

General guideline.  
Maintain the tone of the topic  
Answer the asked part  
Pay attention to the tense of the topic and the given keywords  
Follow the outline exactly as it is  
Provide substantial research-backed evidence.  
Use formal language always  
No use of 1st and 2nd person pronouns.  
Maintain unity of idea in a single paragraph.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN MAINSTREAMING MADRASSAH EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

Topic breakdown

Simple topic. Discuss 7-8 challenges and 7-8 Opportunities in mainstreaming madrassas in Pakistan. Be mindful that opportunities are not benefits. You can discuss 2-3 points to overcome the challenges but it's not necessary.

## 1- INTRODUCTION

a. ~~The arrival of British Imperialism and Impact on the madrassas in the sub-continent.~~

b. Thesis statement:

"There is a variety of challenges at the hands of the policymakers in mainstreaming the madrasa education — ranging from religious resistance groups to the lack of political will among the stakeholders. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructures and diverse ideologies prove to be significant hurdles. These reforms, however, ~~will~~ once implemented will be able to bear fruits strengthening the overall social fabric of Pakistan."

Thesis statement is too long

## 2- PRE-PARTITION MADRASAS AND THE INTELLECTUAL CONFUSION AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF IMPERIALISM IN THE SUBCONTINENT

Irrelevant to the current context.

## 3. REASONS MAKING THE MADRASA REFORMS INDISPENSABLE.

a. Suggested links to Madrasas as the breeding

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

grounds for radical ideologies. ~~✓~~  
(Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Mujahideen)

b. ~~Outdated Curriculum~~. (3.5 million students  
in 32,000 madrasas).

c. Lack of equity among the Pakistani  
children. (Rich and poor gap fostering  
the madrasa and modern education gap).

#### 4. CHALLENGES TO THE MAINSTREAMING OF MADRASA REFORMS IN PAKISTAN

a. Resistance from the Religious Groups.  
(Reforms in 2019 and response of Wafaq-ul-Madaris)

b. Lack of Strong Political Will resulting in  
no implementation. (Prioritizing votes bank)

c. Inadequate infrastructure for monitoring  
and enforcement. (Ministry of Interior's  
report, 2016)

d. Ideological differences among the sects  
making it impossible for a smooth transformation.  
(12 different sects and sub-sects in Pakistan).

#### 5. OPPORTUNITIES IN MAINSTREAMING THE MADRASA REFORMS.

a. Educational Gaps addressed and Madrasa  
Students equipped for Modern Challenges.

These are benefits not opportunities. Opportunities are current factors that can help the process of mainstreaming madrassas

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

b. ~~Countering Extremism and Promoting Tolerance.~~

c. ~~Promoting social mobility by providing smooth transition from madrasa to modern educational institution.~~

d. ~~Strengthening National development by providing madrasa students as an asset.~~

6. CONCLUSION.

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Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The opening statement should be relevant to the context of the essay.

~~The word "Madrasah" literally translates into "a place of study" and the origin of the word can be traced back to Arabic language.~~

During the Golden age of the Muslims - making significant discoveries in science, astrology, and arts - Madrasah served as the primary mode of education. However, with the Industrial Revolution and Renaissance in the Western Civilization, a strong focus on the separation of religion from the modern studies was posed. As the navigators travelled in South Asia through the British colonisation, thus, overtime the madrasahs were deemed as the focal point of basic religious education, consequently, diminishing the diversity in the courses being offered at a Madrasah. Modern educational institutions offering diverse courses, developed in the consequent decades limiting the scope of the Madrasahs to religious studies only. Since then, the Madrasahs have been totally isolated from the modern forms of education in Pakistan specifically. The Government of Pakistan has, over time,

Irrelevant to the topic and to the given context. The opening is too long. You can use a historical example, but you cannot write the historical background of the whole situation in the introduction.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

made some efforts into bringing the education in Madrasahs on par with the modern education system. However, there is a set of challenges - like the agitation of the religious factions, lack of Political will, lack of enforcement mechanisms and infrastructures and the multiplicity of ideologies prevalent in Madrasahs - that become a hurdle in the way of transforming the Madrasah system of Pakistan. By overcoming the challenges, the Pakistani Government will not only be able to bridge significant gaps between the general populace but will also foster ~~no~~ social mobility and strengthen its workforce.

Don't mention all the points in one sentence.

No structure to the Introduction. No proper overview of essay, no thesis statement.

