

CSS Mock (2)

Q no: 4

① Introduction

Pakistan's geographical location has offered a number of dividends as well as challenges. The country is at the crossroads of Middle East, West and East Asia. Thus, its changing security dynamics has thrown a number of liabilities its way. The very survival of the state has been to be at stake due to the shifting winds of global geopolitics. Thus, the national security of Pakistan is first and foremost challenge that the country is faced with. Pakistan has always been a security-centric state due to inheriting a hegemonic and archrival (India) in its East.

② Challenges to National security of Pakistan

(i) Domestic challenges to Pakistan

(a) Militant Terrorism

In the province of KPK, religious militant terrorism has been rearing its ugly head time and again. The toxic mix of religion and politics has served the extremist elements in the region. The year 2024 was the deadliest year when TTP (the Pakistani Taliban) carried out a number of deadly attacks on both civilians and armed forces.

"TTP was responsible for 138

deaths in 2024 alone." - Global Terrorism Index.

(b) Separatist Insurgency

In the Balochistan region of

Pakistan an India were of separatist insurgency has destabilized the whole country. The tribal militant groups, such as Harris, Mehmuds, and others have exponentially increased their insurgent militancy against the state of Pakistan.

"The Baloch want their political rights to be revoked first. Mere economic compensation won't calm them." - Mahrang Baloch

(C) Ethnic Tensions among Diverse Groups

Pakistan is an ethnically diverse and linguistically a multi-faceted nation.

It consists of four provinces with diverse national and sub-national identities. These diverse groups have been claiming dominance based on their perceived superiority.

ethnicity. Thus, Balochs, sindhis, punjabis, and. Pashtoons have been engrossed in a civil war among one another. Sindhudesh, Pashtunistan, and Baloch liberation movements are all separatist in nature.

"The sindhis are claiming the same rights as that of Punjabis."

They are over-represented in the national affairs." — Fatima Gul.

(D) Stagflation

knock inflation, along with stagnant

employment opportunities, have

created a perfect recipe for disaster.

The unemployed and economically

desperate youth is taking up

arms against the state of Pakistan."

"29% youth of Pakistan is unemployed, aged between 15 and 24" — ILO, 2025

Dying

(E) Purchasing Power Parity

The decreasing purchasing power parity has exacerbated the already high levels of poverty. More people in millions slipped below the poverty line.

"44.7% of people are living below the poverty line" - 2025 World Bank Report.

(F) Population Growth Surpasses Economic Growth

Currently, the population growth rate of Pakistan has surpassed that of economic one. The 2.55% annual population growth rate has started the ^{national} growth. opportunities for all. The strained natural resources are putting

the economy on the brink of collapse.

(a) Learning Poverty

The literacy rate of Pakistan is 58% (2025 Census).

However, the kids who are already in school can not read an age-appropriate text and their percentage is in 70s.

Thus, this huge learning gap shows the low quality of learning they are offered in schools.

"26.2 Million kids are out of school" — Faisal Bari

(H) Child stunting

40% of kids in Pakistan

under 5 years of age are stunted due to poor nutrition. This means their cognitive skills and analytical learning opportunities are compromised. Thus they cannot grow as healthy kids in future. This would impact their school retention rates, too.

"Free meals program in government schools increased the attendance rates of students." — Zubaida Mustafa.

(I) Receding Human Development Index

HDI ranking for Pakistan in 2025 has been 168 out of 193 countries. Even countries with lower economic growth than us are ahead of us in human

development index. Thus, a people-centric approach to governance should be prioritized.

"The people of Pakistan should be the end, and not the means in governance." — Hassan Askari Rizvi.

Conclusion

The domestic challenges of twin monsters of militancy and insurgency, poverty, low HDI, and others have pushed Pakistan from one crisis to another. Thus, Pakistan needs to improve its national security landscape by focusing on pro-poor policies, not foreign-borrowed ones.

Qno:5

① Introduction

Every country promotes its own national interests as the ultimate goal. The sovereignty of any nation hinges on this aspect of national integration. The people should not just be bound in a social contract but also feel to be a part of it only then can they put the national interests above their narrow vested ones. Thus, national integration is very important to drive a collective sense of oneness among all stakeholders. The ruled and the ruler both feel connected in a shared polity with no wedge in between.

② Ethnic Issues in Pakistan

(a) Strained Federalism

The strong sense of federalism has strained over time. The federal structure and its federating units/provinces has deteriorated over time due to regional prejudices and provincial inequities (real or perceived). Thus, the collective unity between the central and the federating units needs to be strengthened for national integration.

