

Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

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. **CRITICAL EVALUATION OF FUTURE EFFORTS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ABSENCE OF WORLD LEADER (US):**

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.

Structure & Presentation: Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. Start 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.

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.

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IMPLICATIONS OF TRUMP'S PULL OUT FROM PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND CHINA AND EUROPE'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING PROMISES OF COP 21:

I. CRITICAL EVALUATION OF FUTURE EFFORTS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ABSENCE OF WORLD LEADER (US):

1) INTRODUCTION: Trump's renewed withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement in January 2025 marks a significant setback of US global leadership in global climate governance. The Paris Climate Agreement (COP 21) signed in 2015 aims to limit the rise of temperature globally well below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The absence of the US historically the second largest emitter weakens global collective action, jeopardises climate finance, and

challenges multilateral mechanism designed to hold countries accountable for emission reduction.

2) GLOBAL URGENCY IN THE WAKE OF ESCALATING CLIMATE RISKS:

Recent reports on climate change indicates 2024 as the warmest year on record, with extreme weather events on Pacific floods and glacial melt intensifying vulnerabilities. The urgency for emission reduction is heightened as the delays would escalate rise of sea-level, glacial melts, food insecurity, climate induced displacement particularly in South Asia.

3) LOSS OF LEADERSHIP AND CREDIBILITY:

US withdrawal diminishes its diplomatic leverage, reduces moral authority and sends a negative signal to other countries, risking reduced ~~emissions~~ ambition.

from medium emitters and even some developing countries. The leadership vacuum makes the enforcement of the climate goals more difficult and reduces global confidence in Paris framework.

4) IMPACTS ON EMISSION AND GLOBAL TARGETS:

The US contributes to almost 15% of the global CO₂ emissions. Its exit could result in tonnes of additional emissions by 2030 making the 2°C / 1.5°C goal of limitation harder to achieve ~~by~~ without compensatory efforts by other nations. The US withdrawal also means stricter targets and higher costs for remaining signatories.

5) CLIMATE FINANCE AND VULNERABLE NATIONS:

The US provide significant climate

finance to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and loss and damage mechanism. Withdrawal of US reduces available funds for adaptation and resilience programs in vulnerable countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and African states, directly affecting projects in flood management, energy efficient and disaster relief.

c) DOMESTIC SUB NATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE US:-

Despite federal pullouts, states, cities, private actors in the US, continue climate initiatives. Coalitions like the US Climate Alliance have pledged to meet or exceed Paris targets, offset the sub-national efforts in mitigate federal absence.

II. ANALYSIS ON WHETHER CHINA AND EUROPE COULD HELP THE WORLD CONTINUE ACHIEVING COP21 PROMISES:

1) CHINA'S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL:-

China remains fully committed to Paris goals and has expanded renewable energy capacity beyond targets. Initiatives in solar, wind and electrical vehicles indicate Beijing's willingness to partially fill the leadership vacuum left by the US, particularly in green financing, green technology and policy coordination.

2) EUROPE'S PLEDGE TO UPHOLD THE COMMITMENT:-

The EU has reiterated its commitment to climate diplomacy, strengthened carbon regulations and pledged climate finances. Europe's continued leadership ensures

The global monitoring, NDC reviews and multilateral cooperation can continue providing stability despite US absence.

3) CHINA EUROPE SYNERGY:-

Joint initiatives between China and EU such as Green Financing partnership, technology transfer and renewable infrastructure investments can sustain the momentum. Collaborative funding for South Asian climate projects ensures that vulnerable nations continue to benefit from COP21 commitments.

4) CHALLENGES IN COOPERATION:

Economic model, regulatory framework and geopolitical tensions between China and Europe could complicate alignments. Trade rivalries, different energy priorities and policy timelines must be reconciled to fully compensate for the US absence. Effective coordination at COP30 and future conferences crucial to bridge these gaps.

5) IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN AND OTHER VULNERABLE STATES:-

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate impacts such as recurrent floods, glacial melts in GB and heatwaves, highlights the need for stable international leadership. China and EU leadership could provide funding, technical support and adaptation technology, partially offsetting reduced US engagement. These partnerships are essential to achieve NDC targets and manage climate induced losses.

III RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ACTIONS:

1) STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL LEADERSHIP:

China and Europe must lead global climate diplomacy, coordinate finance, and monitor emissions.

