



## Political Science & International Relations

### Crash Course & Test Series - 2021

#### Test 06

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

Name

Chauhan

Test Date

Email Address

UPSC Roll No

#### Instructions:

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.
2. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
3. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. Write the test in exam atmosphere.
9. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

S. No.	a	b	c	d	e	Total
1						
2				X	X	
3				X	X	
4						
5				X	X	
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8						
Grand Total						

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# SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					

Overall Remarks:

Dear Student,

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All the best for next test...!!!



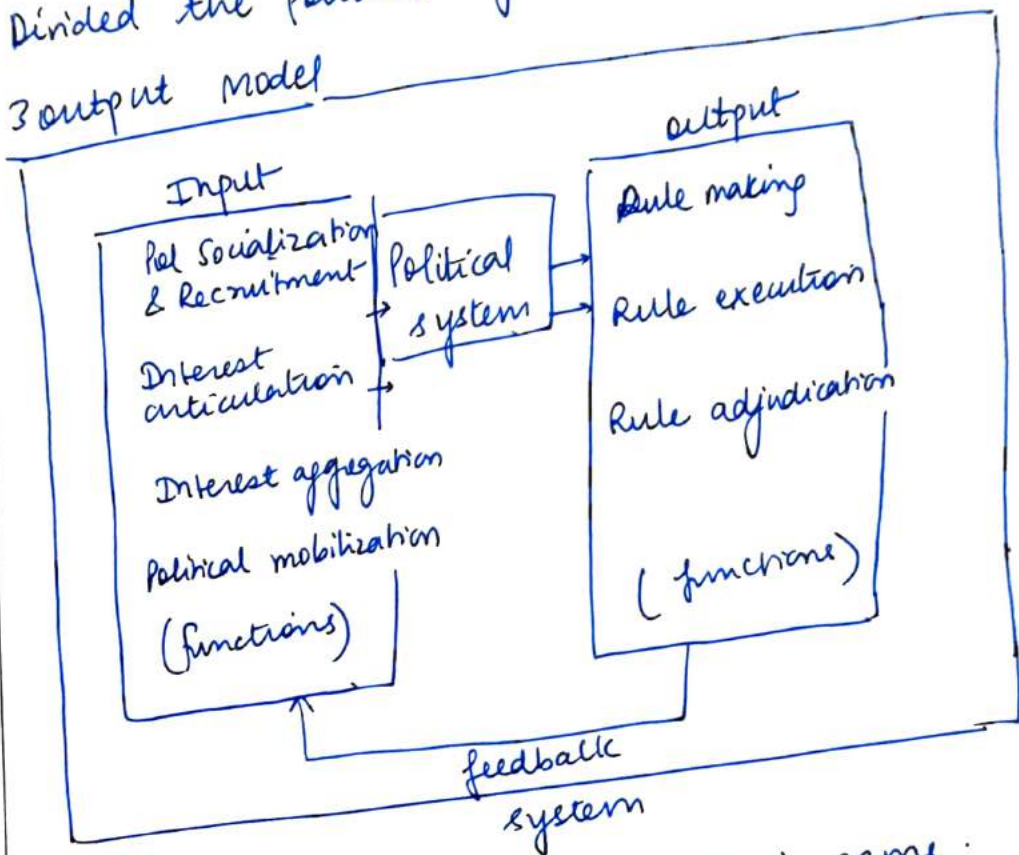
e.1 (a)

Discuss the limitations of structural functional approach to the study of comparative politics. (10 Marks)

The structural - functional approach was given by Gabriel Almond & Powell to overcome the limitations of the system's approach of David Easton.

Approach:

Divided the political system into 4 input - 3 output model



The functions across countries remain same.  
The structures performing them may vary.

Limitations :

- 1) By Traditionalists → very simplistic understanding  
→ can only be used in initial conceptual framework  
→ not in-depth
  
- 2) By Marxists → status-quoist - not change oriented  
→ western system as 'ideal' type  
→ tries to give a universalistic model - not role to society

nevertheless, it has been a valuable approach towards understanding of political systems across countries.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

ie.1(b)

Comment on Morgenthau's views on national interest. (10 Marks)

Morgenthau gives an extensive theory of National Interest in his theory on classical Realism (Book - Politics amongst Nations).

According to him, the primary goal of countries is to ensure national interests.

National Interest is the "physical, human, cultural security of a nation".

It is the basic means of survival of a nation.

For him, power is the means to achieve the National Interest.

All countries through their foreign policies aim to ensure their national interest. National interest is best secured when countries have enough power.

Therefore, power is both the means as well as the end.

