicians and judiciary should also be based on merit. Such a move in administration sector ~~will~~ <sup>would</sup> have a positive impact in the development of Pakistan. As it would ensure the element of lawfulness in the state. Merit based selection of politicians can only be ensured through fair elections. Democracy should be ensured

in the country, so that the public <sup>would</sup> get a chance to choose a representative for themselves. Lastly, the role of establishment should be minimized in the politics of the state and should only be limited to national security. The only way to ensure the development of a state is to make sure that all of its institutions are operated in free and fair style.

Q6) Saudi Arabia and Iran increasing diplomatic relations is a major setback for the foreign policy of Israel and US towards the middle-east. Elaborate.

Q7) Saudi Arabia and Iran, two great rivals in the middle-east are tilted toward reconciling their differences. Both these states are major powers in the region due to being the part of OPEC and having a strong strategic position. China is playing the role of a mediator by carrying out negotiations between the both dominant Gulf states.

However, this reconciliation between the major oil producing states can prove to be a drawback for the foreign policies of both US and Israel. US being an rival of Iran has placed various sanctions on it. Trump in 2019 ended the JCPOA agreement and took a strong stance to isolate the



economy of Iran. But this sporadic achievement by US seems to come to an end with the developing ties of Saudi Arab and Iran, accompanied by China. If these countries succeed in creating strong ties of economy and security between them, this would end the influence of US in the middle east region. Such a powerful block would play its role in countering the western influence in the region.

Along with USA, Israel is another country that has strained and hostile relations with Iran due to creating a large scale destruction on Palestinian muslims. On the other hand Saudi Arab also has hostile relations with ~~the~~ Israel due to the similar reason. If Iran and Saudi Arab develop strong ties, they would be able to handle and overcome the deterrence and influence created by the west powers in the middle-east region through years.