

# Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

## General Knowledge - II

Important Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the following parameters: Content 60%, References 15%, Subject-specific language 15%, Graphs, charts & diagrams 10%.

Key Guidelines: Each question should be attempted with 12-13 clear headings. The answer must be 8-9 pages (sides) in length, to score above 15 marks per question. Questions usually contain 3-4 parts, each part carries equal weightage, so all parts must be discussed equally and proportionately.

*Q. 5*  
*Pakistan - KSA Defense Pact*  
*for reaching geopolitical achievements*  
*for both countries and*  
*economic opportunities for Pakistan*

### Answer:

**Content & Argumentation:** Always use examples from current and ongoing events to justify your arguments. Demonstrate strong analytical depth, not mere narration of facts. Support arguments with relevant data, reports, international indices, treaties, and recent developments.

*Pakistan - KSA Defense Pact*  
*geopolitical achievements*  
*economic opportunities for*  
*Pakistan*

**Structure & Presentation:** Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. End with a forward-looking, well-linked conclusion that ties back to the question. Use headings directly derived from the question statement—pick words and phrases from the question itself. **Alignment with the Question:** Each argument must be explicitly linked to the specific part of the question being asked. If your heading is not aligned with the demand of the question, the content—no matter how accurate—will not be rewarded. Avoid generic or unrelated headings; precision is key.

*Introduction:* Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. End with a forward-looking, well-linked conclusion that ties back to the question. Use headings directly derived from the question statement—pick words and phrases from the question itself. Strategic interests, and defense cooperation. Over the decades, this relationship has evolved from informal military assistance into a multifaceted strategic partnership. In the contemporary international system, characterized by Middle Eastern instability, shifting alliances, and Pakistan's

**Language & Visuals:** Use subject-specific terminology relevant to international relations, geopolitics, economics, and security studies. Incorporate simple graphs, flowcharts, tables, or maps wherever relevant to enhance clarity and scoring potential.

quest for economic revival,  
a formalized Pakistan-KSA  
Defense Pact would produce  
far reaching **geo political**  
**achievements** for both  
states while simultaneously  
opening substantial economic  
opportunities for Pakistan.  
Such a pact would enhance  
regional stability, elevate  
Pakistan's international  
standing, and contribute  
to its economic resilience.

## Historical Background of Pakistan-KSA Defense relations:

The defense  
relationship between Pakistan  
and Saudi Arabia dates back  
to **1960s**, when Pakistan  
began providing military  
training and advisory support  
to Saudi armed forces.  
Pakistani troops have remained  
stationed in the Kingdom  
for **training** and **defense**  
**purposes**, reflecting Riyadh's  
trust in Pakistan's professional  
military. **Joint** military exercises  
intelligence sharing, and  
counter terrorism cooperation

have further strengthened this bond. Symbolically, Pakistan's commitment to the security of **Haramain Sharifain** has added a religious and emotional dimension to the relationship, making defense cooperation not merely transactional but deeply strategic.

### Geopolitical Significance of a Pakistan-KSA Defense Pact:

A formal defense pact would significantly enhance geopolitical stability in both South Asia and the Middle East. For Saudi Arabia, Pakistan provides strategic depth through its experienced and disciplined **armed forces** at a time when the Middle East faces persistent security challenges such as the Yemen conflict, Iran-Israel tensions. For **Pakistan**, closer defense ties with KSA would translate into greater influence in Middle Eastern affairs, enabling Islamabad to play a stabilizing role in the Muslim world.

Regional Instability (Middle East)

↓  
Pakistan-KSA Defense Pact

↓  
Strategic Balance and Deterrence

Enhancement of Pakistan's  
Global Standing:

A Pakistan-KSA Pact would elevate Pakistan's international stature by reinforcing its image as a reliable security partner.

This would strengthen Pakistan's voice in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and deepen engagement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Moreover, Pakistan's enhanced strategic relevance would improve its bargaining position with major powers such as United States and China, as Gulf security remains central to global energy politics.

Maritime and Energy Security  
dimension:

Energy security  
is a critical pillar of

Pakistan - KSA Strategic Cooperation  
Saudi Arabia's oil exports pass  
through vital sea lanes such as  
the Red Sea, Arabian Sea,  
and Strait of Hormuz.

Joint naval cooperation between  
Pakistan and Saudi Arabia  
would help secure these

**Sea Lines of Communication**

(SLOCs), ensuring uninterrupted  
global energy supplies. For  
Pakistan, participation in maritime  
security enhances its naval  
diplomacy and reinforces  
its role as a guardian of  
regional trade routes.

