

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 in evidence do not qualify.

LANGUAGE (25%)

Focus on enhancing your grammar as any essay with 4-5 grammatical mistakes does not pass.

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.

STRUCTURE (20%)

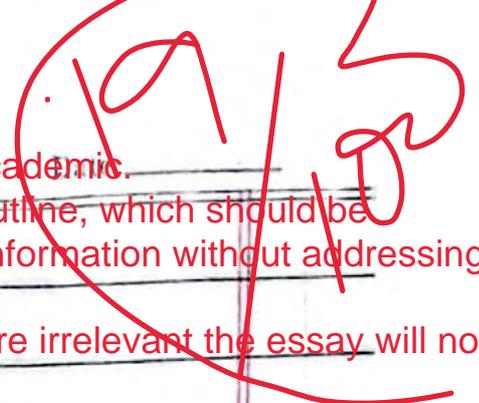
Your essay must follow the selected pattern and that structure should be maintained throughout.

INTRODUCTION: The introduction is the longest paragraph of the essay, at least 200 words. It should start with a hook, must give the glimpse of what's to come and must have a thesis statement. Besides hook, your introduction should not have any sort of information and reference. Avoid definitions in introduction.

BODY PARAGRAPHS: Approximately 150 words at most and all the body paragraphs must be consistent in length. Should follow the proper structure of an academic paragraph i.e. it must have a topic sentence, supporting point, evidence and concluding sentence. The topic sentence and concluding sentence must align with each other. There should be no new information in the concluding sentence. One paragraph represents one subheading in the outline and consists of one idea.

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%)



Topic: Foreign Aid: Road to Stability or Recipe for Disaster?

I. Introduction

- a) General statement
- b) Thesis statement

II. Overview of foreign Aid Practice

- a) What is foreign Aid?
- b) Institutions Involved in Foreign Aid:

III. Why Foreign Aid Is a Recipe for Disaster:

- a) Aid Creates Dependency

Reference: Dambisa Moyo critiques the effectiveness of foreign Aid in Africa.

- b) Aid Distorts National Priorities

Reference: Pakistan's post 9/11 aid prioritized security over health and education.

- c) Strengthens Authoritarian Regimes

Reference: Cold war aid sustained dictatorships in Latin America and Africa.

d) Undermines Local Institutions

Reference: Food Relief (in 2022 Floods) largely handled by NGOs.

e) Aid Encourages Brain Drain

Reference: Economic Instability induced by foreign aid pushed over 832,000 Pakistanis out of the country.

f) Fails to Reduce Poverty

Reference: Kenyans are dying of AIDS as a result of debt trap created by IMF Loans.

Loans and aid are different.

Aid is usually given to overcome social issues like poverty

g) Aid Weakens the Tax Institutions

Reference: Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio remains 9-10% - among the lowest globally.

Role of aid unclear in evidence

~~IV. Case Studies: Foreign Aid as a Road to Disaster~~

~~a) Pakistan's Aid Dependency without~~

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Development

b) Afghanistan's state collapse after aid withdrawal (2021)

c) Somalia state failure evident by OECD Fragile States Report.

v. Conclusion.

Case studies are writing as an example within the paragraphs.

The Essay

The economic stability of a nation dictates its political power and global prominence in a world that is changing quickly. The loopholes in economic structure create a room for state collapse. Countries that rely on foreign aids without building their own domestic institutions and revenue-generating channels experience a paradox: more aid, weaker states. Foreign aid has long been presented as a moral obligation of wealthy nations toward poorer states, promising stability, growth, and humanitarian relief. However, it is evident that instead of fostering institutional strength of recipient country, prolonged aid dependence has weakened governance structures and give rise to corruption. Foreign aid works opposite to state objectives. The detrimental social, economic, and political effect of bailouts on countries, making them one of the most impacting surfixe recipes for disaster. Economically, these aids, keep

Makes the basis of discussion conditional

long term

long term
no such form

Don't explain the points in introduction

Short introduction. No proper overview of the essay.

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the country^{mixed} in a cycle of dependency. Politically, these bailouts undermine a country's sovereignty. Socially, these bailouts cut nations' all social welfare spending. Therefore, in many developing countries, foreign aid has functioned less as a catalyst for development and more as a recipe for disaster and economic stagnation.

