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Batch 83 (4/203)

Mock Exam - V

Pakistan Affairs

Q NO. 1

Critically examine
the political strategy
of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

1 Introduction

Sir Syed
Ahmad Khan (1817-1898)
emerged as a key leader
advocating for the socio-
political uplift of Muslims

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

in British India. Witnessing the consequences of the 1857 revolt, he argued that Muslims had fallen behind Hindus in administration making them vulnerable under British rule (Jalal, 2000). His political strategy revolved around loyalty to the British, educational reform, and gradualist political engagement, which he believed would secure Muslim interests without direct confrontation. In contrast the Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, adopted a more assertive nationalist approach, emphasizing mass mobilization and negotiation for political rights, which often sidelined specific Muslim concerns. (Metcalf 1995)

2 Loyalty to the British As a Strategic Tool

Sir Syed believed that Muslims had lost political credibility after the 1857 Revolt, and the reconciliation with the Colonial rulers was essential for safeguarding Muslims' interests. He consistently advised Muslims to cooperate with the British government, arguing that loyalty would result in educational, administrative and economic opportunities for the community. Unlike the Congress which increasingly criticized British policies and pushed for greater self-rule, Sir Syed viewed working within

the system as more practical for Muslim uplift.

3 Emphasizing on Education as Political Empowerment

A central pillar of Sir Syed's strategy was modern education for Muslims. He founded the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh in 1875, promoting scientific and western education alongside Islamic values. This approach aimed to create a class of educated Muslims capable of administration and governance. In contrast, Congress leadership initially focused more on political advocacy than institutional

education, leaving Muslims without a strong socio-educational base to compete with Hindus in bureaucracy.

4

Creation of Muslim

Political identity

Sir Syed actively promoted a distinct Muslim political identity, arguing that Hindus and Muslims were separate communities with different interests. He believed that in a democratic British India, Muslim minority interests could only be protected through political awareness and organization, not by merging with the Hindu majority as Congress preferred.

This emphasis laid the intellectual groundwork for later Muslim nationalism and the demand for separate electorates.

5 Advocacy of Separate Electorates

Sir Syed was an early proponent of separate electorates for Muslims, arguing that without political safeguards, Muslims would remain marginalized in a Hindu majority India.

This contrasted sharply with the Congress approach, which promoted a unified electorate under which Muslims would vote jointly with Hindus, often assuming that Hindu numerically superior populations

would dominate political decisions.

6

Use of moderate and Gradualist Political Methods

Unlike Congress leaders who increasingly turned to mass agitation, protests, and lobbying for Indian representation, Sir Syed believed in gradualism and negotiation. He encouraged Muslims to educate themselves and take administrative posts rather than openly confront colonial policies emphasizing pragmatism over confrontation.

7

Institutional Foundations

for Muslim Representation

Sir Syed's strategy involved institutional development, notably the Aligarh movement, which nurtured Muslim intellectuals and bureaucrats. These institutions later provided the organizational framework for Muslim League politics, contrasting with the Congress's strategy which was more political and populist than institutional.

8

Social Reform as

Political Strategy

He promoted social reforms

among muslims including modern science education, rational thinking and literacy linking societal progress to political empowerment. Congress at the stages, prioritized elite negotiation with the British and national mobilization, often neglecting community-specific educational initiatives for Muslims.

9 Opposition to Congress -

Hindu-Domination

Sir Syed consistently warned that muslims could not rely on Hindu-majority congress to protect their rights. He argued that a political merger with Hindus would

submerge Muslim identity and reduce political influence, a concern largely ignored by early Congress leaders who favored pan-indian unity.

20 Development of a Muslim Political Class

Through Aligarh College graduates, Sir Syed created a literate, politically conscious Muslims elite. This class became central to the demand for separate electorates provincial autonomy and later the Pakistan movement, in contrast to Congress, which relied on Hindu elites and middle-class mobilization.