2) MOBILIZE CLIMATE FINANCES:

Expand South-South cooperation and blended finance tools for developing countries.

3) REGIONAL ALLIANCES:

Middle powers (India, Canada, Japan) should collaborate with China and Europe to maintain momentum.

4) EMPOWER SUB-NATIONAL ACTORS:

Encourage state level, city level and private initiatives in US to continue mitigation efforts.

5) INCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS:

Vulnerable countries like Pakistan should be actively involved in COP decision making to secure adaptation and loss and damage support.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Trump's pullout significantly undermines US leadership and weakens collective climate actions. However, China and Europe possess the capacity, political will, and resource to sustain COP 21 commitments and provide partial mitigation success. In global climate governance will depend on multilateral coordination, innovative financing, sub-national engagement and continued emphasis to vulnerable states. With such measures global climate efforts can remain on track despite the absence of world's largest economy.

Q5: PAKISTAN-KSA DEFENCE PACT - GEOPOLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH COUNTRIES:

I. INTRODUCTION:

The historic Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defense Pact strengthens a long standing strategic partnership and regional security challenges, including the Iranian influence and Yemen conflict spillovers. The agreement not only enhances military cooperation, intelligence sharing and counterterrorism efforts but also opens economic avenues for growth through defense investments, industrial projects and energy collaboration. In shifting global context, it positions Pakistan as a credible regional actor while offering Riyadh a reliable security partner.

II. GEOPOLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS FOR PAKISTAN AND SAUDI ARABIA:

1) STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

The historic Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defense pact consolidates a long-standing strategic relationship, enhances military cooperation, joint exercises, and intelligence sharing. This partnership signals a deepening alliance in Gulf region and reassures Riyadh amid regional tensions with Iran and ongoing conflicts with Yemen.

2) REGIONAL DETERRENCE AND SECURITY GUARANTEES:

The pact provides Pakistan with a strategic deterrent role in the Gulf, while Saudi Arabia secures a reliable partner for defense and counterterrorism operations. With

joint military drills and potential troops deployment agreements, the countries restore regional stability and demonstrate their capability to respond collectively to emerging threats -

3) COUNTERTERRORISM COLLABORATION:

The agreement enhances cooperation in intelligence sharing and counterterrorism operations. Saudi Arabia faces threats from extremist groups (IS-K, Yemen-based militants) while Pakistan combats domestic and border tensions. Coordinated efforts reduce risks of regional spillovers, strengthen mutual security and improve Pakistan's international defense credibility.

4) GEOPOLITICAL LEVERAGE IN REGIONAL DIPLOMACY:

Pakistan gains increased leverage in Gulf diplomacy and broader Middle East

negotiations, positioning itself as a credible regional player. The partnership allows Islamabad to influence Saudi policy on critical issues, such as Yemen, Iraq and energy markets while Riyadh benefits from Pakistan's military expertise and South Asian networks.

5) SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE: IN MUSLIM WORLD COOPERATION:

The pact signals solidarity among Muslim majority states and reinforces Pakistan's image as a key military partner in the Islamic world. Joint initiatives and training programs showcase cooperation that could translate into leadership roles in OIC frameworks and Islamic security coalition.

III- ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR PAKISTAN:

1) DEFENSE INDUSTRY GROWTH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER:

The pact opens opportunities for Pakistan's defense sector through joint manufacturing, technology transfer, military hardware supply. Saudi Arabia has committed to investing in Pakistan's defense facilities, boosting domestic industry, creating jobs and enhancing technological capacity.

2) FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Alongside defense cooperation, the agreement encourages broader Saudi investment in Pakistan's infrastructure, energy and industrial sectors. Projects related to Special Economic Zones, energy partnerships and ports near

Gawadar can benefit from Saudi financing strengthening Pakistan's economic resilience.

3) ENERGY SECURITY AND TRADE ENHANCEMENT:

Saudi Arabia is Pakistan's largest oil supplier, and defense pact strengthens energy collaboration, ensuring stable crude supply and potential preferential pricing. This stability aids industrial growth, reduces import volatility and support Pakistan's economic planning in 2025-2026.

4) EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT:

Joint projects, military industrial developments, investments, and training program generate employment for skilled and semi-skilled Pakistani workers. Defense related collaborations

also enhances human capital through advanced training, leadership programs, and technology transfers.

