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Question no.2

I. Introduction:

The US president is widely known as the most powerful elected President in the world due to extensive control over the executive branch, military leadership and global diplomacy. At the same time the United States constitution deliberately fragments power through checks and balance to prevent executive dominance. The paradox of immense authority and constitutional restraints defines the unique character of the American Presidency.

II Powers of President:

a) Concentration of executive authority

The president leads the entire federal executive branch, commanding vast administrative and bureaucratic machinery. Through executive orders and administration, the President can shape policy implementation across

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agencies. This centralization enhances executive effectiveness but does not equate to unchecked power.

b) Dominance in foreign policy making

As a commander in chief, the President exercises decisive influence over military strategy and deployment. The role grants exceptional authority in national security and foreign interventions. However, Congress retains the power to declare war and control defense funding. Unilateral action.

c) Legislative influence and agenda setting.

The president leads diplomacy, negotiations, treaties and represents the US globally. Executive agreements allow significant flexibility in international commitments. Yet treaties require Senate ratification.

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constraining Presidential freedom in formal international law.

d) Appointment and patronage powers

The President shapes legislative authorities and priorities through the state of the Union addresses and policy proposals. The veto power enables the President to block congressional legislation. Nonetheless, Congress can override vetos, reinforcing legislative supremacy.

III Limitations on Presidential powers

a) Judicial constraints and constitutional overview

Presidential authority over appointments allows influence over the judiciary, cabinet, and key institutions. The power helps shape long-term policy direction and institutional culture. Senate confirmation, however, acts as a constitutional filter on executive choices.

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b) Congressional oversight and checks

Federal court can invalidate Presidential actions that violates constitutional provisions. Judicial review ensures that executive authority remains within legal boundaries. This serves as a critical restraint on executive overreach.

c) Federalism as a structural limitation

Congress exercises oversight through hearings, investigations and budgetary controls. Impeachment provisions allows removal of the President for constitutional violations. These mechanisms reinforces democratic accountability.

d) Electoral and temporal constraints

The US federal system divides authority between the federal govt and the state. State government retain significant authority in law.

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and administration. This diffusion of power restricts presidential reach at the local level.

e) Media scrutiny and public opinion

The President is elected for a fixed term and limited to two terms by the constitution. Electoral accountability discourages authoritarian tendencies. Temporal limits ensures leadership rotation and prevents personal rule.

f) Expansion of powers during crises

A free press and active civil society continuously scrutinize presidential rule and actions. Public opinion can shape political flexibility to executive decisions. This informal constraints complements formal constitutional checks, and balance powers.

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f) Balance between power of President and restraints on it

The framers design the Presidency to be energetic yet accountable. Strong leadership was balanced with institutional safeguard. This balance remains central to American constitutional governance.

IV Conclusion:

The US embodies a powerful executive office, unmatched among elected leaders, yet firmly embedded within a constitutional framework of restraints. Check by Congress, courts federalism, and public accountability ensure that power does not become absolute. This dynamic tension between authority and limitations sustains democratic governance while enabling effective leadership.

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Question no. 5

I Introduction:

Pakistan's economy in 2025-26 is characterized by a fragile recovery marked by modest growth, volatility.

In Price, significant debt burdens, and extensive reliance on foreign assistance.

These economic dynamics not only shape macroeconomic performance but also have profound political consequences affecting governance, public discontent, and policy legitimacy. Analysing growth, inflation, debt management and foreign support reveals interconnected economic stress with direct implications for political stability and democratic consolidation.

a) Growth performance and structural model

Pakistan's economic growth remains modest and uneven, with recent projection suggesting real GDP expansion

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around 2.6 to 2.7 percent. Although some forecast see potential improvement over the medium term, actual growth lagged behind regional peers due to structural constraints like low investments, weak exports, and climate related disruptions.