12

Strategy Non-Confrontation

Sir Syed's method avoided direct confrontation with the British, believing that Muslims were not yet politically or numerically strong to assert rights through agitation. Congress, on the other hand, increasingly adopted public campaigns and resolutions that challenged colonial authority which Sir Syed feared could invite repression and harm Muslims' interests.

12

Religious and Cultural

Mobilization

He leveraged Islamic history and identity

to foster muslim solidarity, encouraging the community to take pride in their cultural and intellectual heritage.

Congress's secular approach largely emphasized common indian identity, which Sir Syed argued could overlook Muslim concerns.

23 Advocacy Through

Publications

Sir Syed used journals, pamphlets, and books, such as the Aligarh Institute Gazette to communicate his ideas and persuade Muslims to adopt rational, pro-British and educationally oriented politics. Congress relied more

On public meetings and resolutions than systematic intellectual campaigns.

14 Visions for Political Safe guards

He believed in legal and constitutional mechanisms to protect Muslim interests, emphasizing reserved seats, separate electorates, and administrative representation as practical solutions. Congress initially focused on universal nationalist rights, which Sir Syed viewed as insufficient for minority protection.

15 Pragmatism over ideology

Sir Syed's political strategy was pragmatic focusing on achievable gains rather than abstract nationalist ideals.

While Congress pursued self-rule and mass mobilization as end goals, Sir Syed worked on preparing the Muslim community to competently negotiate for rights within the existing colonial framework.

16 Long-term Legacy and Differentiation

Sir Syed's strategy laid the intellectual and institutional foundation for Muslim nationalism, culminating in the creation of the All India Muslim League and eventually the demand

for Pakistan. Congress, in contrast, remained largely a Hindu majority nationalist party focused on all-India political unity, which Sir Syed feared would marginalize Muslims.

27

Conclusion

Sir Syed Khan's political strategy combined loyalty to the British, emphasis on education, institution building, gradualism and advocacy of separate political safeguards to protect Muslim interests. His approach was pragmatic, minority-focused and long-term oriented, distinctly different from the mass-mobilization, nationalist and Hindu-majority agenda of

the Indian National Congress. This strategy divergence ensured that Muslims developed a political consciousness and institutional base necessary for their eventual political autonomy and the creation of Pakistan.

Q NO. 2

Climate Change?

2 Introduction

Climate change has emerged as a major non-traditional security threat to Pakistan, affecting its economy, society, governance and regional stability. The country is ranked among the most vulnerable nations

in terms of extreme weather events, including floods, droughts, heatwaves and glacier melting (German watch 2025). Unlike traditional security threats, Climate Change weakens state capacity strains resources, and amplifies social vulnerabilities, making it a multi-dimensional challenge that intersects with Pakistan's development, governance and foreign policy priorities.

2 Vulnerability to Natural Disasters

Pakistan has faced recurring climate-induced disasters most notably the 2010 and

2022 floods which affected over 30 million people destroyed infrastructure, and caused economic losses exceeding \$40 billion

(World Bank 2023). Such events demonstrates how Climate change directly threatens human security and state resources, forcing emergency expenditures that undermine long-term development.

3

Socio-Economic

Implications-Agriculture

Agriculture employing nearly 38% of Pakistan's work force is **highly** dependent on water availability and seasonal stability. Climate change

through irregular rainfall and glacier retreat has reduced crop yields and created food insecurity heightening rural poverty and rural-urban migration (UNDP Pakistan 2022).

Reduced agricultural productivity threatens not only livelihoods but also national food security, creating socio-economic instability.

4

Water Scarcity and

River Flow Variability

The Indus river system is central to Pakistan's water supply. Climate change has caused erratic river flows, glacial melt,

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DAY: _____

and seasonal floods affecting both irrigation and hydropower generation. This intensifies inter-provincial water disputes creating potential domestic political tensions.

5 Urban Vulnerabilities

Rapid Urbanization combined with climate risks has increased flooding, heatwaves, and infrastructure stress, in cities like Karachi and Lahore. Urban poor populations face disproportionate exposure to extreme weather, exacerbating social inequalities and migration pressures.

