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DATE: _____

NOA Pakistan Affairs Mock.

Question No 6.

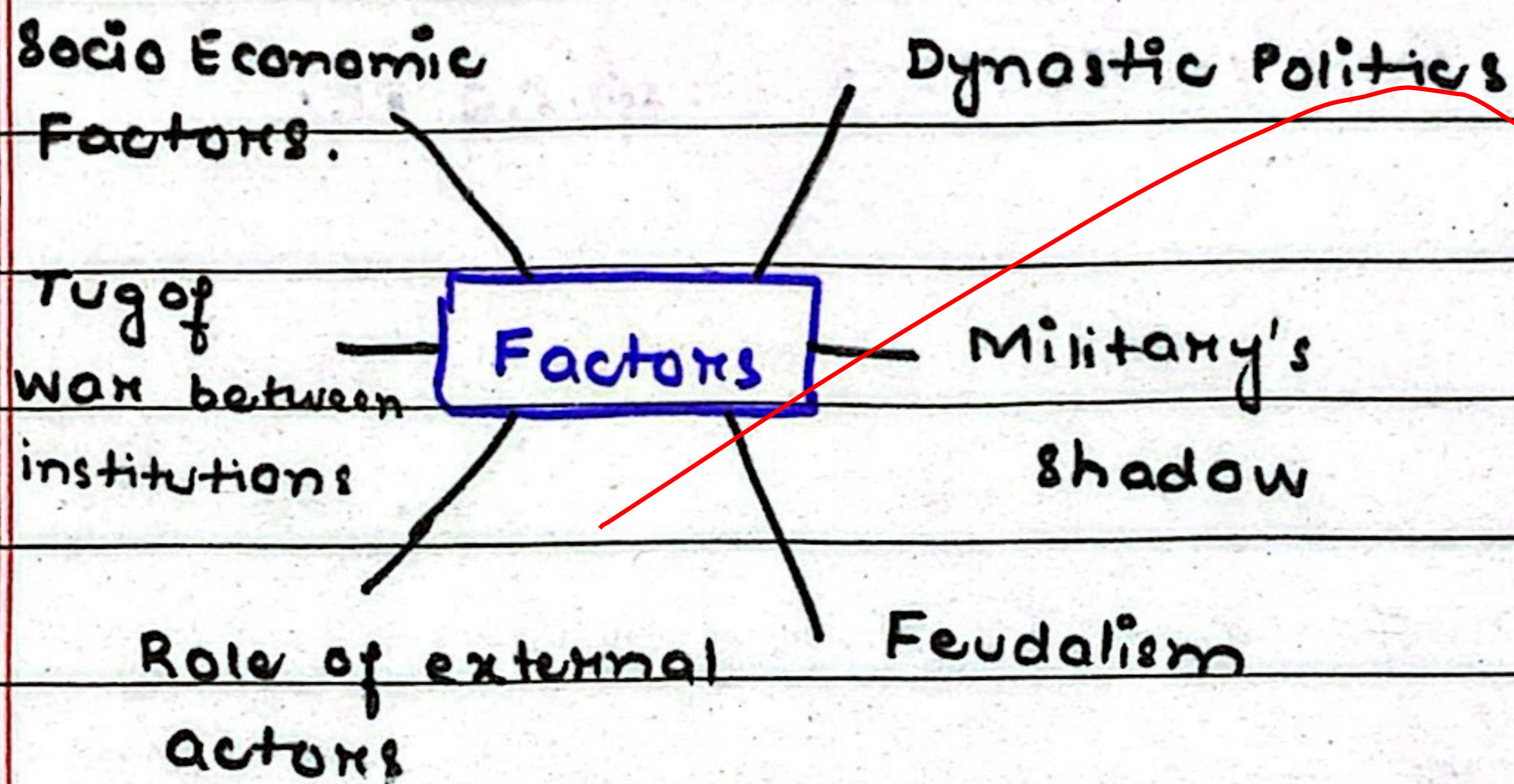
Evolution of Pakistan Politics and the factors shaping it.

Pakistan political journey has been a complex and tumultuous ride since its inception in 1947. Democracy that is often seen as the ideal form of governance, has remained a fragile aspiration, constantly jostling with other powerful forces.