5) REGIONAL STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:-

The pact positions Pakistan closer to Gulf security architecture while maintaining ties with China and the US. It strengthens Islamabad's role in counterbalancing Iranian influence and enhances coordination in regional crisis management including Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz security corridors.

6) RISKS AND CHALLENGES:-

While beneficial the pact carries challenges. Overdependence on Saudi support may constrain Pakistan's foreign policy autonomy, regional rivalries (Iran & Turkey) could be affected, and domestic politics may resist extensive military alignment with external forces.

Proper diplomacy and multivector policies are necessary to mitigate risks.

IV CONCLUSION

The Pakistan-Saudi Arabia pact of 2025 is a landmark agreement that provides significant geopolitical advantages and economic opportunities. It enhances regional security cooperation, strengthens Pakistan's leverage and opens avenues for industrial growth, energy security and employment. With careful policy management, diversification of partners and integration of economic objectives, this pact can serve as a catalyst for both national security and economic growth, reinforcing Pakistan's role as a credible regional player while benefiting citizens.

Q8: GAZA PEACE PLAN: CRITICAL EVALUATION, CHANCES OF SUCCESS, PAKISTAN'S POLICY AND POSSIBLE FALLOUTS:-

I. INTRODUCTION:-

The 2025 Gaza peaceplan proposed by the United States and backed by Western allies, aims to stabilize Gaza through cease fire, humanitarian aid, and conditional steps towards Palestine statehood. While designed to end hostilities and improve governance, it is contentious due to disputes over sovereignty, refugee right and political legitimacy. Its success depends on cooperation between Israel, Palestinian factions, regional powers, international actors, Pakistan - historically supportive of Palestine, face diplomatic and strategic considerations in engaging with this initiatives.

II- CRITICAL EVALUATION OF GAZA PEACE PLAN:-

1) HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOCUS:-

The plan prioritizes delivering essential aids to Gaza's population suffering from conflict, electricity shortages, and lack of medical facilities. International funding promises emergency health services, clean water, shelters, addressing immediate humanitarian crisis.

2) CONDITIONAL POLITICAL REFORMS:-

It proposes phased political reforms in Gaza aiming to improve governance and accountability. However, reliance on external oversight and conditionality makes acceptance by local factions uncertain, facing resistance from Hamas and civil society groups.

3) INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY:-

Endorsement by the US, EU and some Arab nations lends credibility to the plan. It can attract foreign donors for reconstruction projects and signal serious intent. Nevertheless, past failures like Oslo Accords weaken perceived enforceability.

4) STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS:-

The plan lacks strong enforcement mechanisms, it relies on compliance and good will rather than building incentives. Power imbalance particularly in favor of Israel, reduce Palestinian trust and limit grassroots leadership.

5) REGIONAL COMPLICATIONS:-

Neighboring states including Iran, Turkey hold competing interest in Gaza, potentially undermining the plan. Regional rivalries may either

obstruct or dilute plans depending on political shifts.

II CHANCES OF SUCCESS:-

1) SHORT TERM PROSPECTS:-

Temporary ceasefire and humanitarian aid delivery are achievable and early indicators show limited compliance in pilot districts. Short term measures can alleviate immediate civilian suffering and reduce escalations.

2) LONG TERM CHALLENGES:-

Long term resolution faces obstacles such as Palestinian factional divisions, Israel political rigidity and absence of enforcement timelines. With credible verification and compliance mechanisms, lasting peace remains unlikely.

3) INTERNATIONAL FATIGUE:-

Decades of failed negotiations have created global skepticism. Fatigue and declining international attention may reduce the plan's effectiveness if sustained pressure and oversight are absent.

IV - PAKISTAN'S POLICY REGARDING THE PLAN:-

1) DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS:-

Pakistan reiterates its principle stance for two state solution emphasizing sovereignty and refugee rights. It highlights needs for fair, balanced and inclusive peace process, consistent with historic positions.

2) MULTI-LATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

Islamabad channels advocacy

through OIC and UN platforms, ensuring balanced representation of Palestinian interest while navigating US and Gulf expectations. This approach preserves Pakistan's credibility as regional actor.

3) PRACTICAL BALANCING:-

While Pakistan publicly support Palestinian rights it avoids endorsing provisions perceived as disproportionately favoring Israel. This calibrated stance ensures domestic political alignment and international acceptability.