Politically, slow growth fuels public frustration with the state's ability to generate jobs and improve living standards, eroding confidence in incumbent leadership.

b) Inflation trends and living standards

After episodes of high consumer price inflation peaking above 30% in previous years, The express tribune, recent data indicates a significant deceleration in inflation to around 5-6%. This improvement has helped moderate immediate cost-of-living pressures and offers persistent core

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inflation and volatility in food and energy prices to continue to affect households budgets, creating ongoing political pressure for social support.

c) Debt management pressure

Pakistan continue to grapple with a high debt burden, with a large portion of the national budget allocated to servicing both domestic and external debt obligations. Despite policy efforts to extend maturities and reduce refinancing risks, the overall debt-to-GDP ratio remains high and constrains fiscal space for development spending, Report of Finance division Pakistan.

d) Economic mismanagement of politicians

Politically high debt servicing obligations limit government capacity in investment in public services and fuel perception of economic mismanagement.

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e) Dependence on foreign assistance

Pakistan's economic stability has depended on repeated bailout packages from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other external partners to avert balance of payment crisis. A report from ORF department says, these programmes provide critical financing and policy conditionalities but often requires austerity measures that are unpopular domestically. Foreign assistance also shapes diplomatic alignments, as dependency on multilateral and bilateral support influence foreign policy choices & national autonomy.

f) External financing and reserve dynamics

Although foreign exchange reserves have shown signs of improvement, they remain vulnerable to shifts in global markets and external obligations. Finance division report.

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Limited reserves lightened economic insecurity and can triggers sharp currency devaluation, which in turn reverbrate through price and debt servicing cost. Politically reserves fragility undermines public trust in economic leadership.

h) Fiscal and public finance reforms

Recent fiscal measures have emphasized discipline, with efforts to broaden the tax base, control expenses and achieve primary budget surpluses. While such reforms are essential for sustainability, they may constrain social spending in the short term. This tension between fiscal consolidation and public expectation can create political trade-offs that can hinder electoral support for reform oriented government.

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i) Structural reforms and pro productivity challenges

Long standing structural weaknesses, such as low industrial competitiveness, limited export diversification, and informal labor markets, continue to dampen productivity. Political failure to tackle these reforms fuel narratives of policy inertia and elite capture, reducing public faith in long-term economic planning. Sustainable growth requires deep reforms that often face political resistance from entrenched interests.

ii) Impact of global economic conditions

External shocks, such as a shift in global tariffs, commodity prices, and regional conflicts, affects Pakistan's export performance and import costs. Such external vulnerabilities translate into domestic

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economic stress can become focal issue in political debates over trade and foreign policy. Governments that fails to mitigate these external risks may face reduced legitimacy and increased political legitimacy.

K) Social and employment

implications

Modest growth and persistent unemployment limit job creation, particularly for youth population. Politically, high unemployment rates contribute to social discontent and increased pressure on state welfare mechanism. This dynamic can fuel populist rhetoric and electoral volatility, as citizens demand immediate economic relief.

2) Public perception and trust in govt

Economic indicators directly shape citizens' perceptions of state performance. Improvements in inflation and growth

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can bolster political legitimacy, while stagnation undermines it. In Pakistan's context economic discontent has historically translated into political mobilisation and challenges to incumbent authority. Effective communication to authority is crucial to maintain trust.

m) Political economy of IMF conditions

IMF programs often come with structural adjustment conditions that affects subsidies, tax policies, and exchange rate regimes. These conditions can become politically contentious as they may conflict with short-term electoral incentives. Political leaders must therefore balance IMF compliance with domestic political pressure to maintain coalition support.

n) Foreign assistance and Sovereign debates

While external assistance provide

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vital financial lifelines, it also raises debate about economic sovereignty and national decision-making autonomy. Politically, reliance on international lenders can be weaponised by opposition parties to critique government as beholden to foreign interests. The narrative can deepen polarization and influence electoral outcomes.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's current economic condition reflects a complex interplay of modest growth, controlled but uneven inflation, heavy debt servicing pressures, and significant dependence on foreign assistance and international financial support. These economic realities not only determine macroeconomic outcomes but also carry substantial political implications. Affecting government legitimacy, public sentiments, and policy choices. Sustainable economic progress

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will require not only sound economic strategies but also effective management to navigate social expectations, institutional trusts, and international economic relations.

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Question no. 7

I. Introduction:

The 26th and 27th constitutional amendment to the constitution of Pakistan have emerged as watershed changes in the country's legal and political architecture, sparking intense debate about the balance of power among state organs. Both amendments focus on restructuring judicial authority, recalibrating civil-military relations, and redifining federal dynamics. Their passage has significant implications for parliamentary powers and the broader process of democratic consolidation in Pakistan's contemporary political system.