1. Evolution of Democratic system in Pakistan.

- Amendments
- 3 constitutions
- Dictatorial Authoritarianism
- Mid term elections
- Dismissal of popular governments
- Voto against sitting prime minister.

2. Factors impacting political system and Democracy.



i- Military intervention has disrupted political transition.

Military coups have disrupted democratic transitions. Pakistan has experienced significant period under direct military rule i.e. Ayub Khan, Ziaul Haq and Pervez Musharraf rule that hindered democratic evolution. This has installed culture of military influence even during civilian governments. Allan McGrath referred in

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

his book 'The destruction of Pakistan's democracy';

"How decade immediately after independence, Pak went from democracy to military government."

ii. Political dynasties and Feudalism dominated politics.

Powerful families and feudal lords dominate political landscape of Pakistan.

They restrict social mobility and a level playing field. Similarly dynastic politics is also a

norm in Pakistan. Special patronage is given to personal family and loyalties. This undermines democratic process. According to research by

Dr Fiazur Rehman, published by PIDE;

'52 percent of public offices are currently occupied by political dynasties'

iii. Lack of internal democracy within popular parties.

Popular parties of Pakistan don't have

history of internal democracy. This impacts overall democracy of Pakistan. Patronage system is encouraged in Pakistan and has resulted in fragmentation of popular parties. For example, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a close associate of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, formed National People's Party that supported military government.

iv. Tug of war between institutions:

Tug of war between institutions has delayed the true democracy. Judiciary has played a crucial role in upholding constitutional rights and challenging executive overreach. This has resulted in 'politicisation of judiciary.' It hampers justice and overall governance system.

v. Role of external factors influence policy decisions.

Pakistan has long history of juggling between bloc politics. Pakistan's world

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

balance relations with both US and China.

However geopolitical interests have resulted in

shifting alliances with both sides that influence

policy decisions, and ultimately limit autonomy

of democratic process. Pakistan's former

prime minister accused US of his ouster from

prime minister office. This accusation hasn't been

proved but such sentiments hurt democracy.

vi - Weak institutions and corruption legacy:

Corruption is another peril that affects

Pakistan political system. Institutions don't

have enough to take actions against corrupt

forces that hurt the evolution of transparent

politics. Dr Hafiz Pasha, said in his book "

Corruption and Accountability"

"You never really understand what

corruption can cause to state unless

you understand how much accountability

is important for economic stability"

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

vii-

Socioeconomic Challenges impact democratic process.

Widespread poverty and uneven development create fertile ground for populism and instability. World Bank called deteriorating human development in Pakistan, "a silent deep human capital crisis". Such crisis further impact democratic process.

viii -

Vicious cycle of vengeance between political parties.

Pakistan political parties in government uses same coercive power of state which they were once victim of. Absence of coordination between political parties and disputes within them result in exacerbating vengeance. Mainstream political parties of Pakistan have accused each of harboring terrorism and calling each other with offensive names. Such practices hinder reconciliation impact democratic process.

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

ix - Shifting alliance of political parties impact smooth transition.

Shifting alliances often happen during elections or post-legislation. This has a significant impact on the political landscape. They can lead to the formation of new governments and even change the overall direction of the country.

As Pakistan politics is made of a large number of leading persons who, with their political dependants, form loose agreements to achieve power and maintain it.

(Pakistan: A Political Study by Keith Collard).

x - Bifurcation of Pakistan in 1971 hurt democracy.

The denial of sharing power and electoral representation resulted in the breakdown of Pakistan. This lack of a level playing field bifurcated the country and hindered the evolution of democracy.