Oil Routes at Risk

Pak-KSA Naval Cooperation

Secure SLOCs

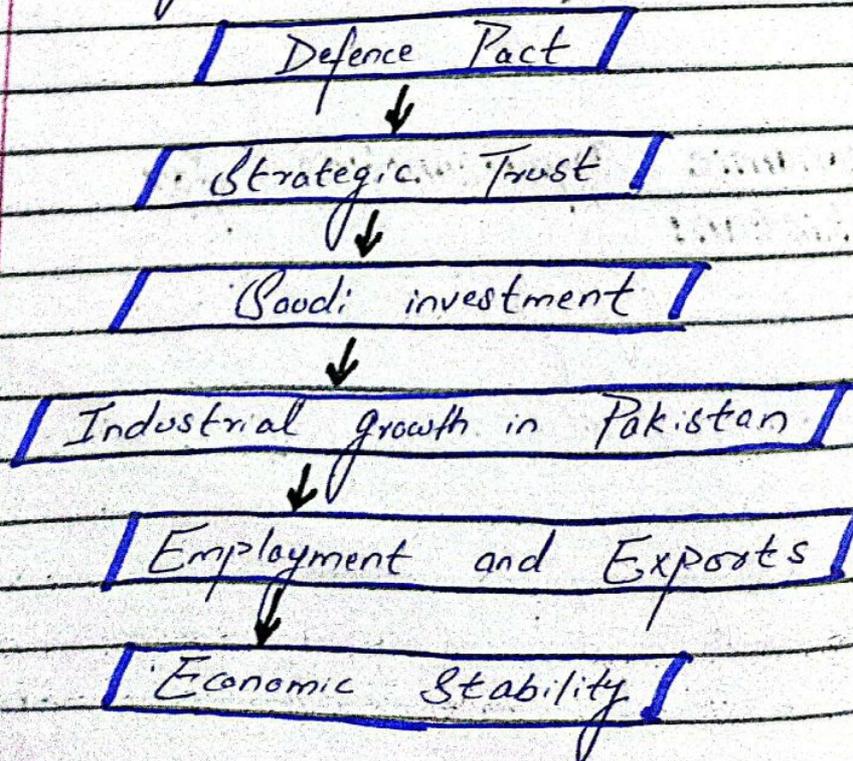
Regional and Global Energy Stability

## Economic Opportunities for Pakistan:

Beyond Geopolitics, the  
defence pact carries immense  
economic significance for Pakistan.  
Defense cooperation would pave  
the way for increased exports

defense equipment, military training services, and technical expertise. Joint defense production initiatives would help strengthen Pakistan's indigenous defense industry, generating employment and technological advancement.

Furthermore, strategic trust generated through defence collaboration would encourage greater Saudi investment in Pakistan, particularly in energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors aligned with Saudi vision 2030. Such investments would not only boost Pakistan's economic growth but also help stabilize its balance of payments.



## Remittances and Economic Cushion:

The defense pact would also indirectly enhance remittance inflows by expanding **employment opportunities** for Pakistani military trainees, engineers, and skilled professionals in Saudi Arabia. Historically, Saudi Arabia has provided Pakistan with financial assistance, deferred oil payment facilities, and budgetary support during economic crises. A deeper defense partnership would institutionalize the **economic cushion**, offering Pakistan critical support during periods of financial stress.

## Challenges and Critical Considerations:

Despite its benefits, a Pakistan-KSA defense pact is not without challenges. Pakistan must carefully balance its relations with **Iran** to avoid regional polarization. There is also a risk of being drawn into Middle Eastern conflicts,

which could strain Pakistan's military and diplomatic resources. Therefore, maintaining **strategic autonomy** and ensuring parliamentary and public consensus are essential for the sustainability of such a pact.

### Way Forward:

To maximize benefits, Pakistan should **institutionalize defense cooperation** through clearly defined agreements focused on training, technology sharing, and **defense diplomacy** rather than combat roles. Expanding cooperation into emerging domains such as cyber security, counter-terrorism, and defense technology would further future-proof the partnership. Most importantly, Pakistan must pursue a balanced **Middle East policy** that prioritizes peace and regional stability.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, a Pakistan - KSA Defense Pact would yield far-reaching geopolitical achievements by enhancing regional stability, strengthening Muslim world security cooperation, and elevating Pakistan's global standing. Simultaneously, it would unlock significant **economic opportunities** for Pakistan through defense exports, foreign investment, equipment generation, and financial support. If managed properly, the pact can serve as a **strategic cornerstone** for Pakistan's **economic revival** and long-term geopolitical relevance.

