

GENERAL FEEDBACK FOR ESSAYS

Content (40%)

Your interpretation should be in depth, comprehensive and academic. Always address the asked part. It should be evident in your outline, which should be self-explanatory in nature. Essays/Outlines that give related information without addressing the asked part do not qualify.

The whole essay should be relevant. Even if 1-2 arguments are irrelevant the essay will not pass.

Distribution of topic should be according to the demand of the topic statement i.e. if there is one scoring point it should be given more weight, if there are 2 or more scoring points all should be given equal weight.

All claims made in the essay must be substantiated. Out of 15-17 arguments, at least 9-10 should be academically backed with proper references. The rest should be backed by either case studies or generally known information.

Evidence must be authentic and come from proper and authentic academic sources.

Newspapers do not qualify as an academic source. Illustrations and vague mentions of events do not qualify as academic evidence.

Essays that are lacking evidence do not qualify. Topic is not about Pakistan. Why is your thesis statement about it?

Foreign aid has been a significant feature of Pakistan's economic and political landscape.

It is often presented as a recipe for stability.

Your essay must be in the tone and tense of the topic statements. Essays that fail to comply do not pass.

Your sentence structure should be simple, yet clear and diversified.

Vocabulary used should be simple, clear and concise. Expression should always be formal and academic.

You are never to write in 1st and 2nd person pronouns.

You must always use the given keywords and your topic for your thesis statements and main headings in your outline.

1.1 Grants or concessional loans

1.2 Bilateral or multilateral

2.1 Humanitarian aid received during disaster

2.2 aid received in the 2005 earthquake

3.1 Avoid definitions in introduction.

3.2 Economical stabilization and balance of payments support

3.3.1 During emergency under IMF's (International Monetary Fund)

3.3.2 EPP (Extended Fund Facility)

CONCLUSION: Must start with the concluding phrase. There should be no new information in the conclusion. It should recap the arguments. Conclusion does not have any examples and information. If you are ending it on a hopeful note, remember that solutions and hope are not the same.

COHERENCE (15%)

All the examples are from Pakistan.
Which seem contradictory to stances
taken as Pakistan is not stable
politically, economically or socially.

- Day: _____
- 3-3 Infrastructure Development.
 - 3-3-1 United States's aid for Mangla & Tarbela Dam
 - 3-4 Institutional and capacity building.
 - 3-5 Poverty alleviation and social sector development (Ehsans Program). Primarily locally funded
 - 3-6 Strengthening international relations.
 - 3-6-1 With United States, post 9/11 for counter terrorism.

4- Foreign aid as a recipe for disaster.

- 4.1 Aid dependency syndrome.
- 4.2 Policy conditionalities and loss of sovereignty.
- 4.2.1 IMF (International Monetary Fund) imposed fiscal and monetary policies on Pakistan.
- 4.3 Corruption and misgovernance.
- 4.4 Debt burden and fiscal vulnerability.
- 4.4.1 Pakistan's total public debt exceeding PKR 80 trillion by mid 2025.
- 4.5 Distortion of national priorities.
- 4.6 Weakening of domestic institutions.
- 4.6.1 High percentage of out of school children.
- 4.6.2 Substandard healthcare facilities.
- 4.7

Happens with loans
not aid, your
examples are also
of loan not of aid.

Too many points for a counter opinion.

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5- Pakistan's experience with foreign aid.

6- Steps Pakistan should take to achieve independence from foreign aid.

6.1 Economic and fiscal reforms.

6.1 Boost Exports.

6.2 Attract foreign direct investment.

6.3 Fiscal Discipline.

6.4 Privatize state owned enterprises.

6.5 Energy sector reforms.

6.2 Governance and institutional reforms.

6.2.1 Strengthening institutions.

6.2.2 Control Corruption.

6.2.3 Policy autonomy.

7- Countries that have reduced dependence on foreign aid.

7.1 Progress of Malaysia and Singapore.

8- Conclusion.

Unnecessary and irrelevant for a stance based essay.

Day:

Essay

(4)

Date:

Foreign aid has long been considered a instrument of boosting economic growth, political stability and humanitarian relief in developing countries. For Pakistan foreign aid played a significant role since independence, especially during economic crisis, and natural disasters.

