

Q:2

a) Introduction:

Taiwan is a potential conflict between China and USA. Before one delves into the intricacies of US-China rivalry over Taiwan, it is imperative to understand the main causes behind this conflict. (current issue and pressing one) and having far-reaching global implications.

b) Background:

When communism prevailed over China, the state government was replaced by a communist single party government. The name of Republic of China was renamed to the People's Republic of China.

After this, the incumbent government was asked to a neighbouring Island which was later named as People's Republic of China or famously known as 'Taiwan'.

c) How Taiwan is a potential conflict between China and U.S

d) China's 'greater China ambitions':

China had always been concerned of its territorial integrity what it had in the ancient times. Even in history, it had always tried to maintain its territorial sanctity.

Therefore, boundary preservation had been the foremost priority of China. This was the reason why it contested with India over territory in Arunachal Pradesh which

is administered by China. Similarly, Taiwan sharing same ethnicity and culture is considered as a part of China. China often cited it as 'one China policy' in the diplomatic world.

2) U.S. as a unipolar might and protector of democracies:

U.S. had always been a torch-bearer of democracy and principles of nation-state systems. It had a history to uplift democracies after WWII through Marshall plan in Europe till fighting against communism in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Throughout history, it had always served as the protector of democracy although criticized by prominent authors like Noam Chomsky,

"U.S. supports a dictator until people fear him."

However, in the popular opinion, U.S. per ^{as} the ^{yours} ~~sees~~ China's aggression ^{as} a direct threat to the ^{right} of self determination of the Taiwan people. Although U.S. recognizes Taiwan ^{as} part of China under one China policy due to US-PRC 1979 agreement of recognition; however, it U.S. supports Taiwan militarily and logically.

3) Greater Interests in the Pacific:

U.S. always wanted to contain China in the Pacific. This connection to contain China rekindled after recent US-China trade wars. U.S. found it essential to curb China's economic growth and prevalence in the region. Moreover, U.S. can also

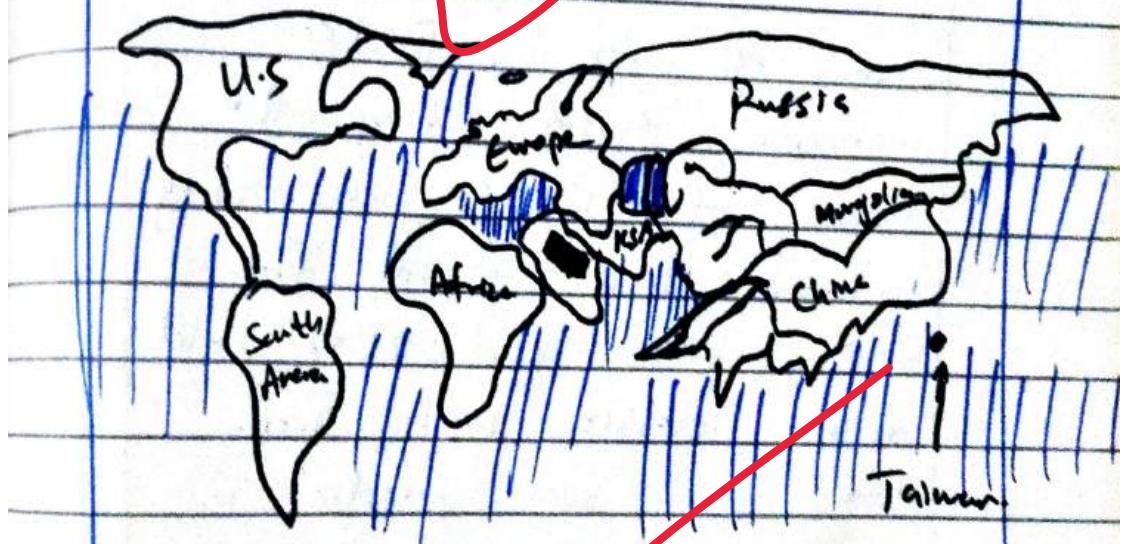
hold Taiwan as a military base. Formally, there is no such concept of base; however, practically, U.S holds a major aggregation of its forces around Taiwan. U.S cannot see the rise of another power in the near future and, therefore, it tries to limit Chinese influence in the region.