Q. 7.  
US used chip as weapon and china  
in return used Rare Earth metals.  
Critically evaluate the future war  
between the two world largest  
economies in the light of the  
above statement.

Answer:

US - China Trade War: Chips  
versus rare earths and the  
future of Strategic economic  
warfare:

Introduction:

The intensifying  
trade and technology rivalry  
between the US and China,  
the world's two largest economies,  
has entered a new and  
dangerous phase characterized  
by the **weaponization of supply  
chains**. The United States  
has increasingly used **semiconductors**  
(chips) as a strategic weapon  
by restricting China's access  
to advanced technology while  
China in response has  
signaled its readiness to  
leverage its dominance in

rare earth metals which  
are essential for modern  
industries. This tit-  
for-tat strategy  
reflects a shift from  
conventional trade  
disputes to go  
**Economic Warfare**, raising  
serious questions about  
the future trajectory  
of the US-China  
and its implications  
for the global economy.

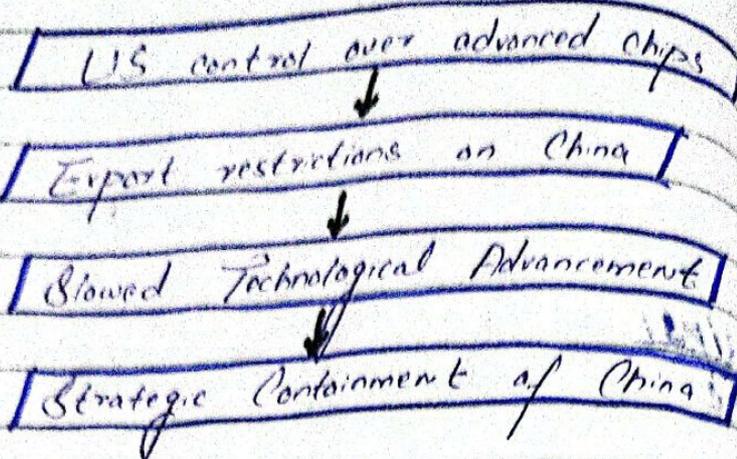
### • Strategic Context of the US-China Trade War:

The US-China  
trade war, which begins  
with tariffs, has evolved  
into a broader contest  
for **technological supremacy**  
and **strategic dominance**.  
While tariffs targeted  
goods, the current  
phase targets **choke  
points in global supply  
chains**, particularly in  
high tech sectors. The  
US dominates advanced  
semiconductors design  
and manufacturing.

equipment, whereas China controls a significant share of rare earths mining and processing. This asymmetry has transformed trade into a strategic battlefield.

## Chips as a Strategic Weapon: The US Approach

The US has used its dominance in the semiconductor ecosystem to restrict China's technological advancement. By imposing export controls on advanced chips, chip-making equipment, and related software, Washington aims to slow China's progress in artificial intelligence, military modernization, and high tech manufacturing. These measures are justified under national security concerns but effectively function as **economic containment**. As semiconductors are foundational to almost every modern industry - from defense systems to consumer electronics - the US strategy seeks to preserve its technological edge while constraining China's rise.



## Rare Earth metals as China's Counter-Weapon!

In response, China has highlighted its dominance over

**rare earth metals (REEs)**,

which are essential for manufacturing electric vehicles, wind turbines, missiles,

smartphones, and advanced defense systems. China controls major share of

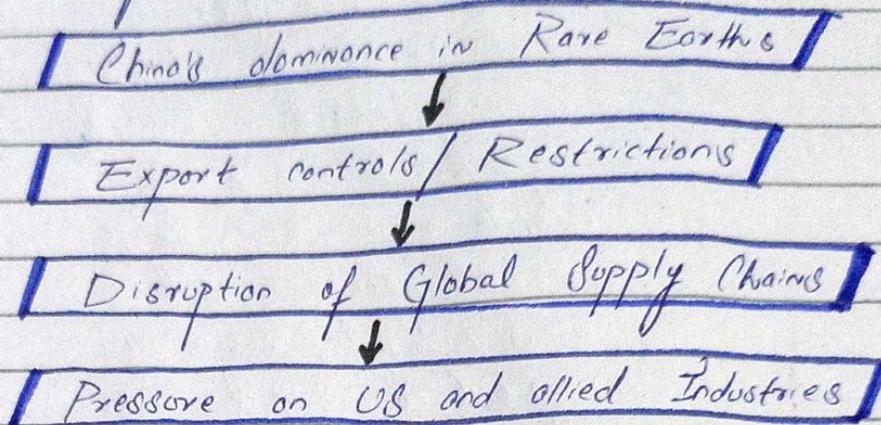
**global rare earth**

processing, making it a critical supplier to the US and its alliance.