In the Pre-Partition subcontinent, there was hardly any muslim community without a maktab - a primary unit of Quranic education, while a madrasa brought a much larger canvas of religious learning, including philosophy, history, medicine and languages. With the advent of British Imperialism, the structure of the society submerged into chaos, from economy and politics to education. Consequently,

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Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

a vivid picture of confusion among the Muslims emerged. While the modernist Muslims embraced the English educational institutions and started producing ~~able~~ lawyers, scientists, judges and doctors, the conservative faction, on the other hand, started building madrasas for <sup>more</sup> religious education. Thus, the isolation of the very madrasas began and remained consistent in Post-Partition Subcontinent, specifically Pakistan.

However, in the recent decades, the debates about transforming the madrasas and to bring them on par with the modern educational institutions, have been making rounds in the policy circles as well as the academia. There are various causes for the mainstreaming of the Madrasas in Pakistan including their suggested links to radical ideologies, lack of diverse curriculum resulting in an outdated disciplinary approach, and their isolation from the rest of the Pakistani students fostering more gaps between rich and poor. As a result, the madrasa reforms have become the need of the time.

Provide a more direct and smoother transition.

No argumentation  
No analysis. Too many points what is the purpose of this.  
It neither suitable as a transition paragraph nor a body paragraph.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Directly address the argument in the topic sentence. Don't mention a specific situation or instance in the topic sentence.

~~In the wake of the Afghan Soviet war about forty years ago, the proliferation of the radical ideologies in the minds of the young students of madrasas became a norm. At that time of the history, madrasas acted as the breeding ground of the "Mujahideen" and then later ~~the~~ Taliban militias. Thus, forty years after the end of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan still to this date suffers from the after shocks in the form of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. Thus, to curb such radical ideologies from spreading in their most primary sanctuary, can help Pakistan revolutionize its environment of peace and security.~~

Irrelevant detail. No argumentation and no analysis.

~~In addition, outdated and curriculum being frozen in time, is yet another reason to advocate for the madrasa reforms.~~

~~There are 3.5 million students getting education in the 32,000 madrasas across Pakistan - according to the research made by Arab Centre Pakistan. Therefore, it is crucial to recognise the damage being done to millions of students by providing them education from outdated sources with no improvement or co-relation with the modern~~

Irrelevant detail

Instead of this discuss the limitations of the madrasas' curriculum and the need for change.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

world. As a result, these students grow to be unfit and irrelevant in the employment sectors of the country making millions jobless.

Moreover, the lack of employment gives ways to foster criminal tendencies and provides

No relevant evidence.

space for the radical factions to produce a strong grip. Thus, the outdated curriculum needs to be revised and be brought on par with the modern educational institutions.

No coherence in flow of thought.

The lack of equity among the madrasa students and the modern educational institution's students, is a clear indicator of the gap between rich and poor. Most of the students enrolled in the madrasas

Your argument is the reason for mainstreaming not the issues created by having two separate systems.

come from unprivileged households, where they are usually sent off due to financial burden on the family. This creates a further divide into an already strained society

functioning on inequality. To bridge this gap and to bring an environment based on equity among all Pakistani children, madrasa reforms are indispensable.

No argumentation  
No analysis. No evidence.



Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

There are enough reasons to bring madrasa reforms but more than that, there are numerous challenges in mainstreaming the Madrasa education. The religious groups have enormous street power and they often result in opposing strongly to the mention of reforming the madrasas. Moreover, the lack of strong political will and inadequate infrastructure for implementation, plays a another significant role in halting the transformation. Additionally, the madrasas functioning in the country are based on different ideologies due to the sectarian system present in the country. These diverse ideological<sup>es</sup> further make it difficult for the reforms to come into reality.

No such paragraph in the outline

Resistance from the religious factions of the society is the biggest hurdle in the way of mainstreaming the madrasa education. The conservative factions of the society believe that the reforms will dilute the teachings of the religion with the modern studies and the focus of the students will be shifted from modern to

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

How does this resistance pose a challenge to mainstreaming??

secular studies. For example, in 2019, the government of Pakistan sought to introduce Mathematics, Science and English into the madrasa curricula, however, groups like Wafaqul Madaris resisted the move and argued that the secular subjects would serve as a distraction from their primary focus on religious studies. As a result, the reforms could not bear the fruit. — Concluding sentence??

Moreover, there is a serious lack of political will among the political parties to reform the madrasas. The parties usually focus more on garnering votes by pleasing the populace, and in turn compromise on the well-being and future of the millions of children in madrasas.