4) Taiwan as the hub of semiconductors:

Taiwan is home to the most advanced semiconductors of the world. They are highly advanced in nature and only manufactured by the 'Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing company', which serves as the only nationalized entity lagging U.S and Chinese manufacturers behind it.

China is a production giant and U.S. is also a participant in similar race. They both require these advanced semiconductors. Therefore, U.S. is apprehensive that if China takes over Taiwan, it can potentially halt supply of semiconductors to U.S.

Q) Why the two countries must avoid the conflict:



Q) Possibility of escalation of a major war:

Despite the vast distance

between U.S and Taiwan, the chances of a full scale war are always there. Today's world is full of alliances and unipolarity is being shifted to multipolarity where organization such as BRICS are formed to contain U.S and promote 'dedollarization'. BRICS represent 40% of the total population of world and nearly 25% of total economy.

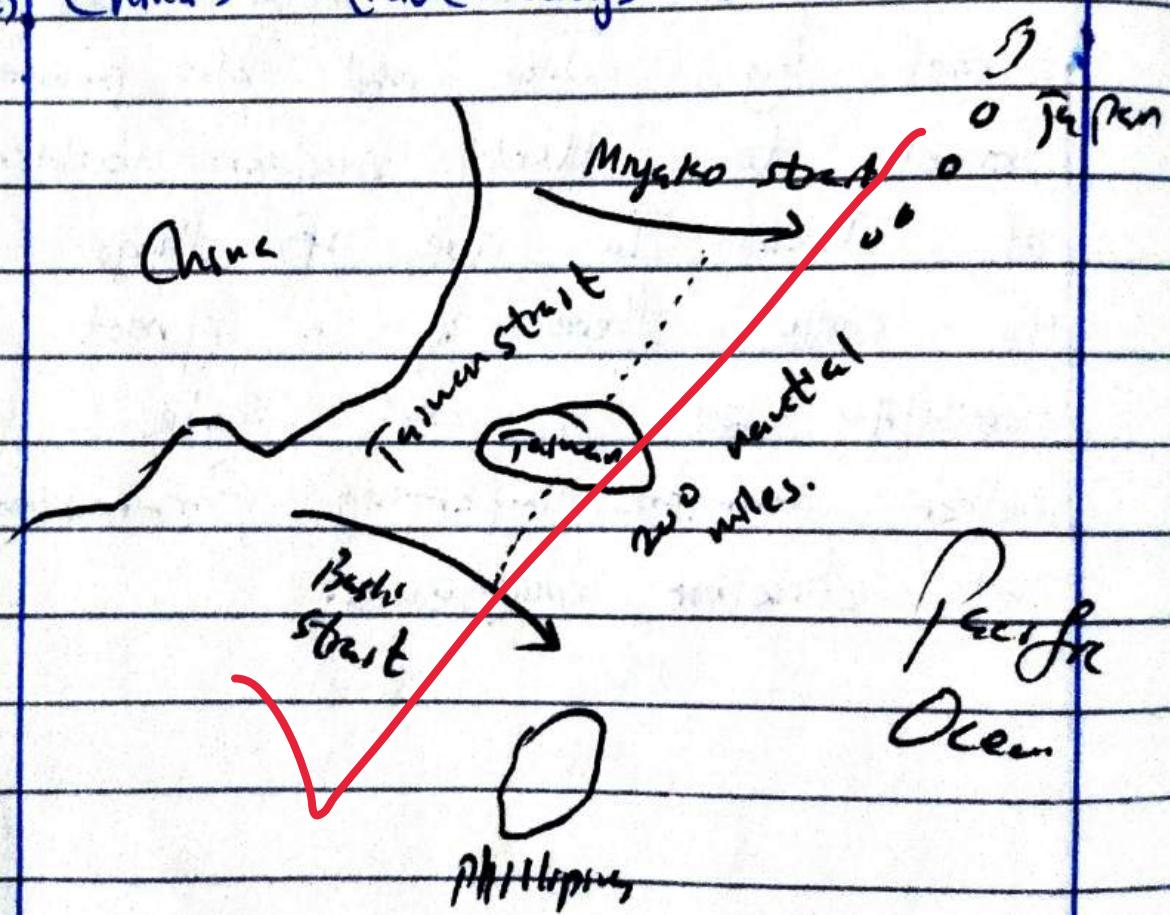
A notable thing is that Iran is also a BRICS member. Russia being the pioneer of BRICS have always welcomed Iran. Apart from BRICS, Russia and China hold cordial relations with Iran.

