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Pakistan Affairs

Q.#3

Examine the trajectory of Pakistan's democratic system since 1971, highlighting the critical political and constitutional development shape it.

Introduction:

Democracy is the most essential and fundamental element for managing the affairs of society systematically. Democracy and participatory governance are popular political patterns in the modern world.

Pakistan sought independence as an outcome of the democratic process led by the Quaid-e-Azam.

Pakistan inherited colonial political setup, but also a wide variety of constitutional, geographical, regional, cultural.

Date: _____

linguistic and economic problems. The military-cum-civil regime led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took over in December 1971 after the tragic incidence of the loss of the Eastern Wing of the country. The Bhutto Government gave a historical and unanimously approved Constitution of 1973, but it failed and leading to a military regime of General Zia-ul-Haq.

Consequently, the party-based elections were held four times in less than eleven years.

The civil Regime (1971 to 1977):

The Prime task of the second civil regime was to give a constitutional framework to the country.

Date: _____

The constitution approved and implemented in 14 August 1973.

1973 constitution was important due to following reasons:

It has special provision of High Treason against those attempting to impose Martial law.

A para military type Federal Security Force was set up to assist civilian government in maintaining law and government.

The law and order incidents of the civil regime included:

- 1- Insurgency in Balochistan (1973 to 1977)
- 2- Anti-Qadiani riots in 1974
- 3- Tribal conflicts in NWFP in 1976
- 4- The historic anti-Bhutto movement in 1977.

Date: _____

All these developments paved the way for the third Martial Law on July 1977 by General Zia-ul-Haq.

The third military Regime (1977 to 1988):

General Zia-ul-Haq pledged to hold general elections within 90 days and then go back to barracks. After sometimes, the elections postponed.

President of Pakistan announced a programme for general election to be held on non-party basis in 1985. These elections held and transferred to elected representatives.

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5/20