Link to challenges not created in the topic sentence.

What is the relation between the two?

Successive governments have tried to bring the reforms, however, with little resistance met from the religious groups, the governments give up in order to not upset their vote banks in a particular region or due to the power of a particular religious group in the vote bank. Consequently, the political will submits in front of the larger

No argumentation  
No analysis. No evidence

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

personal interests of each Political Party.

The lack of adequate infrastructure and monitoring system to ensure smooth enforcement is yet another hurdle in the way of crucial madrasa reforms.

The National Action Plan introduced in 2014 having madrasa reforms as one of its key objectives exposed many infrastructural and systemic weaknesses in the system, leading to the failure of implementation.

The lack of human and financial resources in the ministries tasked with the implementation

of the NAP was the most crucial factor in the failure of implementation. Moreover,

a report by the interior ministry in 2016, revealed that only 10% of madrasas across the

country had shared their financial details as required by the NAP. Thus, the reluctance

in madrasas stemming from inadequate infrastructure, trained staff, dedicated financial auditing, are huge stones in the way of madrasa reforms.

The ideological differences present among various religious schools is another

That would be considered an example discuss what mainstreaming hurdle is posed by the lack of monitoring systems.

That doesn't show the challenge.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

major hurdle in the way of a smooth transformation. There are approximately 12 sects and sub-sects; believers are scattered across Pakistan, and to customise reforms according to the acceptance and belief of each one of the ideological sect is a very difficult task. Therefore the streamlining of the various religious ideologies serve as another factor in the abundance of hurdles already present to achieve madrasa transformation.

No argumentation  
No analysis. No  
evidence

There are handful of opportunities and prosperous outcomes waiting at the end of madrasa reforms. These opportunities include lessening the gaps and equipping the madrasa students for modern challenges, countering extremism and promoting tolerance, fostering social mobility and finally, strengthening Pakistan's workforce in the employment sector.

If the madrasa reforms are cautiously implemented, it will help bridge the mental and educational gap between the madrasa and the rest of the students.

Don't argue on the basis of condition

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Additionally, ~~it will equip them with the~~  
~~required knowledge and skill to become~~  
relative to the modern society. This will  
~~provide them with numerous employment~~  
~~opportunities at the end of their course~~  
completion at the madrasa. Thus, fulfilling  
their lives and pockets to lead a normal life.

This is not an  
opportunity

No argumentation  
No analysis. No  
evidence

Introducing diverse courses in  
the madrasa along with religious courses  
will help the "Talibs" relate the  
religion to modern day issues and  
science. Such a relation will prove  
beneficial in ~~fastening peaceful ideologies~~  
as it will convey the true meaning of  
religion, which is, ~~peace and co-existence.~~  
As a result, extremism and radical  
ideologies will be countered at the  
very ~~grassroot of the society~~ and  
will promote tolerance among the  
madrasa students.

Moreover, when the madrasa students  
study diverse subjects in their primary  
and secondary years, they will be able  
to ~~take admission in any~~ field

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

of any particular university, according to their will and passion. ~~The process will create a smooth social mobility from madrasa to higher education or graduate course.~~ Thus, no madrasa student will feel irrelevant or outdated at the end of their madrasa education and will be able to contribute accordingly.

The social development of Pakistan will gain a significant boost when there will be millions of talents added to the workforce which were previously either unemployed or involved in extremism. Pakistan, therefore, can take profit from its 240 million population and especially the madrasa students can be proved to be a significant asset instead of a liability or a challenge for the government and the society alike. Thus, the reforms can equip the social development of Pakistan with capable minds.

In essence, there are multiple challenges lying in the way of madrasa reforms which include the resistance from

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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

the religious factions, lack of political will, inadequate infrastructure and enforcement mechanism, and ideological differences among the sects. These challenges, if overcome by the policymakers and the concerned departments, can bear fruits in the form of bridged gaps among the populace, tolerance in the society, streamline the educational hierarchy and strengthen the national development.

Moreover, the madrasa structure hasn't always been isolated from the modern education. In fact, it used to be the breeding point of scholars, scientists and philosophers but with the arrival of British imperialism in the subcontinent, the definitions of madrasas changed forever. <sup>However,</sup> the same madrasas can once again bear fruitful results if the reforms brought by the relevant sectors are successfully implemented.

Don't list all the point in one sentence.