China has also invested in Iran's infrastructure with 400 Billion USD future deal.

Moreover, Chinese state media

support Iran as a buffer against U.S colony of Israel. In case U.S attacks Iran, or it can entice Chinese involvement and result in a full scale warfare. U.S is also cognisant of this and, therefore, has barred Israel from attacking nuclear facilities of Iran.

2) China's trade-ways issue:



If Taiwan is given the status of a sovereign

state, it will have control over 200 nautical miles of the sea. Even if not, still in case of aggression, it can block China's passage in the Pacific. Therefore, China will certainly go in a war with U.S as trade is its top priority.

3) World semiconductor crisis:

As mentioned earlier, U.S. produces 40% of world's semiconductors. Any attempt of conflict can cause a global catastrophe as almost 100% of our appliances and equipments work on these chips. Disrupting them can be detrimental for both giants in particular and world in general.

d) How peace can be achieved :

Initially, China needs to limit its ambition to dominate the world.

Similarly, U.S. also needs to limit its presence in the world.

The global cause of peace and diplomacy should be upheld. Any attempt by U.S. to contain China such as

QUAD - quadrilateral alliance -

and AUKUS - Australia, UK and

U.S. - in the effort to

contain China must be stopped.

Only an effective diplomacy

and inclusivity can bring

both countries together.

Furthermore, world also need to recognize Taiwan

as per discretion rather than

by influence of a hegemon.

Taiwan also needs to hold

an independent referendum

4* Finally, John Cleese is descended from it. Cleese also needs to provide ways and violate means for this. This conflict is perpetual in nature; however, it can be resolved with due deliberations.