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

3. Conclusion,

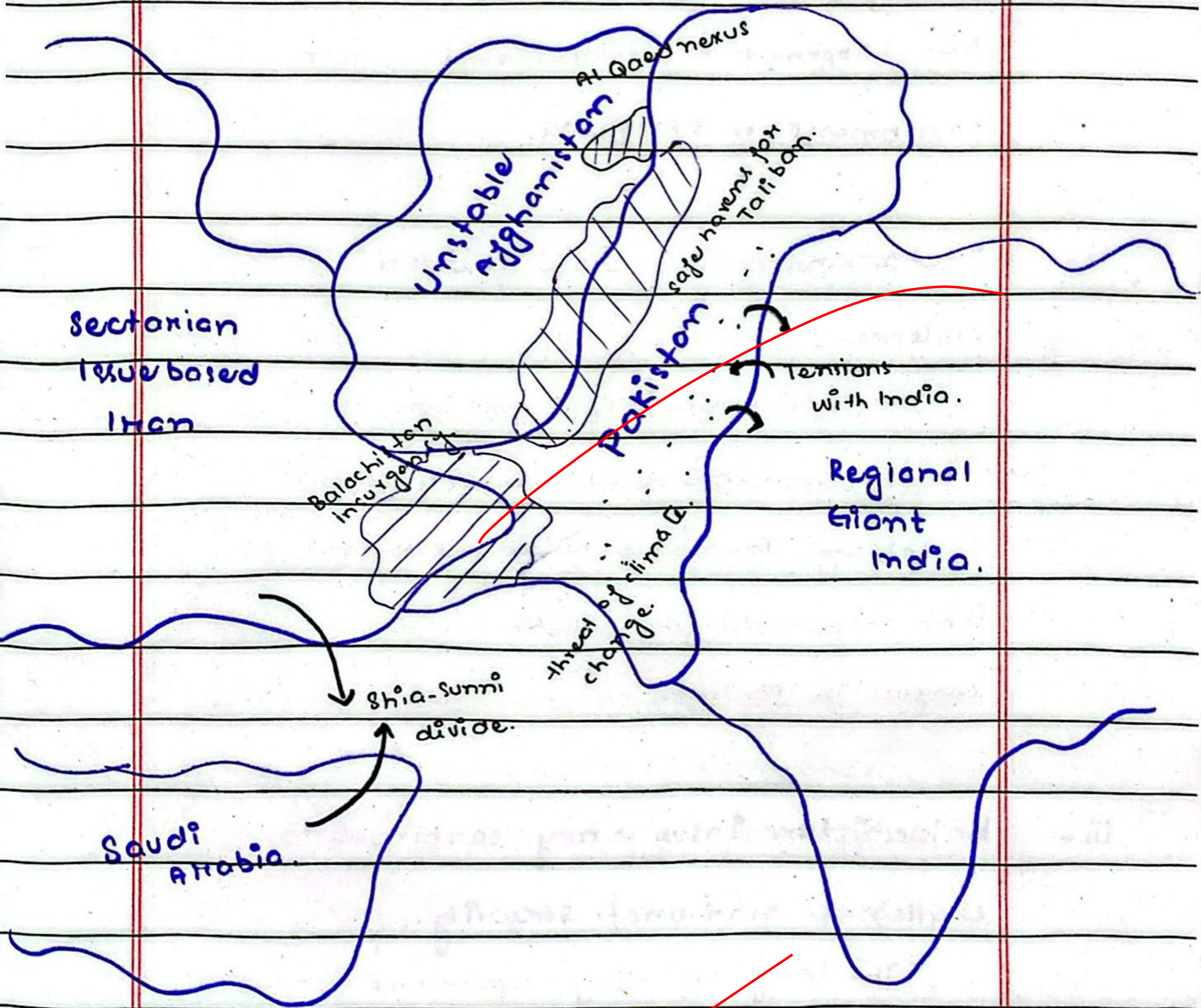
Evolution of political systems in Pakistan is fraught with challenges of weak institutions, military interventions and lack of democracy within parties. Despite these challenges, there are pockets of progress. Finding balance between various forces and strengthening institutions can ensure a stable democratic process.

Question not

Security Concerns of Pakistan : Measures to revisit Foreign Policy.

Pakistan has faced numerous security challenges in last decade. Both internal threats and external threats demand Pakistan to reexamine its foreign policy. Only then Pakistan can chart a more stable future.

1. Pakistan security concerns of last decade.



i. Rise of Terrorism in last decade.

Militant groups like TTP and ISKP

have posed significant threat to internal stability and public safety. After Afghan Taliban

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

failure to contain TTP, terrorist attacks are becoming frequent. According to PPS security report 2023, 79 percent increase has happened in terrorism since Afghan government on 5 Aug, 2021.

ii- Sectarianism issue have resulted in violence.

