

# 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 Power 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 20<sup>th</sup> century 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

### 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 taboos 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 cyberspace warfare and the digital economy.

DEAR STUDENT 3 PAGES ARE FOR PERSONAL NOTES NOT AN answer content is relevant and but not enough for 20 marks 6/20

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 ~~the~~ 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 crisis).
- **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 "bitterpill" 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 privatization 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 Rattle 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 context.** The Asia-Pacific has emerged as the "strategic theater" for 21<sup>st</sup>-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 "blame 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 (PEC)

and Myanmar to bypass potential chokepoints

### • **Mega - Agreements:**

Competition between the RCEP (China led) and western-led trade frameworks to ~~est~~ 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 balanced 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".

DEAR STUDENT CONTENT IS FINE BUT  
ANSWERS ARE TOO SHORT  
HIGHLIGHT THE THEORIES  
OVER ALL NOT SATISFACTORY  
6/20