Increase headings and sub headings

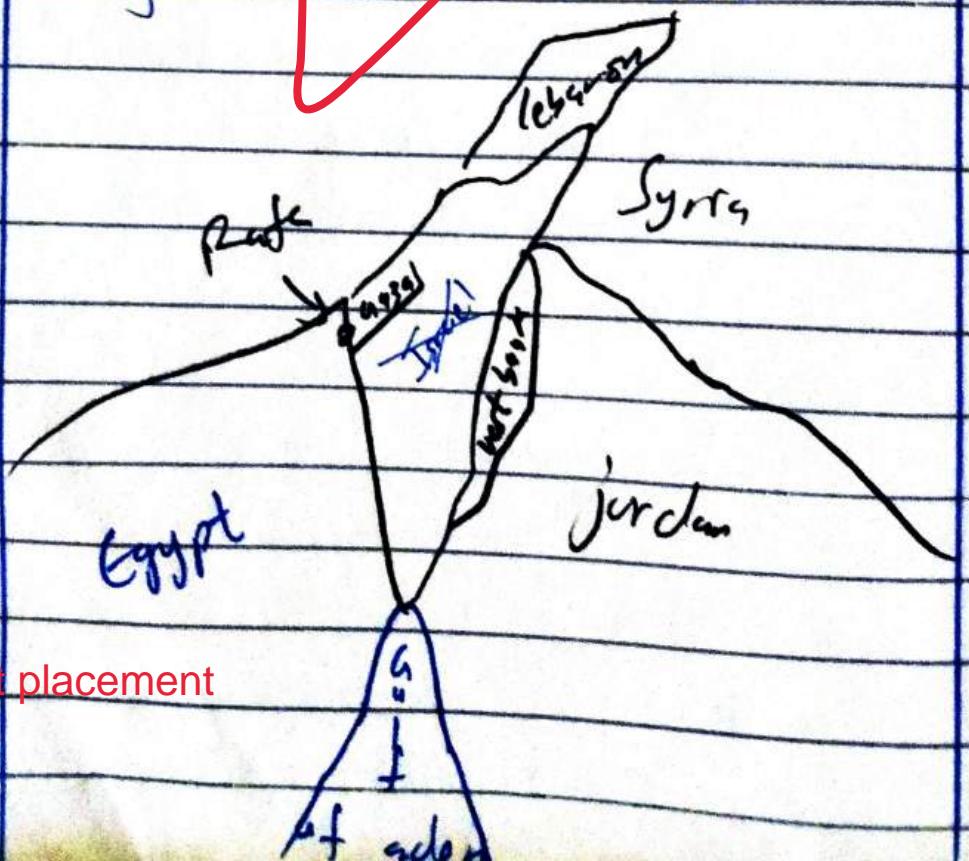
1b

Q: 3

⇒ Introduction:

U.S support for Israel dates back to early 60s and 70s, when it mediated Camp-David accords and Oslo accords by Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, respectively. U.S has always found Israel as a key ally and their relations can be called:

↳ ~~Israel as a U.S colony in 'Middle East'~~



b) Unconditional support of U.S for Israel and its image in the Arab countries:

According to the U.S state department publication, U.S provides 3.8 billion USD as an annual package to Israel.

Furthermore, U.S has always vetoed any possible argument or resolution against Israel.

Furthermore, when ICC - International Criminal Court - assigned Netanyahu as war criminal, U.S and Israel, being non-signatory did not abide by its rulings.

President Biden is also found displaying unwavering support for Israel even after Rafah attacks when U.N peace keepers and volunteers of UNHCR and UNRWA officials during 29th May, 2024 when almost 300 people

mostly civilians were killed at Rafah crossing. U.S remained

silent and partial despite its usual position as the protector of civil liberty and rights. However, this act of U.S turning blind has no significant effects on the Muslim world in Middle East except Iran.

3) Abraham Accords 2020 and 2021

Rephrase headings into support

A peace accord of recognition of Israel brokered by U.S where main signatories were UAE, Bahrain and Israel; later on, joined by Jordan and Morocco. These accords guaranteed Israel's recognition, containment of Iran in region, use of air-spaces among signatories, and an over-step over Palestinian cause. Even today, after such humiliating attacks by Israel, all the signatories are adhered to the accord.

Position of Jordan:

U.S to get rid of Hamas is explicitly mentioned in - the insider, recent book by U.S journalist Bob Woodward. In this book, it is mentioned - Shultz is quoted by Maileeha Lock in her article in Dawn called 'Weak state' - that U.A.E and Jordan kings have asked U.S to terminate Hamas' at all costs. This underscores the hatred Jordan has for Palestinian cause. Moreover, during Iran's attack, Jordan also helped to intercept the missiles along with Iran alone.

Position of Egypt:

Egypt has remained widely neutral. However, its closure of Rafah crossing to allow Palestinians from entering

their territory can be considered inappropriate with the boundaries of nation-state system; however, on the basis of Muslim brotherhood, it was sheerly inappropriate and inhumane.

4) Position of KSA:

KSA has shown willing to work with Israel if two state solution is sought. Officially, they have not recognized Israel. However, nothing significant is done by the top leadership.

King Abdullah also mentioned de-facto king Abdullah saying:

"Do I want a separate state of Palestine, it does not matter, but I cannot let the notion of Muslim world down".

This shows his unwillingness for a 2-state solution, practically.

However, he is overwhelmed by

Kindly link your headings to the asked part

The Muslim world rhetoric supporting Palestine. Despite this, Saudi holds a very good contact with U.S and is one of the largest defense partner of U.S.

"Saudi Arabia imported almost 100 billion dollar worth of defence equipment from U.S."

(U.S-Saudi Business Council)
- 2021

3) Position of Iran :

Only Iran seem to be concerned in this war. Iran almost supports Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. However, Hama's Israel Henye, during his visit in Iran's P.M ceremony was killed - After that, Hasan Nasrullah was also killed - commander in chief of Hezbollah. As a retaliation, Iran attack ballistic and cruise missiles

intercepted by Iran - dome and
similar attack was launched recently
in October 2024 with similar
damages. Iran and Israel are
at an impasse and future
contingency of such affairs seem
catastrophic.