Conflicts between Shia and Sunni communities have resulted in violence and instability. The tussle between KSA and Iran have strengthened this sectarian conflict in Pakistan.

iii- Balochistan insurgency continues to challenge national security.

The long standing separatist movements in Balochistan primarily BLA and BLF has challenge national security of Pakistan. Recently cross border air strike from Iran breached Pakistan security. Iran responded that they are targeting Jaish al

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

Adl Terrorist group in Balochistan, Pakistan responded with air strikes on BLA and BLF groups in Iran. The presence of such groups on Iran - Pakistan border have risen insurgency and militancy activities.

iv- Unstable Afghanistan provide safe heavens to Taliban.

The withdrawal of US forces and Taliban takeover have created uncertainty and potential spillover effects for Pakistan. Nexus between TTP and Afghan Taliban have resulted in rise of Terrorism. According to UNSC Report, the weaponry left behind by Nato, has been acquired by terrorist groups in Afghanistan. This is a major concern for Pakistan's national security.

v- Tensions with India have heightened.

Border disputes, historical animosity and cross border terrorism contribute to a tense relation with India. Indian sponsored

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

Terrorism is a pertinent threat for Pakistan.

Pakistan UN envoy formally told UNSC while doing debate on UN report on Afghanistan, that it has "clear evidence" that outlawed TTP is supported by our "main adversary?"

vi-

Non traditional threats have security implications.

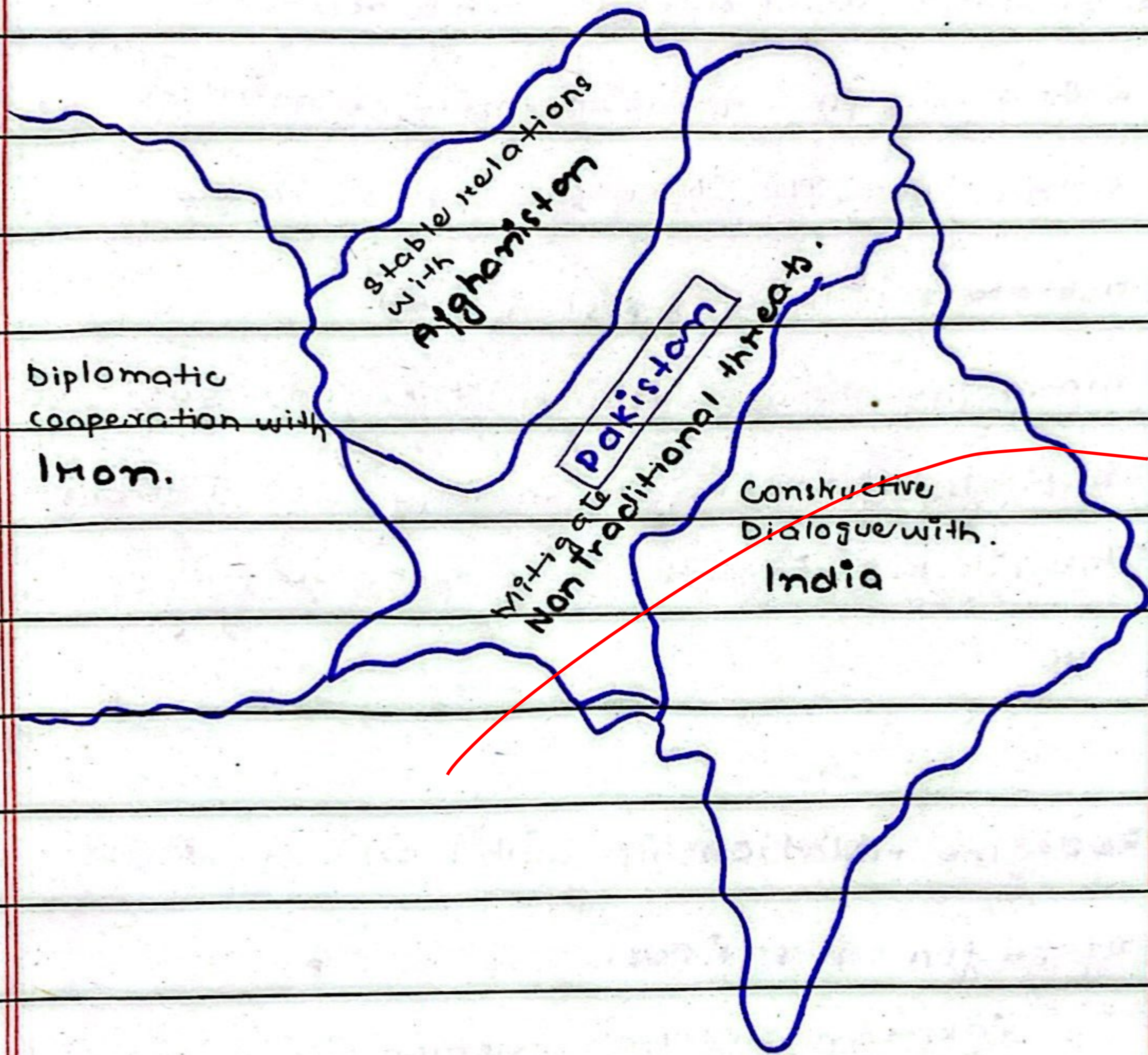
Non traditional threats like climate change, water scarcity and cyber threats are emerging concerns with security implication. Pakistan is among the top "most vulnerable countries" impacted by climate change.