So, therefore, there is no role of ethics in



in politics as the prime objective is only to secure the individual interest.

This view is contested by liberals, who say not just security but other interests (like prosperity, peace) also matters.

Social Constructivists also reject this view that human security is also of importance.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Q.1(c)

Elucidate the difference between defensive and offensive realism.  
(10 Marks)

The concept of Defensive & offensive realism belongs to Neo-Realist tradition (focusing on Behavioural approaches).

While Defensive Realism was given by Kenneth Waltz in 1979 during the Detente phase in cold war ;

Offensive Realism - given by Mearsheimer in his book - "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics" in 2001 (during rise of China).

## Defensive Realism

1. Nations are security maximisers.

In their struggle for power, they achieve only enough power to balance other nations.

2. Establishing hegemony is counter-productive.

## offensive Realism

1. Nations are power seekers.

Nations seek to establish hegemony.

2. hegemony is not counter-productive as other nations will



## Defensive Realism

as it leads to build up of counter-coalitions.

eg. Against Germany during world war II

3. Power is the means, security is the end.

4. Techniques - balance of power through internal or external balancing

## offensive Realism

either go for bandwagoning or buckpassing.

eg - ASEAN states bandwagoning with China

3. Power is the means & the end.

4. Technique - increase hard power

Therefore, both differ in terms to how to manage security dilemma.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Q.1(d)

Write a short note on Religious Terrorism with reference to Al Qaeda (10 Marks)

Religious Terrorism is one of the kinds of terrorism where religious ideology forms a basis to conduct terror activities & threaten people.

The growth of religious terrorism in present world is linked to increase in globalisation. This was seen by such groups as a threat to their native cultures, leading to fundamentalism.

Al-Qaeda as a terror outfit is based out of Afghanistan & Pakistan with an aim to establish Islamic identity against western influence.

The 9/11 September Attack on World Trade Centre in US were led by Al-Qaeda as an attack against US-led neo-liberal world order.

This led to beginning of Clash of Civilisation i.e. clash between western values v/s

Islamic fundamentalism.

Since then, Al-Qaeda has orchestrated many attacks in west  
eg. lone-wolf attacks in European countries

Not just against the west, they aim to reestablish the orthodox Islamic fundamentalism in areas like Afghanistan, Pakistan.  
eg. curb on women rights

With rise of ISIS, and many other groups, religious terrorism has become a growing security challenge for the world at large.

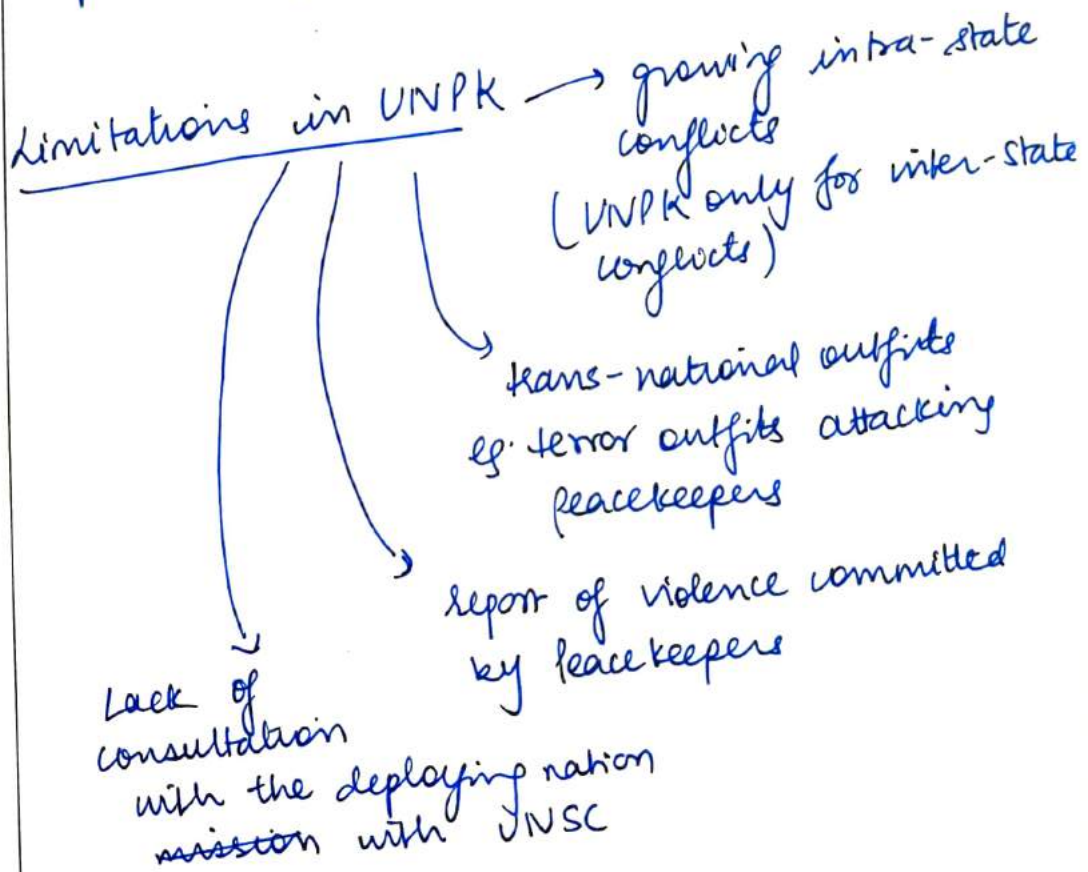
Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