(1) Penetration of China and Russia into the Middle East:

As U.S have
always sided with Israel, two
of the major powers of
middle east: Iran and KSA
were in need of new and
impartial mediators for their
on-going conflicts and their
general position of Israel as
well. Therefore, China and Russia
found a vacuum and extended
their expertise to fill this
void.

Firstly, Iran and Saudi were invited to BRICS, where Iran formally joined as well in 2024 along with 4 other countries. Furthermore, Chinese investment in Iran of 400 billion USD under trade agreement of continuous oil support of China for next 25 years. This underscores how important Iran is as an ally to China.

Not only this, China also mediated peace talks between Saudi and Iran in 2023 and the silence has been broken, relations are thawed and both the parties have come closer than ever.

Furthermore, Iran also assisted Russia in missile building capacity against Ukraine. After this, Russian President is often seen on the state media - Russia - to retaliate in case of any aggression by U.S supporting Israel.

Try to link argument to the asked part

Q: 4

Ans:

a) Introduction:

Pakistan is surrounded with some of the insolvable issues putting Pakistan in a collapsed structures. Pakistan is facing serious economic crisis, and its turnaround is impossible if reforms are not done in its industry, agriculture, IT, power sector and Tax system.

b) Reforms needed in the following sectors of Pakistan for economic revival:

Add problems first

1) Industrial sector:

Industrial sector encompasses manufacturing, mining, and construction

and is crucial for economic development. "Manufacturing contributes around 12.8% in GDP of Pakistan." (State Bank of Pakistan, 2023).

"Industry is Textile Industry is the largest manufacturing sub-sector, contributing about 60% of the total exports of Pakistan." (Pakistan Economic Survey, 2023).

This shows a grim picture of our economy as our economy is not diversified and depends largely on textiles. Therefore, pragmatic reforms are required in the industrial sector such as promotion of value added products. Pakistan is notorious for exports of raw products and semi-completed products. However, in today's world, value added products specially the advanced one hold far more significance. For instance, instead of ~~more~~ exporting

Surgical equipments, Pakistan can export medical machinery and complex equipments. This transition is required in every field. This can only be achieved by promoting capacity building in the industry. Such measures can be achieved by incentivizing investors for fixed capital. Instead of kick-backs, a one window operation like SIFC should be made for small to medium level enterprises as well. If bureaucratic hurdles are overcome, only then updated regulations can be implemented over industries. Pakistan is providing energy, coal roads and skill development; however, their ambit needs to be widened for industry and progress.

2) Agricultural Sector:

Agriculture employs almost

61% of the workforce of Pakistan, and contributes about 19.3% in the GDP of Pakistan as per Economic Survey of Pakistan, 2023. Pakistani irrigation system is mostly outdated.

62- The irrigation efficiency is estimated to be around 35-40%
➡ (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Similarly, per capita water availability of Pakistan is 860 cubic meters, which used to be 8260 in 1951 as per Pakistan council of Research in water resources, 2023.

As Pakistan's 90% of water is consumed by agriculture such its storage capacity of 30 days (calculated to safe stay storage of 1000 days as per world bank) water scarcity poses grave threat to Pakistan's agricultural sector. There need to be reforms to

promote alternate methods of irrigation in Pakistan. Free provision of sprinklers or even at a subsidized rates, community programs, strict check and balance of water theft and an over emphasis to climate change can help integrate water related agricultural issues. This water scarcity has caused 4.1. GDP loss annually in agriculture sectors — World Bank. Construction of dams and barrages, although on small scale are encouraged.

3) IT Sector:

Make elaborate headings

IT sector

IT sector comes under services sector that accounts 1.4.% of total GDP. Services sector in general constitutes 61.% of total GDP — economic survey of Pakistan 2021.

The contribution of IT sector is starkly low despite Pakistan having world's largest pool of engineers and Pakistan population has 30% of youth as a major share-holder. According to PTA, 40.1% of people have access to high speed internet, that helps user usage rate. Moreover, framework to attract investors such as IT City inaugurations, skill development practices and providing tax incentives and tax holidays for new companies to thrive. Moreover, cyber-security measures need to be taken to provide security to the IT firms in order to create a stable environment.