By restricting export or tightening regulations on rare earths, China

can disrupt **global** manufacturing chains, increase costs, and apply strategic pressure on

Western economies. This counter-move demonstrates China's ability to retaliate asymmetrically rather than mirror US actions directly.



## Future of Trade War:

The future of the US-China trade war is likely to be prolonged, structural and multidimensional rather than temporary or transactional. First, the weaponization of chips and rare earth suggests that both states view **economic interdependence**, as a vulnerability rather than a stabilizing force.

This makes a departure from traditional globalization toward **selective decoupling**, especially in sensitive sectors such as technology, defense, and energy transition industries.

Second, neither side enjoys **absolute leverage**.

While the US controls advanced chip technology, it depends on global manufacturing networks and allied cooperation. Similarly, China's is the earth's dominant

significant but not irreplaceable in the long run, as alternative suppliers and recycling

technological may emerge.

Therefore, the trade war is likely to evolve into

a contest of resilience, where both economies

invest heavily in self-sufficiency.

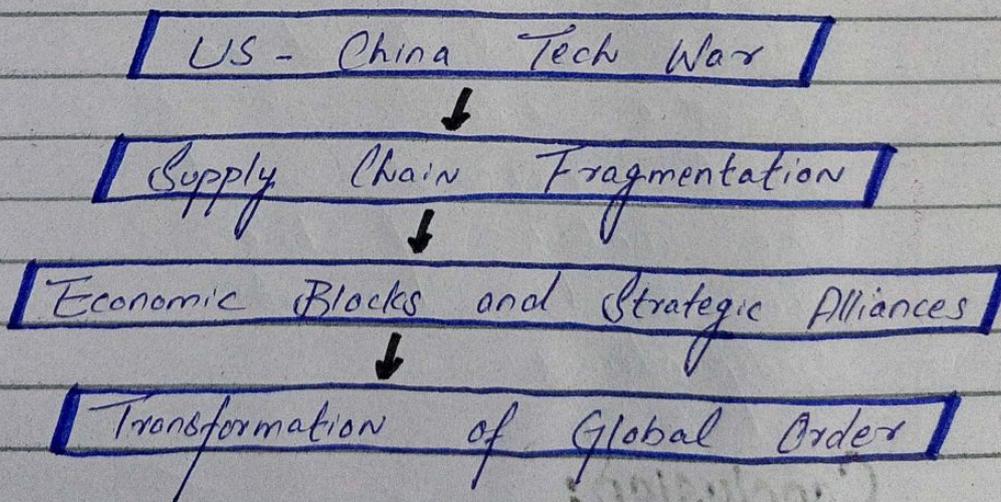
Third, the broader global economy will increasingly become **collateral damage**.

Middle powers and developing states may face supply disruptions, higher costs, and pressure to choose sides.

This could fragment the global trading system into competing blocks, undermining institutions like WTO.

## Global and Geopolitical Implications:

The chip - rare earths confrontation has implications beyond economies. It reinforces the emergence of a **new Cold War-style rivalry**, where technology replaces ideology as the primary fault line. Countries such as Japan, South Korea, and the EU are being drawn into the conflict due to their roles in supply chains. Meanwhile, resource-rich developing states may gain strategic importance as alternative suppliers, reshaping global geopolitics.



## Way Forward and Possible Scenarios:

In the short to the medium term, the trade war is likely to intensify through **selective escalation**, with targeted restrictions rather than total decoupling. In the long term, two scenarios appear plausible. Either managed competition emerges, where both sides accept limited interdependence under clear red lines, or strategic rivalry deepens, leading to parallel economic systems. The outcome will depend on domestic economic pressures, global responses, and the ability of both powers to innovate independently.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, the US use of **chips** as **strategic weapon** and China's counter use of **rare earth metals** signify

a fundamental transformation in the  
nature of the US-China trade  
war. The conflict is no longer  
about trade balances but  
about technological control,  
strategic autonomy, and global  
leadership. While both possess  
**powerful tools**, neither can  
achieve complete dominance  
without incurring significant  
costs. Consequently, the future  
trade war is likely to be  
long-term, complex, and  
globally disruptive, reshaping  
the international **economic order**  
in profound ways.

CONCLUSION