Foreign aid refers to technical, financial, or humanitarian assistance provided by one country or international organization to another, typically to promote development, reduce poverty, or respond to crises. Foreign aid may take in the form of grants, military assistance, concessional loans, or budgetary support.

Source of the definition

Your definition contradicts your points in the outline.

Foreign aid is delivered through a complex network. Institutions involved in the process of foreign aid are Ministry of Finance, State/Central Bank, Planning Commission, and Provincial Governments - at local level. Multilateral International Institutions pool resources from multiple countries and provide aid mainly for stabilization and development. World Bank

Crunch paragraph should be discussed as one paragraph.

Group, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Agencies, Regional Development Banks, Bilateral Donor Agencies, Humanitarian and Emergency Aid Institutions, Financial and Policy Coordination Forums, and NGOs are some instances under the umbrella of donor institutions.

How is this relevant to the discussion???

Foreign aid is a recipe for disaster, as demonstrated by the following arguments:

Don't start the paragraph with a quote, theory or reference of any sort. Directly address the argument in the topic sentence.

~~Dependency theory~~ explains how the global economic system benefits developed nations at the expense of developing ones. On the name of foreign aid, developed countries help developing countries to cope with temporary economic financial instability or ^{climate} weather-related disasters. In return, they seek to utilize poor countries' natural resources and markets. Dambisa Moyo in her book Dead Aid elaborated, this cycle effectively turns aid and loans into instruments of neo-colonial control, where funds intended for development are

Not the point mentioned in the outline.

Too long for a body paragraph. Does not match the point in outline. You point is how Aid creates dependency, not what global powers do in the name of aid. Also there is no analysis. Just a list of facts.

ultimately used to exploit the recipient through policy influence, repayment obligations, and strategic dependency. Pakistan's repeated recourse to IMF financing - 23 programs since 1958 - exemplifies how external loans instead of ensuring stability, have perpetuated economic vulnerability, policy conditionality, and weakened governance. Other than state matters, in our domestic lives, excessive dependency on others for daily needs breeds vulnerability when circumstances change. So, at country level, where millions of lives are concerned, foreign aid, if unchecked, can create cycles of vulnerability and control.

This isn't aid. Concessional loans are different. These IMF packages are not aid.

Foreign aids come with requirements such as structural reforms and austerity measures that challenge long-term favorability for recipient countries. For instance, IMF 2025 loan to Pakistan, the funding typically comes with strict economic reform conditions. No doubt, these measures aim to stabilise finances, improve competitiveness, and reduce fiscal imbalances but they can force

The example is not of aid.

governments to prioritise market-oriented restructuring over social spending. That is why Dambisa Moyo stated:

No argumentation and analysis

"Aid has been an unmitigated political, economic, and humanitarian disaster."

Irrelevant

No random quotes within the essay. Quotes should be part of paragraph and used as evidence to substantiate a point.

After 9/11 attack, Pakistan became heavily dependent on foreign aids and in

No structure to paragraph
Incoherent, no analysis

resulting Pakistan's foreign policy as well as national priority changed. Pakistan spent more on health security and ignored education and health sector, evidently. Over \$20 billion in total aid since FY2002, about 72% was security related, while only about 23% went to economic and civilian assistance. Education departments received tiny amount, equating to roughly \$64 million per year for millions of people - roughly \$1-\$2 per child annually.

Concluding sentence.

Authoritarian regimes flourish under the influence of foreign bailouts. In 2019, 79% of official development assistance

Source?

(ODA) went to authoritarian states and no accountability of funding distribution was recorded. Modernization Theory was developed after cold war era, posits that economic development leads to democratization. However, the experiences of Latin America and Africa challenge this assumption. For example, in Africa, large inflows of aid often strengthened state coffers, allowing leaders to suppress the civilians. While in Latin America, foreign aid and economic support sometimes reinforced military governments under the guise of stability. W.H. Auden's short poem "Epitaph on a Tyrant" symbolically reflects how foreign aid or external intervention reinforces authoritarian regimes.

No argumentation and analysis

This is an academic essay, you cannot write like this. Write only as paragraphs.