6 Health and public

Safety Impacts

Climate Change has escalated vector-borne diseases, heat related illnesses, and waterborne epidemics, particularly during floods and heatwaves. The public health system is often overwhelmed, reducing governance capacity and increasing social discontent.

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Economic Growth and

Development Challenges

Disasters and climatic instability disreduce GDP growth. The 2022 floods alone cost Pakistan approximately 1.6% of GDP.

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DAY: _____

highlighting the economic vulnerability to Climate events. Insurance, disaster recovery and reconstruction divert resources from developmental projects, creating a cycle of underdevelopment.

8 Migration and Social Stress

Climate-induced displacement has created internal migration and refugee-like scenarios particularly from flood hit Sindh and Balochistan. This puts additional pressure on urban infrastructure, employment, and social cohesion, potentially

Sparking local conflicts.

9 Energy and power

Security

Hydropower and thermal power systems are impacted by irregular water flows, floods and heatwaves creating energy shortages and blackouts, which directly affect economic productivity and industrial output.

10 Political Implications

The state's inability to effectively manage disasters can erode public trust in government institutions, weaken governance legitimacy and create opportunities

for political unrest. Climate disasters also strain federal-provincial relations especially in resources allocation and emergency management.

21 National Security and Border Areas

Melting Glaciers in Gilgit Baltistan affect the Indus River and strategic infrastructure such as dams and highways. Climate induced disasters in these areas could hamper military logistics, demonstrating the intersection of environmental and traditional security threats.

12 Institutional Response National Disaster Management Authority

NDMA

Pakistan has established NDMA and provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA's) to coordinate disaster response. These institutions have improved emergency relief delivery, early warning systems, and inter-agency coordination, but remain limited by funding, infrastructure, and political constraints.

23 Climate Policy and Planning

The Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017) and the Pakistan Climate Change Policy (2021) aim to integrate climate adaptation into national development plans. Initiatives such as afforestation under the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project and promotion of renewable energy demonstrate policy intent but implementation remains inconsistent due to bureaucratic inertia and provincial coordination issues.

24 International Cooperation

Pakistan engages with UNFCCC, Green Climate Fund, and bilateral donors

for climate financing. However, vulnerability is exacerbated by limited adaptation resources requiring stronger global partnerships to address climate induced crises.

15

Socio-Political

Adaptation Gaps

Despite policy frameworks, local communities often lack capacity for climate adaptation - rural populations face limited access to insurance, disaster preparedness and sustainable agricultural techniques, highlighting gaps in institutional outreach.

26 Recommendations for Strengthening institutional Response

To address climate threats effectively Pakistan must enhance inter-provincial coordination improve funding for NDMA and PDMA's, integrate climate risks into national security planning, invest in resilient infrastructure and promote public awareness campaigns. Strengthening climate resilient agriculture, water management and urban planning will reduce socio-economic vulnerability and improve governance capacity.

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Conclusion:

Climate change represents a non-traditional security threat that intersects with Pakistan's socio-economic stability, political governance and national security. Its impacts are multidimensional, affecting agriculture, water, health, migration, and energy while institutional responses, through improving, remain constrained. Only through robust institutional frameworks policy coherence and international cooperation can Pakistan mitigate these threats and protect its population from climate-induced crises.

Q No. 3

Geo-Economic Significance of Pakistan's Connectivity ... ?

1 Introduction

Pakistan's Strategic location at the crossroads of South, Central, and West Asia has long made it a key geo-economic hub. The advent of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road initiative (BRI) has further elevated its significance by linking China's western regions to the Arabian Sea via Gwadar port.

This Connectivity framework is designed not only to enhance bilateral economic cooperation but also to strengthen Pakistan's role in regional trade, energy security and infrastructure development. However, evolving regional alignments in Asia, including India's pivot to the Quad and increased U.S.-China strategic competition raise questions about Pakistan's long-term strategic relevance.

2 Strategic Location and Access to Sea Lanes

Pakistan's location provides China and Central Asia direct access to the Arabian Sea, bypassing traditional checkpoints such as the Strait of Malacca. Gwadar port, a central node of CPEC enables energy shipments maritime trade, and naval logistics, enhancing Pakistan's geostrategic leverage.

