

Mock Exam International Relations - I

~ (Qno. 4) ~

→ Introduction:

Globalisation has deepened interdependence, blurred borders, and expanded the scope of threats. As a result, security is no longer limited to defending territorial borders; it now includes economic, environmental, cyber, health and societal dimensions.

1. Relationship Between Globalization and Security

Globalization has a dual impact on security:

a) Security as Interdependence

- States depend increasingly on global supply chains, technology networks and financial markets.

- This reduces likelihood of traditional wars between major powers.

b) Security as Vulnerability

- Globalization creates new pathways for threats to move across borders, viruses, cyberattacks, financial crises etc.

Expands the number of security actors, NGOs, hackers, terrorist groups.

2. Impact on Traditional Security Threats

a) Shift from Conventional Wars to Hybrid Conflicts

- Technological diffusion allows states and non-state actors to use cyber warfare, proxy wars, drones and economic coercion
- Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-Hamas conflict, Indo-Pak escalation include information warfare and sanctions shaped by globalization.

b) Arms Proliferation

- Global black markets, internet-based transfers, and dual-use technologies spread weapons faster and wider.
- Non-state actors can access sophisticated tech such as drones or encrypted communication.

c) Territorial Conflicts with International Dimensions

Maritime disputes (South China Sea), Kashmir, Middle East conflicts are amplified by global media, alliances, and trade routes.

3. Impact on Non-Traditional Security Threats

a) Terrorism and Transnational Extremism

- Global financial flows, encrypted communication, and diaspora networks help groups like ISIS, Al-Qaeda to operate across borders.

- Online radicalization is a globalization by-product.

b) Cybersecurity Threats

- Interconnected infrastructure is vulnerable to hacking.
- Cyberattacks can disrupt entire states without firing a shot.

c) Economic Security

Global financial crises (1997 Asian crises, 2008 meltdown) show how shocks quickly spread.

d) Health Security

- COVID-19 illustrated how global travel accelerates disease spread.
- It also enables faster international research collaboration and vaccine development.

e) Climate and Environmental Security

- Greenhouse gases emitted in one region affect the entire planet.

- Climate-induced migration, water scarcity, and agricultural shocks create instability.

f) Societal and cultural Threats

- Global media influences identities, causing cultural homogenization and identity anxiety.
- Can trigger nationalism, xenophobia, political polarization.

4) Globalization and the Changing Security Paradigm

- Globalization has broadened "whose security?"
From state security to human security, focusing on individuals and communities.
- And broadened "security from what?"
From military threats to economic, cyber, environmental, and health threats.
States must now adopt:

- ✓ Multilateral cooperation (Un, FATF,
- ✓ WHO, INTERPOL)
- ✓ Integrated security frameworks
- ✓ Resilient supply chains
- ✓ Cyber and data governance

Conclusion :

Globalization and security are deeply intertwined in a complex relationship of opportunities and vulnerabilities. While global interconnectedness has reduced large-scale wars due to economic interdependence, it has simultaneously facilitated the rise of non-traditional threats, terrorism, cyberattacks, pandemics, climate crises, and financial shocks.

(Qno. 3)

Introduction:

International Relations theory is divided not only by its assumptions about the world, but also by how it knows and studies that world. It can be understood through narrow and broad approaches.

1. Epistemological Perspectives in IR

a) Narrow View

It argues that:

- ✓ IR can be studied like natural Sciences.
- ✓ Objective knowledge is possible
- ✓ Causal laws can be identified

Theories under this view include:

- ✓ Classical Realism and Neo-realism
- ✓ Liberalism and Neoliberalism
- ✓ Institutionalism
- ✓ Some variants of Marxism

Strength

Clear hypotheses

Predictive

Value

Weakness

Treats states as

fixed, underestimated

norms, identity,

culture.

b) Broad View

They reject the idea of one objective reality. Knowledge is socially constructed, not discovered.