Perfection, of a kind, was what he was
after,

And the poetry he invented was easy
to understand;

He knew human folly like the back of
his hand,

And was greatly interested in armies
and fleets

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Directly address the argument in the topic sentence.

Local Institutions are the backbone of democratic structure. They work at the very basic level with civilians and people of the country to provide one-to-one assistance. Due to foreign aids, external or international organizations enter into country's territory and work like local organizations. Sometimes, they collaborate with local body of government or organize humanitarian programs on their own. In this way, they replace local institutions of the respective country. They create parallel structures, reduce local autonomy, and enforce external priorities that undermine long-term governance capacity of the state. For instance, during 2022 flood relief programmes, NGOs and international funding over-shadowed the role of local government during crisis management, according to **2023 UNDP** report. The inauguration of Ivy League colleges in Pakistan largely affect local colleges and universities that prioritize research favored by large donors over their traditional

academic goals - when money talks, institutions often listen - sometimes at the expense of their original mission.

Brain drain is a major burning problem for developing nations like Pakistan - where significant youth bulge ^{exists} and young people leave country due to economic constraints. In Pakistan, 832,000 young or skilled workers left Pakistan for employment. Foreign aid is largely associated with the migration of the more educated persons. Specifically, a 1% of GDP increase in aid induces a 7% increase in skilled emigration.

Foreign aid, especially when it comes as financial support, technical assistance, or development projects, often improves infrastructure, education, and income-levels. It paradoxically makes it easier for skilled workers to migrate. Brain Drain is one of the factors within the **Aid Curse Hypothesis**. It argues that aid inflow can create dependency and distort national priorities. One of its key manifestations

No argumentation and analysis.

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is brain drain - that undermines domestic capacity of the country. Hence, foreign aid is not a viable solution for many developing countries. World Bank also stated in 1998 that:

Aid works only in good policy environments - which most fragile states lack.

IMF bailouts are one of the reasons why inflation in Pakistan has hit a 48-year high in recent years. Pakistan is a developing country, its poverty rate reported as 39.8% - 44.7%. As of 2025, approximately 45% of Pakistan's population is living under poverty. Foreign aids, as explained earlier, disturbs national priorities and undermines local institutions. State of the government think nothing but how to repay the loan to donor countries. Adding fuel to fire, the strict regulations and reforms come along with the bailouts largely affects the domestic policies of the country.

Policies are the source to implement the plans. For example, when IMF reforms for Pakistan forces government to focus on market-oriented fiscal policies, it breeds the wave of interest shift. Every country has different socio-economic problems that are solvable through policy making and policy implementation. But the "debt trap" of foreign aid does not allow the government to consider poverty as a national problem - that needs emergency elimination.

Case studies of countries where heavy reliance on foreign aid led to political, economic, or institutional disaster.

Pakistan, since 1950s, has utilized over ^{USD} 130 billion external aid from IMF and other. Moreover, since 1958, Pakistan has received approximately 24 IMF programs for development and stabilization. These recurrent bailouts weakened the domestic revenue institutions like FBR, IMF conditionalities caused

policy instability and reform fatigue. The outcome of aid dependency without reforms is Pakistan's weak-governance, elite capture, and persistent IMF dependency. The other case in point is Afghanistan - that received over USD 145 billion (2001-2021), mostly from US and allies. In result, aid led to a recipe for disaster, created a **rentier state** that is disconnected from citizens. In 2021, US aid withdrawal caused immediate state collapse. Some international institutions aid countries with no central authority like Somalia. In Somalia, aid strengthened warlords and militias, where there was no taxation and hence no accountability.

In conclusion, foreign aid is a double-edged sword that works for the betterment of country temporarily as well as a recipe for destruction or disaster. For developing countries, foreign bailouts are helpful for short-run,

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but it is evident that they destroy governance in the long run. Foreign aid in countries like Pakistan, Venezuela, Tanzania, Africa, Somalia has proved to be a disaster. It undermines government potential to grow in crisis situation. It disturbs national priorities, policy reforms, local institutions, and fiscal discipline of the country. To cope with drawbacks of foreign aid, developing countries need to realize the side-effects foreign aid has on their governments. If pursue these aid unchecked, governments can collapse and structure of government would not be able to stand firm even if little change in circumstances happen.