International Relations
Paper - II

Ques #1:
International ~~School~~ Society and English School

1 Conceptual Definition:
International Society exists when a group of states, conscious of certain common interests and values, form a society in the sense that they conceive themselves to be bound by a common set of rules in their relations with one another and share in the working of common institutions

- **The "Via Media" (Middle Way):** It sits between International systems (Realist power politics) and World Society (Cosmopolitan focus on individuals).
- **Key Pillars:** Diplomacy, International law, Balance of Power, Great Powers Management, and War (as a regulated institution).

2 Origin and Evolutionary Process:
The evolutionary process is marked by the transition from a "system" to a "Society".

• **The Westphalian Genesis (1648):**
The origin is rooted in the Peace of Westphalia which established the principle of whose realm, his religion **Cuius regio, eius religio**, laying the groundwork for state sovereignty.

• **European Expansion:**
Initially it was a "European Society of States". Non-European entities had to meet a "Standard of Civilization" (legal and administrative benchmarks) to join.

• **Decolonization and Globalization:**
The 20th centuary saw the expansion of these norms globally. The society shifted from **Pluralism** (coexistence based on non-interference) towards **Solidarism** (cooperation based on shared values like human rights)

3 Critical Analysis: The English School Rationale:

The question asks if the "International System" rationale is holistic enough for contemporary challenges.

Arguments for "Holistic Enough"

• **Order over Anarchy:**
Unlike Realism, it explains why states cooperate even without a global government.

- **Normative flexibility:**
It accounts for how "norms" (like the taboo against nuclear weapons) shape state behaviour.

Critical Gaps (The "Contemporary Challenges").

- **The Rise of Non-State Actors:**
The English School is criticized for being overly **statist**. It struggles to integrate the influence of multi-national cooperations (MNCs) and transnational terrorist networks into its framework.
- **The Ecological Crisis:**
Contemporary challenges like climate change require a "World Society" approach rather than an "International Society" approach, as the environment does not recognize state borders.
- **Digital Sovereignty:**
The rationale of territorial sovereignty is challenged by the borderless nature of cyber-warfare and the digital economy.

Ques #6:

IMF Interventions and Pakistan's Economic Recovery

1 Introduction : The lender of last Resort:

The IMF serves as the global "financial fire brigade". Its interventions in developing economies like Pakistan are triggered by **Balance of Payments (BOP)** crises - where a country lacks enough foreign exchange to pay for imports or service external debt

- **Context:** Pakistan has entered **25 IMF programs** (as of 2024/25) making it a "prolonged user" of Fund resources.
- **Core Objective:** To restore confidence, stabilize the currency, and prevent sovereign default.

2 Mechanisms of IMF Intervention:-

IMF support is never just "cash", it is a package of **Conditionalities** and **Structural Adjustments**

- **Fiscal Consolidation:** Reducing the budget deficit through tax reforms (e.g. removing exemptions) and cutting subsidies (energy, fuel)
- **Monetary Tightening:** Increasing interest rates to curb inflation and stabilize the exchange rate.
- **Market liberalization:** Privatizing ~~Pri~~ State owned Enterprises (SOEs) and removing trade barriers.
- **Currency Devaluation:** Shifting

toward a market-determined exchange rate to make exports competitive.

3 To what Extent do loans Promote recovery?

The "recovery" provided by the IMF is often a double-edged sword.

A Successes (The Stabilization Argument)

- **Avoidance of default:** The most immediate impact is preventing a total economic collapse (similar to Sri Lanka's 2022 crises)
- **Catalytic Effect:** An IMF "seal of approval" unlocks funding from other multilateral lenders (World Bank, ADB) and "friendly countries" (China, Saudi Arabia, UAE).
- **Institutional Reforms:** Forces long overdue documentation of the economy and anti-corruption measures (e.g, the 2024/25 Governance Diagnostic reports).

B. Failures (The "Boom-Bust" Narrative)

- **The Debt Trap:** New loans are often used to pay interest on old ones, leading to an ever-increasing debt-to-GDP ratio (surpassing 70% in Pakistan).
- **Low Growth Trajectory:** High interest rates and heavy taxation often lead to "stagflation" - low growth combined with high inflation.

- **Social Human Cost:** Austerity measures disproportionately affect the poor, leading to increased poverty levels and erosion of the middle class.

4. Risks and Criticism (The long-term effects)

Risk Factor	Impact on Pakistan
Elite Capture	Structural reforms often fail because of powerful interest groups resist tax net expansion
Dutch Disease	Repeated bailouts create a dependency where the state stops innovating its export sector and relies on "rent-seeking" behaviour.
Political Instability	IMF mandated price hikes (petrol/electricity) often lead to civil unrest and the downfall of governments, stalling the reform process.
De-industrialization	Abrupt removal of protectionist tariffs and high energy costs can make domestic industry uncompetitive against imports

5 Conclusion:

The IMF provides the "bitter pill" necessary for survival but it is not a 'cure' for structural rot. For long term recovery, Pakistan must move beyond stabilization to Transformation

1 **Broaden the tax base:**
Moving from indirect taxes (which hurt the poor) to direct taxes on retail, agriculture and real estate

2 **Export led Growth:**
Shifting the focus from consumption to high value manufacturing.