3 Infrastructure Developments and Economic Corridors

CPEC has enabled road, rail and energy infrastructure projects across Pakistan. Projects such as motorways, Gwadar port expansions,

and energy plants improve connectivity, reduce logistics costs and create domestic employment opportunities positioning Pakistan as a regional trade corridor.

4 Industrial and Special

Economic zones

Under CPEC Pakistan is developing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) attracting Chinese and regional investments. These Zones aim to boost manufacturing export capacity, and value added industrial, transforming Pakistan into a regional Economic hub.

5 Energy Security

and Power infrastructure

Connectivity projects under BRI include coal, solar and hydropower plants, addressing Pakistan's chronic energy shortages. Improved energy supply enhances industrial growth and supports the country's integration into regional supply chains.

6 Trade and Market Access

CPEC enhances Pakistan's integration into regional trade networks, linking with China Central Asia, and the Middle East. Improved road and rail connectivity

reduces transit time for goods, expanding Pakistan's role as a transit hub for South and Central Asia trade.

7 Regional Geopolitical Significance

By serving as China's Western gateway Pakistan gains strategic importance in Sino-American Competition. The BRI corridor positions Pakistan as a geo strategic partner in China's Belt and Road framework, elevating its diplomatic leverage in regional affairs.

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DATE: _____

DAY: _____

Investment inflows

BR1 projects have attracted billions in Chinese investments. These inflows finance infrastructure, energy and industrial projects stabilizing Pakistan's balance of payments enhancing its economic resilience.

9 Maritime and Naval

Expansion

Ciwadar port provides Pakistan with deep-sea access, enabling maritime trade and potential naval strategic capabilities. This strengthens Pakistan's maritime security and regional presence particularly

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

in the Arabian Sea
and Indian Ocean.

10 Socio-Economic Benefits

CPEC projects generate employment, technology transfer and skill development particularly in underdeveloped provinces such as Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Improved socio-economic indicators can reduce internal instability and enhance human capital.

11 Integration with Central And South Asia

Pakistan's corridors connect China, Central Asia, Iran.

Afghanistan, providing opportunities for regional energy trade transit fees, and diplomatic leverage. This interconnectivity positions Pakistan as a regional economic linchpin.

12 Challenges: Security and Political Risks

Despite the opportunities terrorism, political instability and insurgency in Balochistan threaten project completion and investor confidence. Security challenges can undermine economic gains and regional credibility, demonstrating the limits of geo-economic

leverage.

13

Debt Sustainability and Economic Concerns

BRI investments have raised concerns over debt dependency on China. Critics argue that high-interest loans and repayment obligations could limit Pakistan's economic autonomy if not prudently.

14

Evolving Regional Alignments

India's increasing engagement with the Quad (U.S., Japan, Australia) and China - U.S. strategic

Competition in Asia may dilute Pakistan's relative importance, particularly as western powers invest in alternative regional connectivity projects that bypass Pakistan.

25 Competition from

Regional Corridors

Projects such as Chabahar port in Iran supported by India, provide alternative trade routes to Central Asia and Afghanistan reducing Pakistan's monopoly over regional transit routes and challenging its strategic relevance.

16

Pakistan's Strategic

Adaptation

To retain relevance, Pakistan is diversifying trade partnerships, regional agreements, and bilateral diplomacy.

Engagements with Central Asian States, Middle

East, and African markets. Under CPEC enhance its resilience against shifting regional alignments.

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Conclusion

Pakistan's connectivity initiatives under the Belt and Road framework have strengthened its geo-economic and strategic significance transforming

it into a regional trade energy and transit hub.

However, evolving regional dynamics including alternative trade corridors, indian strategic alignment with the west and broader U.S.-China competition have introduced challenges to pakistan's strategic relevance. While its

location and BRI-linked projects provide lasting advantages, pakistan

must continue institutional strengthening, security

stabilization, and diversified diplomacy to retain its

pivotal role in Asia's evolving geopolitical landscape.