Theories under this view include:

✓ Constructivism

✓ Feminism

✓ Postcolonialism

✓ Critical Theory

✓ Poststructuralism

They argue :

✓ Meaning is constructed through language, norms identity.

✓ Power shapes knowledge

✓ IR cannot simply be measured with scientific methods.

Weakness

Difficult to test

empirically,

less predictive

discourse.

a) State Centric

- ✓ Int'l system is anarchic
- ✓ Power and security drive behaviour
- ✓ States internal features don't matter much.

✓ Units analysis of :

- ✓ Int'l organizations and cooperations
- ✓ NGOs
- ✓ Terrorists
- ✓ individuals
- ✓ Norm entrepreneurs
- ✓ Epistemic communities.

this is embraced by,

- Liberalism • Feminist
- English school • Constructivism

c) Critical Ontology

Feminists focus on gender hierarchies. Post colonial scholars highlight imperialism and western bias.

Critical theorists examine capitalism and class relations.

3. Narrow VS Broad

Focus: war, diplomacy, power, states

Methods: empirical, scientific, positivist

Key theories:

Realism, Marxism, Neoliberalism

Focus: identity, norms, ideas,

culture, marginalized

Methods: critical, qualitative, interpretivist.

Key theories:

Constructivism, feminism, Critical Theory

4) Which Theory Best Explains Current Global Politics?

Constructivism best explains current global politics because contemporary conflicts and alignments are shaped primarily by identity, historical narratives, nationalism, and Int'l norms rather than merely material capabilities.

Conclusion :

IR theories differ because they rest on contrasting epistemological foundations and ontological assumptions. In today's complex environment, a hybrid explanation combining Realist material interests with constructivist Ideational factors provides the most robust understanding of global politics.

~ (Qno-2) ~

Introduction:

The nation-state system, born from the Peace of Westphalia and refined through nationalism, colonialism, decolonization, and cold war has been the dominant political form for organizing authority, identity and legitimacy.

I. Evolution of Nation-State System

a. Westphalian origins:

introduced sovereignty,
territorial integrity,
state as legal equals
with monopoly.

b. Rise of nationalism:

national identity
became primary unit
of political
belonging.

c. colonial expansion:

European states
exported states structures
worldwide later
inherited by post-
colonial states

d. decolonization and
global state system:
new states joined UN,
territorial sovereignty
became central norms.

e. cold war: sovereignty,
alliance, politics,
bipolar security shaped
UN, IMF, World bank.

f. Post cold war:
state remains central,
non-state actors, normative
regimes have changed
how states exercise power

2. Causes of Pakistan's Issues

a) Contested Nationhood and Identity

Pakistan's creation left
unresolved ethnic, linguistic.

and regional identities. This mismatch produces separatist pressures, centre, periphery tensions and repeated crisis of legitimacy.

b) Weak Institutions

colonial administrative structures prioritised extraction and control, not popular representation. legal frameworks were not designed for inclusive nation-building, that amplified governance deficits, and corruption.

c) Federalism

Uneven resource distribution produces grievances. Given weak mechanisms for power-sharing, conflict over resource control.

d) Economic Dependency

Nation-states are expected to manage their economies,

Pakistan's indebtedness, donor dependencies, and strategic alignments constrain autonomous policy-making and create domestic economic instability.

3. How globalization Challenges it?

a) Economic Interdependence

Capital, goods and finance cross borders faster than states can regulate, national economic sovereignty is constrained by global markets.

b) Non-state Authority

MNCs, Int'l NGOs, diasporas, terrorist networks, digital platforms challenge the state's monopoly over public life.

c) Cross border Threats

Pandemics, climate change, cyber threats, and organized crime are transnational problems that single states

cannot solve, pressuring states to cooperate and occasionally surrender parts of autonomy for collective action.

Conclusion:

The nation-state remains the principal organising form of world politics, but it promises, coherent national identity, effective governance and autonomous policy.