(b) Spectre of Regionalism

Due to historical and contemporary sense of injustice (real or perceived), provinces and regions have developed a

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strong sense of regionalism.
They do not sense a collective
ownership for Pakistan as
a shared polity. Rather,
they outsize focus on
their particular region's
development and political status,
ignoring the broader aspects of
nationalism.

'The sub-national tendencies
in different regions of
Pakistan have weakened
nationalism.' — Hamis Khalique
(SG of HRCP)

(C) Lopsided Regional Development

The lopsided and uneven
developmental statistics has
exacerbated the regional
disparities. The solid

wait over the over-sized development of Punjab as the central province, getting lion's share in NFC due to its population. Whereas, inside Punjab, the South Punjab has grievances against central and north Punjab.

'Regional grievances alter the national schema of nations upside down' — Ayesha Jalal.

(D) Subnational Tendencies

The Sindhudesh movement in Sindh, the Baloch liberation movement in Balochistan, the Pashtunistan movement in KPK, and South Punjab separatist movement all hint at the strong sub-national

identities in Pakistan. They
need to be integrated into the
broader national landscape
keeping their unique identities
intact. That is the beauty
of federalism in truth.

"Diversity is beauty, and
not a menace". — Muna Khan.

(E) ~~THE~~ Lax Implementation of 18th Amendment

Even after the 18th Amendment,
Pakistan's federating units are
struggling for autonomy (both
financial and administrative).

The provinces get NFC share
based on their population
and representation in the
National assembly.

The biggest share of it goes to Punjab (around 50%) which has been utilized by all other provinces.

'Provincially on federal transfers to fund critical public services to their respective provincial areas.'
Abbas Nasir.

(F) Senate Marginalization via Executive Overreach

The senate was introduced based on the principle of equal representation to promote regional interests. However, ethnic issues have been sidelined many a times on the pretext of "national interests".

11/1/24
Through federal ordinance,
senate has been bypassed in
many incidents

"2024-25 Pildat report
criticized a surge in ordinances,
with 16 laid before the senate
in this year." — Dawn.

Critical Analysis

Sindh has led the provinces in
revenue collection via taxes in
the FY2024. KPK has also

followed the suit. However, the
FBR (federal body) has continued
to collect taxes that constitutionally
belong to provinces (sales tax on
services) despite provincial
jurisdiction on it post-18th
amendment.

Conclusion

Q no: 8

① Introduction

Around the world, the political economy has helped countries grow economically side by side with political development.

However, in Pakistan, Political economy has pushed it backward both politically and economically. The unholy nexus of

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corporate sector and political leaders has skewed the balance in political and economical landscapes. Thus, Pakistan needs to leverage this to its benefit by revamping its negatives.

(B) Politics-Economy Unholy Nexus in Pakistan

(A) Politically-Motivated Tax Exemptions

Punjab has been given the highest number of tax exemptions these years. The reason being the ruling party has a strong voter base in the said provinces. Therefore,

11/1/20
It has skewed the economy
and backslided political
development of the country.

Farmers
"Only Punjab got exempted
from paying migration
charges for 2025 harvest
year". — Daim.

(B) Targeted Economic packages to certain sectors

The political leaders usually
introduce targeted economic
packages to support their
own political survival.

For instance, the PMLEN
itself is comprised of big
agriculturalists and landowners.
Therefore, they, when in
power, offer economic
relief programmes for

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Private-sector agriculturalists
to offer them political
patronage.

(C) No Home-Grown Economic Policies

There have been no home-grown economic policies in Pakistan.
Most of them are politically
- motivated. Moreover,
they are not relational,
Context-specific, and
sensitive to their particular
region.

(D) Provincialism in Economic Policies

The chief minister of all
provinces think of their
own political survival.

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For that, they introduce
a pass, and okay such
protectionist economic policies
which benefit their own
particular region at the
cost of others.

② Anti-poor legislation

Most of the economic policies
are against the poor.

The salaried class alone
pay 90% of the
taxes in GDP.

However, the ~~deal~~ state, big
agriculturalists, retail
shops, corporate sector,
and big businesses
are outside of the tax
net.

⑤ Economic Policies change with Changing Ruling Governments

There is no collective ownership of economic policies by all political parties. The ruling governments, when in power, tout their own economic policies and replace the previous policies of governments to discredit them.

"Economic policies have become political tools for political leverage."

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