e.1(e)

## Enumerate Reforms needed in UN peacekeeping. (10 Marks)

UN Peacekeeping <sup>(UNPK)</sup> is an extra-constitutional growth in the UN charter introduced by the then UN secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld. It was meant to ensure continued relevance of UN in its primary responsibility of ensuring peace & security.



### Reforms to address these limitations:

1. Consultative mechanism between states providing peacekeeping & UNSC before

- their deployment.
2. Strengthen their resources of modernisation of weapons to deter non-state actors
  3. Increase funding to peacekeeping by developed nations
  4. Accountability mechanism & strict action in case of abuses reported against UNPK
  5. Improve training focusing on partnering in reconstruction & redevelopment.

UNPK is one of urgent needed area where reforms are needed. The relevance of UN continues till today because of the efforts of UNPK forces to ensure security & stability.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



e.2(a)

The rivalry between USA and China has become a guiding paradigm of international relations shaping both scholarly debates and real world of politics. Discuss (20 Marks)

Joseph Nye had remarked, that once the cold war with Russia will end, the cold war with China will emerge.

The rise of China has been remarked as the most important event of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As US had been the hegemon from 1991 to 2001, rising China presents a threat to its position.

The rivalry between USA & China has become more extreme with global events like 2008 financial crisis leading to question mark on US established neo-liberal world order.

This has shaped scholarly debates like:

1. Mearsheimer in his Book "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics" gave

concept of offensive Realism. He points out that Chinese rise is not 'peaceful' but China has offensive intentions to displace US hegemony.

2. Neo-liberals conception:

Joseph Nye & Robert Keohane says the US-China relation is "Complex Interdependence". They have huge economic interdependence but are essentially antagonistic to each other.

3. Social constructionists agree that it is upon US-China to see themselves as 'enemy'. They can choose not to see each other as rivals.

4. Game theorists say there is a "Prisoners Dilemma" between US & China. Both have no trust in each other's intentions, so will go for least advantageous option.  
eg. as seen in Afghanistan



The rivalry has also shaped real world politics:

1. US's Asia Pivot / Asia Rebalance Strategy -

US has gone for external balancing / buckpassing to prevent the rise of China as a regional hegemon

eg. Increasing defense partnership with India - which acts as a 'swing' state for US

2. China's initiative for BRICS, SCO, BRI - challenging US led economic order

eg. BRICS's NDB & AIIB as a challenge to US led Bretton Woods Institutions

likewise BRI aims to put China at centre of global supply chains.

3. Rise importance of Indian Ocean & Naval rivalry in the region

eg. China's string of pearls countering US presence in the Indian Ocean

#### 4. shifting alliances

eg. Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Russia growing closer to China

While US going for QUAD (India, Japan, Australia)

#### 5. offshoots in other areas

eg. US withdrawal from Afghanistan to realign its strategic priorities

Therefore, US-China rivalry continues to dominate the International affairs. With growing de-globalisation & use of various diplomacy of China, the situation is becoming even more intense.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	





Q.2(b)

"The center of gravity of International politics is shifting towards Indo-Pacific". Comment. Analyse the role of Quad in advancing the areas of cooperation and Mutual Interest in the region. (15 Marks)

Indo-Pacific as a term was given by German Geo political scientist Karl Haushofer.

In the recent times, we have seen major countries emphasising on Indo-Pacific.