However the long term impact of this aid remain controversial. While supporters see it as a road to stability, critics argue that it has turned a recipe of disaster by fostering dependency, weakening institutions, and undermining sovereignty. There are certain steps,

countries particularly Pakistan, should take to reduce their dependency on foreign aid and get full sovereignty. Malaysia and Singapore are the example of this. They have done economical and governance reforms to get rid of this curse. So it is necessary for Pakistan to do reforms to reduce dependence on any country's aid or any organization's aid.

No specific stance specified. What is your opinion. Is it road to stability or a recipe for disaster.

No examples and information in introduction.

Short and unstructured introduction

Write an academic definition, with a proper source.

Foreign aid is the voluntary transfer of financial material, or technical resources from one country or organization to another, primarily to promote economic development, welfare, and stability in recipient country. This aid can be direct assistance from one country to another. It can be multilateral aid funneled through international organizations like the UN, World Bank, or International Monetary Fund. It can be in form of grants that don't need to be paid. It can be loan, means money provided with repayment terms (soft loans with low interest). Official Development Assistance or ODA is the formal name of what is more commonly known as foreign aid. This term covers all type of funds given to developing countries.

Loan is loan, aid is aid.

Specify whether it is your stance or counter stance.

Foreign aid as a road to stability is true in certain aspects for Pakistan. Pakistan got it as a humanitarian relief

Topic is not whether the aid has been a road to stability for Pakistan. Where is the name of the state

mentioned in

during disaster. Pakistan is highly vulnerable to floods, earthquake, and climate induced disasters. Foreign aid provides immediate relief in the form of food, shelter, medical assistance, and rehabilitation supports. It prevents large scale human suffering and social unrest.

Does not answer how it leads to stability.

Pakistan received humanitarian aid in devastating earthquake in 2005, in floods of 2022. Several countries and organizations gave assistance during those disasters.

Foreign aid also helps with economic stabilization and balance of payments. Economic balance of payments

support through foreign aid to help nations cover imports cost, stabilize currency, manage immediate debt, fund development projects, often boosting foreign exchange reserves.

Focus on one element and explain how.

The IMF's (International Monetary Fund) Extended Fund Facility supports Pakistan's economy. Recently IMF gave an immediate disbursement of \$1 billion to

Loan not aid.

Date _____
to Pakistan as a part of the Extended
Fund Facility (EFF). It support stabilization
through macroeconomy stabilization, fiscal
consolidation, rebuilding of foreign exchange
reserves.

Source of facts??

Foreign funded projects have contributed
to the developments of roads, dams,
power plants, schools, and hospitals
particularly in under developed region
Pakistan constructed Tarbela and Mangla
Dams with United States aid. World Bank
and Asian Development Bank provides
loan for infrastructure including energy,
roads, railways, water, and sanitation.

No argumentation No analysis.

Foreign aid in Pakistan also aimed
to build institutions and capacity
buildings through education, health,
governance reforms, and infrastructure.

They also often provide technical
assistance. Some examples of this includes
donor-supported foundations like Edhi,
Shaukat Khanum. These institutions build
significant institutional capacity in
social welfare and healthcare system.

FOREIGN aid. Not aid of any kind.

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There are some challenges in this including aid dependency, misuse of political agendas, and crowding of local policies.

Another positive side of foreign aid is it helps to reduce poverty and boost social sector development. Foreign

aid did provide funding for rural programs, empowering women (Ehsaas Programs), improving healthcare and education (United Nations). Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund is funded by World Bank.

It provides microfinance loans to rural entrepreneurs, boosting incomes and stability. Ehsaas Program targeted

marginalized groups, especially women.

Benazir Income Support Program is also supported by foreign aid. It is a social safety net to reduce poverty.

Foreign aid also strengthens international relations with Pakistan by fostering strategic partnership (like with United States, post-9/11 for counter terrorism), supporting economic stability (World Bank, International

Monetary Fund) They funded for critical dams and road's construction. United States provide development and military aid to secure Pakistan's cooperation in the war on terror, solidifying a crucial alliance.

Above are some benefits of foreign aid but due to over dependency, lack of transparency, and poor governance foreign aid has become a recipe for disaster. Pakistan is one of the developing nations who became overly reliant on foreign aid, undermining local capacity and self sufficiency. It leads to a cycle of poverty and true sustainable development becomes a dream.

Foreign aid especially IMF, often comes with strict policy conditions (like privatizations, tax hikes). It limits a country's economic choice. It is also seen as loss of sovereignty.