④ Power Sector:

Pakistan need to consider its agreements with IPPS.

Pakistan government made these agreements

In 1990s and in 2014 to attract energy-sector investors. However, those investment resulted as a temrite enabling national exchequer by pushing Pakistan in a circular debt of almost 14.7 billion or 2.4 trillion. Moreover, IPPs were installed on the basis of capacity payments, when tariffs would be paid on the basis of generation capacity and not on the basis of consumption and as per Economic survey, tariffs alone cause 4-5 billion USD as debt. Pakistan need to curb electricity thefts, re-empt revenue transmission lines, get rid of IPPs, use indigenous coal and embark on the way of renewable energy such as subsidized solar systems and dam construction.

52 Tax System:

"Total public debt of Pakistan is 71.3 trillion PKR - External public debt 38 trillion or 130 billion dollar and internal public debt is 41 trillion PKR - making it almost equal to 70% of GDP". (Economic Survey of Pakistan 2024).

Tax collection values of Pakistan are

8.8 trillion PKR with a budget deficit of 5.6%. usually. Total expenditure; hence, government spending exceeding the tax collection.

Pakistan needs to widen its tax-gap, incorporate non-filers specifically retailers who constitute a major portion of Pakistan's shadow economy. Moreover, agriculture sector is under taxed. Pakistan can encourage taxation on agriculture over proportion of share. Simplification of tax system is also sought.

Your answer is imbalance

Q: 5

a) Introduction:

SCO is an intergovernmental organization formed between the Russia - central Europe - and later joined by South Asian countries. It was formed in 2001. However, Pakistan joined it in 2017 alongside India. Pakistan had the honour to conduct SCO summit in Oct, 2024.

b) Major takeaways for Pakistan:

1) Pakistan no longer isolated:

India, being an arch rival tried to tarnish Pak's image in FATF as a terror financier. However, after meticulous

efforts, Pakistan emerged victorious and got itself out from the 'gray list'. Recent conference

In Pakistan showed that Pakistan is still relevant in international arena. Moreover, presence of Indian FM signifies the notion of openness for the world.

2) Pakistan's success over counter-terrorism mechanisms:

As delegates came from 9 different states, Pakistan's exceptional welcome and peaceful conduct of SCO revolutionized ~~image~~ hard image of Pakistan as a soft power state.

3) Pakistan in the emerging bloc:

Although block politics are little; however, they are need of the hour as our Indian counterpart is changing. Therefore, Pakistan also applied for BRICS

membership last year. In SCO, it showed great affinity with Russian counterpart and PM Shehbaz also criticized unilateral sanctions and use of dollar as a bending factor. This also signifies Pakistan's approach towards new global south.

4) Creation of SCO bank:

A separate bank for SCO was also discussed. This can boost trade in indigenous currencies and decrease dollar reliance.

↳ Key Takeaways for Islamabad:

↳ Enhance co-operation with region particularly India:

Pakistan can end its
aged long hostilities with India
and prepare for a conducive and
inclusive terms of relations.

2) Negotiations in domestic policies and
politics:

A major political party
protested amidst SCO. However,
government's pragmatic role, discussions,
negotiations and flexibility warded
away the protest.

3) Early membership of BRICS:

Pakistan can request
for early membership to align
itself itself as BRICS is
not an a security alliance, but
an economic bloc and it can
benefit Pakistan and vice-versa due
to Pakistan's unique geographical location.

Have above were
the key - takeaways for Islamabad
post the SCD meeting 2021.
ill organize
Imbalance

General instructions for attaining good marks in
current affairs

Important Note:

Marks would be given on the following
parameters

a- Content 60% References 15% Subject
specific language 15%. Graphs and charts 10%

Add 12-13 headings in each question

the questions carry 3_4 parts... each part has
equal weightage so discuss all equally

Give examples from present events to justify
answers

Give attractive introduction and Conclusion as
well

always give headings from the question
statement.. take words from the statement

link each of the argument to the asked part in
the question... if you fail to do so, no matter
how accurate content is, if your heading is not
align with what is asked in the question, it won't
be accurate

Good Luck