1. US's Asia Rebalance Policy and Indo-Pacific vision - "extending from Hollywood to Bollywood, Polar bears to Penguins" → seeking to balance rise of China

2. China's growing assertion through Belt & Road initiative in Indian Ocean (Maritime Silk Route) & conflict in South China sea

3. India's Act East Policy - focusing on relation with ASEAN & other Pacific nations

Reasons:

1. Economically dynamic area around 50% of Global GDP by 2040



2. half of the world's population in the area

3. six of the G20 members ; nuclear powers present here

4. Important sea lanes of communication :  
60% of global maritime trade passes through Indo-Pacific

## Role of Quad in advancing cooperation & interest

QUAD is a regional grouping comprising four important members of Indo-Pacific (US, India, Japan and Australia)

1. Its origins lay in common operation during Tsunami in 2004 - hence have cooperated in HADR operations

2. Ensuring security of region .  
eg. common military exercise MALABAR, controlling non-conventional threats like piracy, terrorism

3. Ensuring safe, open & inclusive Indo-Pacific - no power asserts its predominance in region eg. China .



- 4. Cooperation during COVID Pandemic - supply chains for vaccine delivery
- 5. Resilient supply chain initiative to counter Chinese BRI
- 6. Technology framework eg. working together on 5G
- 7. Cybersecurity collaboration

Thus, as MEA S. Jaishankar says, "QUAD is area for broad convergence of interests. seeing it as an anti-china platform will be a mistake."

Therefore, QUAD aims to ensure more inclusive development in Indo-Pacific.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que. 2(c)

Since the end of the cold war nothing had a more decisive impact on the structure of the international system than the rise of China.

Elucidate. (15 Marks)

Napoleon had said, "once china will rise out of its slumber, it will astonish the world."

The rise of china had been one of the most prominent feature of 21<sup>st</sup> century world order.

The end of cold war had marked beginning of Unipolar world order under US. However, with China, it seems to be on decline.

Impact on structure of International System

1. Challenge to neo-liberal economic order -

For example, Fareed Zakaria says 2008 marks the end of American order. With 2008 Global financial crisis, we see 'decline of west, rise of Rest' especially BRICS countries.



NDB & AIIB led by china has come up as an alternative to World Bank & IMF.

2. Shift from multilateralism to regionalism  
eg. dysfunctionality of WTO led to growth of regional pacts like RCEP, EU-China Investment pact-

3. BRI as an alternative to global supply chains

eg. China's assertion over Indian Ocean with its 'String of Pearls' strategy

4. Rise of unconventional warfare tools  
eg. space wars, cyber wars, technology dominance led by China

5. Global uncertainty

eg. Traditional allies of US like EU becoming closer to china

Chinese President Xi Jinping in his address in 19th CPC said that china will aim to establish a new order based on Neo-



Confucius principles.  
With Chinese rise, the world system is increasingly shifting towards Bipolarity.

As former NSA Shiva Shankar Menon puts 'the new world order is marked by military unipolarity, economic bipolarity and politically confused'. This has been result of rise of China & its impact.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.3(a)

Do you think that the International Institutions played significant role in making cooperation possible among the nation states? Give examples to substantiate your point of view. (20 Marks)

The concept of International Institutions was an outcome of liberal approach to International politics.

Woodrow Wilson marked, "International institutions can turn a jungle (anarchy) into zoo (tamed anarchy)".

Over the years, they have played a significant role. —

1) United Nations → prevented third world war. Provided a platform for peaceful resolution of disputes

2) Reduces the chances of power struggle & security dilemma — as there are international rules

eg. UN charter providing for collective action in case of threat —

- 3) Platform to cooperate in divergent areas  
eg. Trade in WTO, climate in UNFCCC's COP
- 4) Pressurise through alliance of like-minded countries  
eg. NAM, G-77 grouping in UN for reforms suitable for developing nations
- 5) Provide support in case of crisis  
eg. IMF, World Bank loans for development
- 6) Work on trans-national ~~problems~~ problems  
eg. terrorism, climate change

Therefore, it has led to improved cooperation among nations. Acted as an impetus to Globalization.

However, there are lacunae -

1. Democratic deficit institutions

eg. Joseph Stiglitz mentions "Institutions of





Global Governance suffer from democracy deficit."  
This has led to discontentment of  
Globalization.

2. Dominance of West - control these  
institutions → led to rise of parallel  
institutions

eg. ADB, AIB, NDB

3. Intra-state problems getting inadequate  
attention

eg. UN's failures over civil wars in Asian  
& African countries

4. Lack of representation of developing world

5. Economic institutions perpetuate global  
inequalities

eg. 'conditionalities' imposed on Global South

Therefore, the need is for "reformed  
multilateralism with a reformed UN at the  
core of it to ensure human security" as  
put forward by PM Modi.