2.

Measures to revisit Pakistan's Foreign Policy.

DAY: _____

DATE: _____



- i- Engage in constructive dialogue with India.

Pakistan should improve equation with India. Prioritize economic stability over political tensions. Focus on regional trade and investment with India. Resolve Kashmir dispute through backchannel diplomacy.

- ii- Foster stable relations with Afghanistan.

Pakistan needs to address complexities

of Kabul ties. Pakistan should mend relations with Afghanistan while maintaining hardline stance over TTP. Needs to improve trade relations with Afghanistan while managing border security. Pakistan could institute visa regime to manage border tensions. This will help Afghanistan to deal with TTP as well.

iii - Redefine relationship with Iran instead of tit for tat strikes.

Pakistan and Iran relationship is characterized by deep seated mistrust which was heightened by recent strikes. Both Islamabad and Tehran should work on cordial ties without infringing countries' sovereignty. They should cooperate ~~and~~ on IP gas pipeline and resolve each other's grievances.

iv - Pakistan also needs to prioritize internal security.

Comprehensive counter terrorism strategy

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

should be adopted with focus on addressing root causes of extremism, terror fuelling separatist movements and strengthening law enforcement. Recently Pakistan experienced a major strike, one by Baloch people on enforced disappearance and others by GB on wheat prices hike. Pakistan should address their grievances so that don't fuel hate and separatism.

v. Mitigate Non traditional threats.