A) Judicial restructuring under the 26th Amendment

The 26th Amendment introduced major changes to judicial appointments and the functioning of superior courts. It expanded political influence in judicial selection by strengthening

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Parliamentary and executive roles in appointments. Critics argue that this has weakened judicial independence by embedding political interests into the judiciary's core processes.

B) Parliamentary role in judicial oversight

By involving members of parliament into judicial appointments mechanism, the 26th constitutional Amendment ostensibly increased legislative oversight. Proponents claim this enhances accountability of judges to the people's representatives. However, in practice, it risks turning judicial appointments into partisan exercise, diminishing the judicial capacity to serve as an impartial check on state power.

C) Impact on separation of powers

The 26th Amendment blurred

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the traditional separation between judiciary and politics. Expansion of legislative influence over judges create potential avenues for executive and Parliamentary encroachment. This undermines the constitutional doctrine of checks and balances central to democratic governance.

D) Creation of new judicial structure in the 27th Amendment

The 27th Amendment goes further by constitutionally establishing a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), which alters the hierarchy of judicial review. The FCC absorbs significant constitutional jurisdiction previously vested in the Supreme Court. This reshapes the judicial landscape by effectively creating a parallel apex body with broad powers.

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E) Shifting judicial appointment power

Under the 27th Amendment, the executive and parliament acquire decisive roles in determining the composition and size of the FCC. Parliamentary authority over judges appointments increases the legislature's influence on core judicial autonomy and heightens legislative dominance over judiciary.

F) Lifetime immunity provisions

The 27th constitutional Amendment introduces constitutional protection granting lifetime immunity from criminal and civil proceedings to certain state officials, including Presidents and high-ranking military officers. These protections reduce parliamentary and judicial oversight over powerful individuals. Such immunity undermines accountability mechanism critical

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for democratic consolidation.

H) Military command and legislative authority

By constitutionalizing the Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) role and revising military command structures, The 27th Amendment alters civil-military relations. Parliamentary role in defense oversight comes under stress as military leadership gains entrenched influence beyond electoral cycles. The shift narrows the space for civilian legislative oversight, weakening democratic control over security institutions.

I) Federal-province balance of power

Critics contend that the 27th Amendment recentralises authority by revising revenue sharing and administrative competences. This reduces provincial autonomy achieved under

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18th Amendment and enhances central parliamentary and executive powers. A more centralised parliament may lead to policy uniformity but risks alienating federating units, straining democratic federalism.

J) Parliamentary procedure of amendment passage

The speed and manner of passing 27th Amendment - amid opposition walkouts and accusations of coercive tactics - raises questions about legislative norms and deliberative quality. A parliament that enacts sweeping constitutional changes with minimal consensus may weaken democratic legitimacy. Such practices can erode public trust in representative institutions.

K) Opposition voices and democratic contestation

The opposition's resistance to both

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amendments underscores deep political polarization around the amendments. Parliamentary debate and contestation are vital elements of democratic consolidation. When major amendments proceed amid party fragmentation rather than broad consensus, it reflects challenges in parliamentary democracy.

4) International reactions and democratic standards

International organizations and rights groups have criticized the 27th Amendment of eroding judicial independence and weakening rule of law norms. Such critiques highlight the importance of democratic standards beyond formal parliamentary approval. A parliament that advances amendments diverging from international democratic norms faces reputational and governance challenges.

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M) Long term impacts on democratic consolidation

Over time these constitutional amendments may recalibrate institutional relationships, concentrating power within the legislature and executive relations to the judiciary and provinces. While proponents argue these changes streamline governance, critics warn of reduced institutional checks and weakened democratic accountability. The durability of Pakistan's democratic consolidation will depend on how these changes interact with political culture, societal contestation, and institutional resilience.

Conclusion:

The 26th and 27th constitutional Amendments represent transformation in the constitution of Pakistan. Significantly affecting parliamentary powers and the trajectory of democratic consolidation. While they expand

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parliamentary and executive influence over judiciary and defense structure, they also provoke serious concerns about weakened institutional checks, diminished judicial independence, and centralized authority. The long-term impact on democratic governance will hinge on whether these changes strengthen state functionality or entrench power imbalances that challenge democratic accountability and constitutionalism.