V POSSIBLE FALLOUTS FOR PAKISTAN:-

1) DIPLOMATIC AND DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS:-

Misalignment and regional or international expectations could

strain relations with Gulf allies and other Muslim majority states - Domestically political backlash may arise if plan is perceived as compromising Palestinian rights. Economic repercussions including aid or remittance would be impacted.

VI - CONCLUSION:

The 2025 Gaza Peace Plan offers short term humanitarian relief but faces structural and political ~~relief~~ obstacles for long term success. While partial ceasefire are feasible, lasting peace requires Palestinian and Israel cooperation and consistent international oversight.

Decision must navigate domestic opinions, regional dynamics, and global diplomacy through a principled multilateral approach that contribute meaningfully to Gaza stabilization while protecting its strategic and moral interest.

LOW RISK!

Q7: FUTURE OF US-CHINA TRADE WAR = CRITICAL EVALUATION IN LIGHT OF CHIPS AND RARE EARTH METALS:-

I- INTRODUCTION:-

The ongoing trade and technological rivalry between US and China has escalated into strategic confrontation where advanced semiconductor ~~etc~~ ~~are~~ chips are rare earth metals are key levers. In 2025, the US imposed export restrictions on high end chips to curb China's AI, quantum computing and defense technology progress. In retaliation, China restricted REMs exports, vital for electronics, aerospace, defense industries worldwide. This tit for tat dynamics not only affected bilateral trade but also global supply chains, industrial competitiveness, and geopolitical alignments.

2) US WEAPONISATION OF SEMI-CONDUCTOR CHIPS:-

The US increasingly treats advanced semi-conductor technology as strategic tool, restricting Chinese firms like SMIC and Huawei from high end chips. These chips are critical for AI, BG, defense system. By controlling supply US aims to slow down China's technological modernization and assert economic statecraft.

3) CHINA'S STRATEGIC RETALIATION WITH RARE EARTH ELEMENTS:-

China controls over 60% of the Rare Earth Elements globally and has responded to US chip restriction by limiting REMs exports. REMs are essential for aircrafts, mobile phones, renewable energy and defense industry. This move demonstrates China's ability

to leverage natural resources strategically, exposing vulnerabilities in US and allied supply chains.

4) ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL TRADE:-

The restrictions disrupts global supply chains causing price spikes for chips and rare earth dependant products. Firms in the US, South Korea, Japan and Germany face production delays and cost increase. Multinational firms may relocate or diversify supply sources, fragmenting trade networks and slowing global economic growth.

5) STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR US-CHINA RIVALRY:-

The chip-rare earth standoff reflects deeper strategic competition with the US seeking technological supremacy and China asserting

sovereignty over critical resources. The conflict may intensify military and industrial competition in Asia-Pacific, accelerate indigenous acceleration and increase geopolitical friction in region.

6) POTENTIAL FOR ESCALATION:

Future trade conflict could expand beyond chips and rare earths to AI software, batteries, critical mineral and renewable energies. Both countries may adopt export control tariffs or investment barriers. Escalation risk destabilizing global trade norms and may force countries to align with either US or China.

7) INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY RACE:

The standoff drive domestic innovations. China is investing heavily in chips, AI and quantum computing to reduce US dependence. Meanwhile, the US

incentivizes local semiconductor production via Chips Act 2020 (2025). This accelerates technological arms race likely to shape global industrial leadership.

8) IMPACTS ON EMERGING MARKETS:

Emerging economies reliant on electronics face higher costs and supply bottlenecks, slowing industrialization in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.

8) GLOBAL ECONOMIC REALIGNMENT:

The conflict accelerates division US aligned and China aligned economic spheres.

9) POLICY OPTIONS FOR BOTH COUNTRIES

US can boost domestic chip production, and China can recycle techs and engage through multilateral forums.

LESSONS FOR PAKISTAN & REGIONAL ECONOMIES:

Pakistan faces rising cost in electronics, defense and renewables. Strategic engagement with both powers and can upgrade vulnerable situation.

10. CONCLUSION:

The chip and rare earth confrontation exemplifies how economic and technological instruments are now central to US-China rivalry. Short term disruptions will affect global trade, emerging markets and industrial chains. Long-term conflict will define technological leadership, supply chain alignment and geopolitical influence. For countries like Pakistan, proactive economic upgrade and balanced foreign engagements are essential to mitigate risks from evolving in global trade war.