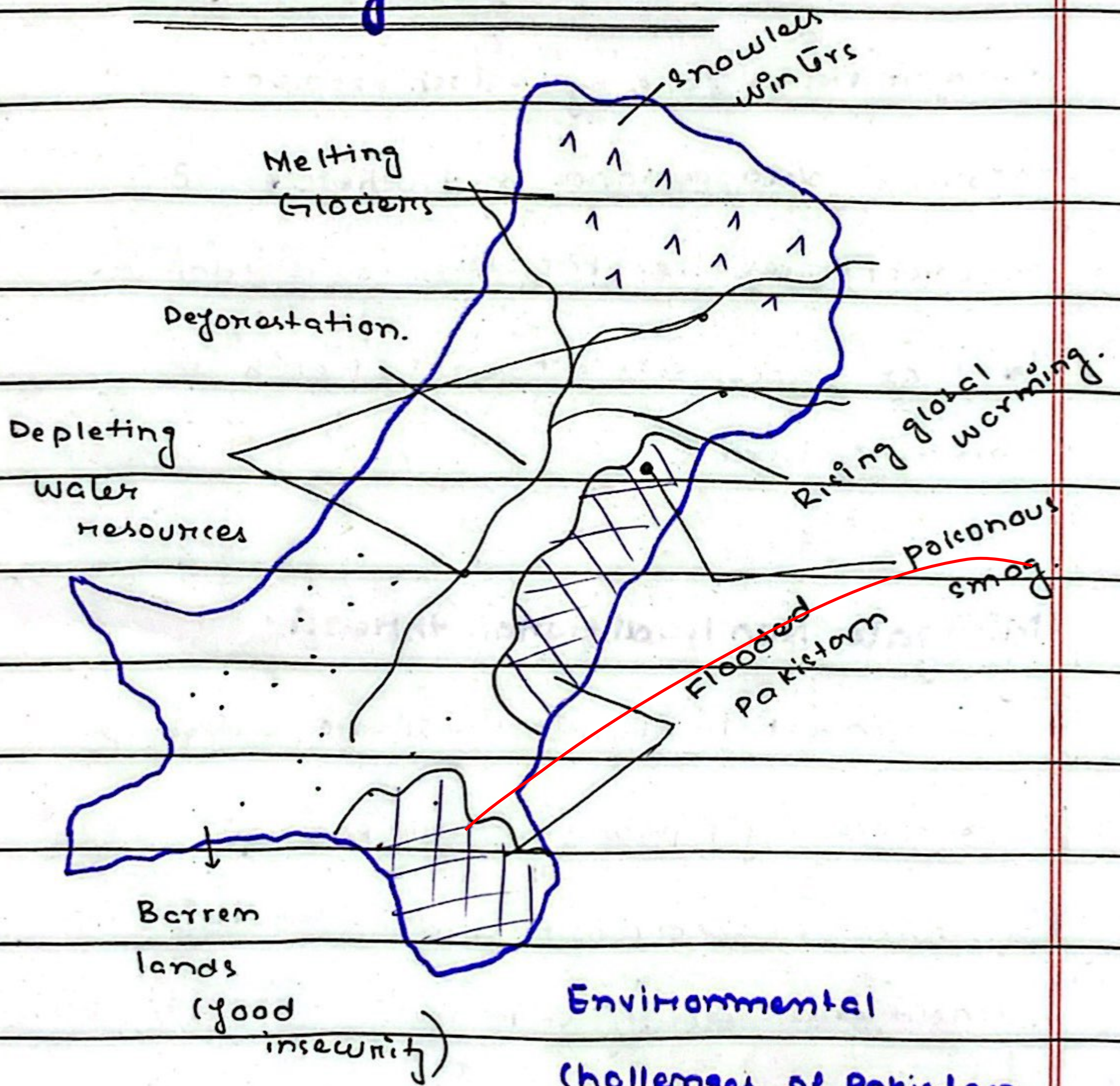
Invest in climate resilience, develop cyber security capabilities and promote regional cooperation to address shared non traditional security challenges.

3. Conclusion.

Past decade has painted complex picture for Pakistan in terms of security challenges. By navigating these security challenges and revisiting its foreign policy, Pakistan can pave the way for stable and secure future.

Question no 8.

a) Pakistan's environmental Challenges.



1. Introduction.

Pakistan faces multitude of challenges that are threatening its natural resources, public health and economic development.

2. Environmental challenges of Pakistan.

i- Rising temperature is warming at faster rate

Pakistan is warming at a faster rate than the global average. This has led to increased heatwaves, droughts, dry weathers and melting of glaciers. According to PMD, August was 2nd driest month in Pakistan in 63 years. It resulted in 65% deficit in rainfall.

ii- Inefficient management of resources.

Over-extraction of groundwater, outdated irrigation systems and high water losses contribute to inefficient water use. This has resulted in depletion of water resources.

iii- Air pollution is turning atmosphere poisonous.

Smog is the biggest environment concern currently especially in Punjab province. Lahore

city is among top most polluted cities of world which has serious health implications.

According to AQI Report, lives in Lahore have shortened by 6-8 years due to bad air.

iv- Flooded Pakistan is a symbol of climate injustice.

Pakistan just witnessed 2022 catastrophic floods which submerged 1/3rd of Pakistan.

According to World Bank estimate,

2022 floods caused losses of around 30

billion dollars and pushed 9 million into

poverty.

v- Snowless winters ring alarm bells in country.