Q No. 7

Assess the Role of Pakistan's Security Establishment in Shaping Foreign and Security Policies...?

1

Introduction

Pakistan's Security establishment, primarily the military and intelligence agencies, has historically played a central role in foreign and security policy formulation, often overshadowing civilian institutions. Rooted in the post-independence security environment, the establishment views India, Afghanistan and global strategic

trends as defining threats. Shaping Pakistan's foreign policy priorities. Its influence has helped Pakistan navigate critical conflicts but has also sometimes complicated international relations by blurring civil-military boundaries.

2 Strategic Threat

Perception and India

Centric Policy

The security establishment has consistently emphasized India as the principal threat driving Pakistan's nuclear weapons development, conventional military preparedness.

and defence alliances. This India-centric approach has defined foreign policy priorities, particularly in South Asia leading to interventions in Kashmir and supporting proxy strategies to maintain strategic parity..

3 Influence on Afghanistan Policy

The military especially ISI has shaped Pakistan's Afghanistan strategy to secure strategic depth and prevent Indian influence. From the 1980s Soviet conflict to the Taliban era and post-2001 developments the establishment has dedicated

Pakistan's military and diplomatic engagements after at odds with civilian policy visions.

4 Nuclear Policy and Deterrence

Pakistan's nuclear program was initiated and safeguarded largely under military guidance ensuring a credible deterrence against India.

The establishment's role in nuclear decision-making and enhanced Pakistan's strategic significance but also drew international scrutiny, particularly in the 1998 nuclear tests.

5 Civil Military policy

Imbalance

Frequent military interventions in government have allowed the establishment to dominate foreign policy. Civilian leaders have often been constrained in shaping independent diplomacy, particularly during periods of military rule. This centralization has sometimes projected Pakistan as militarized in foreign affairs affecting its soft power.

6 Role in Regional

Alliances

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

The security establishment has influenced Pakistan's alliances with the US, China, and Middle Eastern states emphasizing defense cooperation and strategic partnerships. For instance military diplomacy with China has strengthened CPEC security frameworks while relations with the US have fluctuated due to divergent regional strategies.

7 Counterterrorism

And Domestic Security

Internally the establishment has directed counterterrorism operations, including

Zarb-e-Azab and
Radd-ul-Fasad. These
enhanced Pakistan's
credibility in international
counterterrorism efforts
yet external critics
have questioned the
dual role of military
and intelligence
agencies in both policy
making and operations.

8 Nuclear and Strategic Diplomacy

The military stewardship
over strategic assets
has enabled Pakistan
to leverage its nuclear
status in international
forums influencing U.S.

Chinese, and regional negotiations. However this has occasionally limited civilian oversight affecting democratic accountability and perceptions of Pakistan foreign policy independence.

9 International Image and Soft Power Constraints

Pakistan's global standing has been enhanced by strategic alliances but weakened by perceptions of military dominance, alleged support for non-state actors and domestic human rights concerns. While the

DATE: _____

security establishment
strengthens hard power
capabilities, soft power
and diplomatic
credibility after suffer.

20 Influence on Crisis Management

During
conflicts such as Kargil
(1999) and post-9/11
operation the establishment
directly shaped policy
sometimes by passing
civilian input. While
this enabled decisive
action, it also strained
diplomatic relations
and contributed to
international criticism.

Strategic Continuity

And Institutional

Memory

The military's influence provides policy continuity particularly in long-term strategic planning, nuclear deterrence and regional security frameworks. Civilian governments often constrained by short & tenures, rely on the establishment for institutional memory and execution. Capacity.

12 Conclusion

Pakistan's
Security establishment

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

has been a dominant force in shaping foreign and security policy, ensuring strategic ~~and~~ continuity, deterrence and regional influence. Its involvement has enhanced Pakistan's hard power and international leverage but sometimes undermined civilian oversight, soft power and global perceptions. Overall, while the establishment has reinforced Pakistan's strategic relevance it has also contributed to complexities in international relations reflecting both strength and limitation in Pakistan's global standing.