3 **SOE reforms:**
Decisive privitization or professional management of loss-making entities like PIA and DISCOs.

Ques # 4

Water Security and Hydro-Aggression in South Asia

1 Introduction:

- **Definition:** Water security is the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods and socioeconomic development
- **The South-Asian Context:** Water is a "threat multiplier". In a region home to 1.9 billion people, the competition over the

Indus and Ganges - Brahmaputra Basins has shifted from technical sharing to strategic posturing.

- The unilateral move towards modifying the **Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** and the construction of controversial dams constitute "Hydro- Aggression", which threatens the fragile strategic stability between nuclear-armed Pakistan and India.

2 The Indus Water Treaty (IWT): A Crumbling Milestone:

- **The framework (1960)**. Brokered by the World Bank, it allocated the three Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India and the three western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan.
- **Current Crisis**: India's recent notice to modify the 64 years old treaty citing "changed circumstances" is viewed by Islamabad as an attempt to undermine Pakistan's water sovereignty.
- **Hydro Aggression**: This refers to the use of water as a tool of war or political leverage. Example include:-
  - **Kishanganga and Ratle projects**: Pakistan argues that these designs violate the treaty's technical parameters
  - **The "Water as a Weapon" Rhetoric**

Post-Pulwama/Uri statements by Indian leadership about "Stopping every drop of water" to Pakistan.

3 Impacts on Regional Security:

- **Existential Threat to Pakistan:** As an agrarian economy, Pakistan's "food security" is directly tied to "water security". Reduced flows lead to drought, economic instability, and internal provincial discord (e.g. Kalabagh Dam controversy)
- **Strategic Distrust:** Water issues provide fuel for the "security dilemma". If Pakistan perceives India is weaponizing water, it may lower its threshold for conventional or non-conventional responses
- **Ecological Degradation:** Climate change and Melting Himalayan glaciers are shrinking the total volume of water, making the "zero sum" competition even more dangerous.

4 Steps to ensure stability:

To move from "Hydro politics to "Hydro Diplomacy" the following steps are essential

- Empowering the Permanent Indus Commission for regular, transparent technical inspections.

- Implementing telemetry and Data sharing to replace mutual suspicion with verifiable data
- By a joint watershed management and focusing on climate adaptation
- By reengaging World Bank or International court of Arbitration to resolve deadlock over dams designs.

Ques #5

Balance of Power in Asia-Pacific Hotspots

1 Introduction:

- **The Concept:** Balance of Power (BOP) is an IR principle where states ensure their survival by preventing any single state from gaining enough military power to dominate the rest.
- **The content.** The Asia-Pacific has emerged as the "strategic theater" for 21st-century great power rivalry, particularly between the **United States** and **China**
The reemergence of regional hotspots is driven by China's rise, US rebalancing and the shifting centre of economic gravity. Stability

depends on leveraging diplomacy to transition from a zero-sum power struggle to a rule-based regional order.

2. Reemergence of Asia-Pacific Hotspots:
The regional equilibrium is being challenged across three distinct dimensions

(a) Geo Political (The Security Dilemma):
Taiwan strait:
Beijing's "reunification" resolve versus US "strategic ambiguity" and military support.
- **South China Sea:**
Territorial disputes characterized by "salami slicing" tactics and artificial island building.

(b) Geo-Strategic (Networks of Alliances):
- **Containment vs Breakout:**
The US utilizes "minilateral" groupings like The Quad (US, India, Japan, Australia) and **AUKUS** to counterbalance China.
- **Strategic Chokepoints:**
Competition over the **Strait of Malacca** and "Island Chain" theories to secure or deny maritime access.

(c) Geo-economic (Integration vs Competition)
- **Belt and Road initiative (BRI)**
China's outreach to secure energy routes through Pakistan (CPEC)

and Myanmar to bypass potential chokepoints.

- **Mega-Agreements:**
  Competition between the RCEP (China led) and western-led trade frameworks to ~~eat~~ set the region's economic norms.

3 Diplomacy as a tool for stability:

Diplomacy serves as a "lifeline" to manage escalation and translate power into stable expectations.

- **Preventive Diplomacy:**
  Utilizing dialogue, fact-finding, and "early warning" systems to prevent localized disputes (like the Galwan Valley Clash) from escalating into large scale wars.
- **Middle Power Agency:**
  States like Indonesia and ASEAN members use "hedging" and "centrality" to avoid picking sides, forcing great powers toward multilateral engagement.
- **Economic Diplomacy:**
  Using high level exchanges and "green lanes" for trade to maintain interdependence, which acts as a deterrent against kinetic conflict.
- **Institutional framework:**
  Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to foster trust-building and non-interference norms.

4. Conclusion:

The Asia-Pacific's stability is not a "natural happening" but the result of deliberate diplomatic activity. While **Realists** argue that order emerges only through ballanced power, the current complexity requires a "**Hybrid Diplomacy**" that operates below the threshold of conflict. Long term stability lies in transforming Asia from a "sphere of competition" into a "community of shared interest".