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In Pakistan, International Monetary Fund imposed fiscal and monetary policies, raising concerns about external control over domestic self-determination. It also impose structural reforms like privatization of state owned enterprises, trade liberalization and increase in tax.

There is another point which turn this aid into disaster. It is corruption and misgovernance in Pakistan. Foreign aid in Pakistan has often been ineffective, and at times detrimental, due to pervasive issue of corruption and misgovernance. Aid intended for vital infrastructure, health, education, and disaster relief is frequently siphoned off by corrupt officials or mis-allocated to non-essential projects. Further, lacks of maintenance of essential fund infrastructure (like canals) due to misused funds, also exacerbates disaster risk. Ghost schools are the best example of this. A USAID-funded program in

in Sindh province to built and rehabilitate around 100 schools. It faced accusation of mismanagement because of educational institution's existence only on paper, with no actual students and teachers.

In Pakistan, foreign aid often becomes a disaster by increasing debt, worsening fiscal vulnerability, and failing to drive sustainable growths. As it is seen in projects like CPEC (China Pakistan Economic corridor), or post-disaster relief (2010 floods). It all leads to dependency, misuse, ballooning debt servicing creating a debt trap for country. High debt service also consumes a large chunk of the national budget, leaving little for development. Pakistan's total public debt exceeds PKR 80 trillion by mid 2025. Despite substantial aid over decades, Pakistan's economic performance remains poor, with low savings, widening trade gaps, and weak social indicators, suggesting aid has not translated

No argumentation
No analysis.
Irrelevant to the topic

No argumentation
No analysis.
Irrelevant to the topic

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to sustainable development but rather increased liabilities.

Foreign aid in Pakistan has often been criticized in Pakistan for distorting national priorities by tying aid to donor countries's strategic interest rather than the recipient's long-term development needs. A significant portion of aid received by Pakistan, especially after 9/11 from the United States was tied to military assistance and counter-terrorism efforts. This focus on security often overshadowed crucial domestic needs like improvement in poverty, health, education, and social services.

No argumentation No analysis. Irrelevant to the topic

Foreign aid has been linked to the weakening of domestic institutions in Pakistan contribute to a cycle of dependency and hindering sustainable developments.

The influx of substantial aid without stringent accountability measures has been found to erode the quality of governance by increasing corruption

No argumentation No analysis. Irrelevant to the topic

Pakistan's experience with foreign aid is a "double-edge" sword: providing crucial funds for humanitarian purposes, ~~infrastructure, defense, crisis relief,~~ especially post 9/11, but also fostering dependency, creating debt traps ~~fuelling corruption, and failing to~~ translate into sustainable socio-economic growth or poverty reduction. The aid is ~~often drive~~ by donor's geopolitical interest rather than Pakistan's core needs. While some projects materialized, ~~overall results are underwhelming,~~ leading to a cycle of aid often just services past debt, highlighting issues with inefficient spending, weak governance and a lack of independent planning.

To achieve independence from foreign aid, Pakistan needs comprehensive reforms in Economy and in governance. We should focus more on domestic resource mobilization, export led growth, attract foreign direct investment, foster local industries, develop home grown policies

No
argumentation
No analysis.
Irrelevant to
the topic

aligned with national priorities rather than donor agendas, all while building strong domestic institutions and enhancing tax collection. We should also help in economic diversification and domestic focus, promote domestic businesses, also reduced state presence. Govt should rationalize public sector entities (like Pakistan Air Agency) has been done). Other reforms involved social, infrastructure, textile sector, energy sector,

Several countries have reduced their dependency on foreign aid. like South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia. They put their focus on export led growth, strategic industrialization, strong governance and human capital development. These steps help them transforming from aid recipients to donors, with Malaysia now receiving minimal aid and Singapore being a key donor and provider for technical assistance.

Not a proper conclusion.

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For Pakistan, foreign aid is neither a inherently blessing nor a curse. It can be a road to stability if ~~used transparently and strategically~~. Foreign aid has long been considered a vital instrument for promoting economic growth, ~~political stability~~, and humanitarian relief in developing countries like Pakistan. For Pakistan, foreign aid has played a significant role since independence, ~~particularly during~~ wars, economic crisis, and natural disasters. However, the long term impact of this aid remains controversial. While supporters see it ~~a a road to stability~~, critics argue that it has turned into recipe of disaster by fostering dependency, weakening institutions, and undermining (institutions)* sovereignty.