Dry winters in Gilgit Baltistan resulted

in no snowfall in 2023. GB plays crucial

role in feeding Indus river. It contributes

70 percent in agriculture sector and 40 percent

in hydropower sector. However dry weather

poses many risk in form of water shortage,

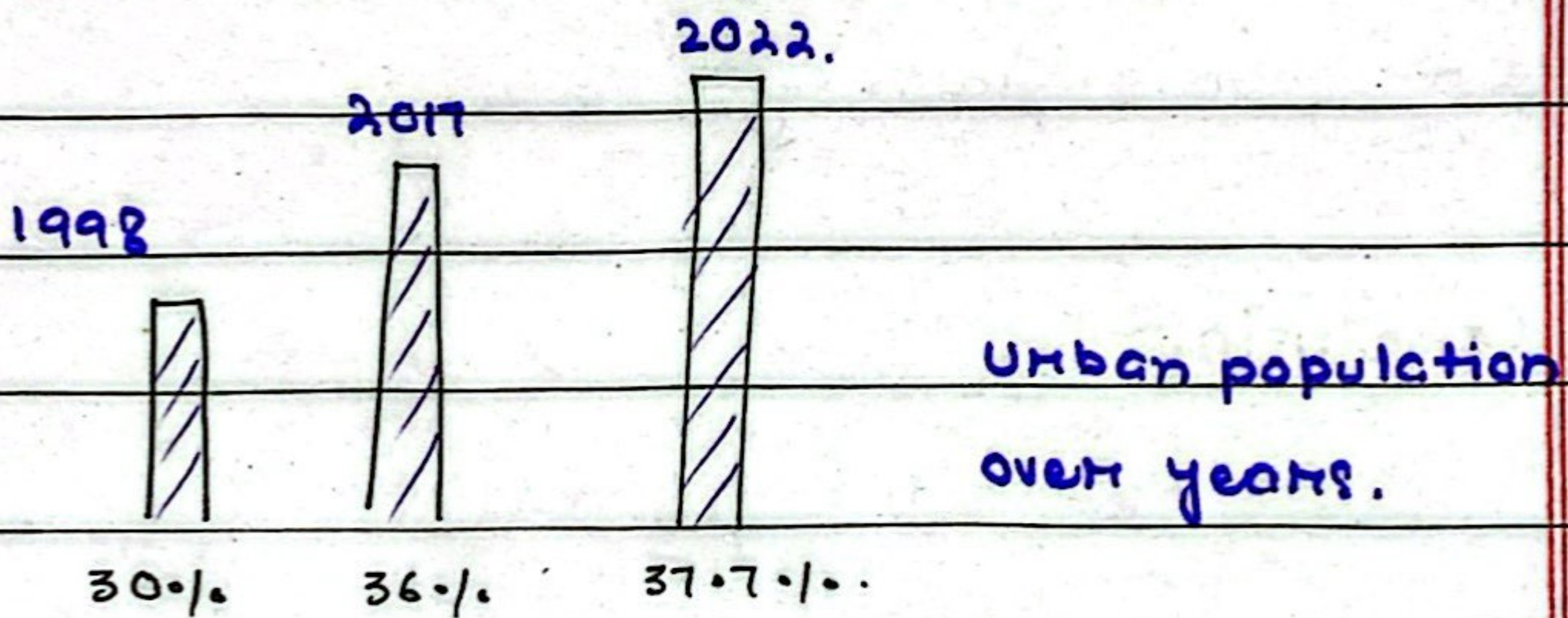
DAY: _____

DATE: _____

flash floods and glacial lake outbursts.

vi - Urbanization has accelerated deforestation.

Urbanization in Pakistan is happening at an alarming rate. Especially vast agricultural land is converting into concrete housing societies. This has accelerated rate of deforestation in country and ultimately result in global warming of cities.



vii - Plastic pollution is another concern.

Plastic pollution is another challenge for Pakistan. Subsequent governments have tried to ban polythene shopping bags, still no effective outcome has received. This plastic is posing serious health risks. A recent study conducted by Karachi university in 2023 reported

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

contaminated independence day ornaments recycled through e-waste. They found 74 percent dangerous levels of lead and cadmium in analysed samples.

viii - Food insecurity in Pakistan.

Food insecurity is a looming challenge in country. Drought, floods and unpredictable weather patterns affect agricultural production and food availability.

3. Conclusion.

Pakistan is currently facing many environmental challenges. Addressing these challenges require more prolonged approach to built more sustainable and resilient future for country.