3(b)

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Q.3(b)

How do feminist approach to International Politics contribute in addressing the subordination of Women in Global politics? (15 Marks)

Feminist approach is a counter to mainstream theories of international politics.

Their Contribution:

1. Lynthia Eise in Book "Beaches, Banana & Bases" highlight how women is missing from international politics.

She asks, "Where are the women?"

2. She also raises the issue that IR is a masculinist discipline. This has led to more war. [as wars are seen as masculine]

3. She propounds that if women's perspective is included in international relations, this will lead to less war as women are the worst sufferers in wars.

Therefore, she says "Personal is International  
International in Personal"

4. Further, need for women in decision making role and not just in secondary role (eg. Wives of Ambassadors)

5. Ann J. Tickner has given the alternative approach to Morganthau's 6 principles of Realism - highlighting women's role in IR.

eg. national security includes human security.

Ethics is not separate from Politics.

Power is a means but not the end

Therefore, these scholars aim to address the subordination of women in IR.

However, Robert Keohane contest these theories as partial and lack of verification.



Still, feminist approach brings an important area of gender equality in focus in IR.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.3(c)

Discuss the constructivist critique of realism. How does the Constructive critique differ from the postmodernist critique of realism? (15 Marks)

Constructivists criticise the realist conception of 'Anarchy as the system in International Politics'

For Realists — Anarchy is a given which leads to security dilemma.

Constructivists criticise this position & argue —

◦ Alexander Wendt says  
'Anarchy is what states make of it'.

ie. Anarchy is a construction by states & not necessarily given to us by God. It is upon states to look at each other's enemies or friends.

◦ They contest that states are rational actors. They say states are made up of humans who are



not rational. They are shaped by perceptions.  
Therefore, states are also not rational.

◦ Martha Finnemore - highlights the importance of Norms in IR unlike realists who give more importance to only material structure.

Therefore, for constructivists 'war is not inevitable'. It is upon states to not choose war as an option.

They give concept like securitization (Barry Buzan) & Strategic culture (Jack Snyder) to highlight the role of ideas & perception in shaping foreign policies.

Post modernist Critique

Influenced from Lyotard, Derrida & Foucault rests upon knowledge - power connection.



They maintain Realism is a dominant narrative because they shape the perception of states that war is inevitable. And so when it happens, it proves their theory.

While post-modernist highlight different forms of narratives and how a dominant narrative establish its hegemony;

Social Constructivist focuses on society's role in shaping foreign policy.  
eg. Norms, ideas, values, culture of society.

For post-modernist nothing is truth, for Social Constructivist - society influences our ideas, norms, our decisions.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	





ue.5(a)

Discuss the Role of Soft power : as a major foreign policy tool for India. (10 Marks)

The concept of soft power has been given by neo-liberal scholar Joseph Nye. He defines soft power as - 'power which works through cooption rather than coercion.'

India, being a civilisational state, has immense reservoir of soft power.

As Shashi Tharoor puts it there is immense potential for Indian soft power in field of -

1. Role of Religion

eg. Buddhism as a link with South East & East Asian States

Islam with Middle East States

2. Role of Indian Democracy & pluralism as an attractive factor towards India

3. Concessional loans & capacity building

done by India

eg. India gave ODA of around \$6bn to other nations



eg. Capacity building initiatives in Africa

4. Yoga, Indian movies, cuisine, music  
as its soft power

5. India's focus on non-violence, peaceful settlement of disputes, South-South cooperation

6. Indian diaspora (16 million people)  
However, as Rohan Mukherjee puts it that  
it remains underutilised.

eg. only 35 ICCR centres in comparison to  
China's 350 Confucius centres

Therefore, we need to augment our resources  
& leverage other stakeholders (like private  
sector & people to people ties) to further build  
our soft power.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



ue.5(b)

Lack of trust between India and Sri Lanka has made the relationship transactional. Comment. (10 Marks)

Shiv Shankar Menon in his book "Choices: making of India's foreign policy" highlights that Sri Lanka is like an unsinkable aircraft carrier just 14 miles away from Indian coast".

Therefore, security of India is linked to its maritime neighbours.

Over the years, we have seen lack of trust in relation as -

1. India's involvement in Sri Lanka civil war in 1990s - seen as interference in domestic affairs
2. India's domestic political opposition towards Sri Lanka's treatment of Tamils
3. India's negative vote against Sri Lanka in UNHRC over war crimes

This led to Sri Lanka often using 'China card' against India.

This has made relation transactional as -

1. Focus only on economic relation - no effort to improve trade relation
2. No joint collaboration in spheres like education, health, technology
3. Only maritime interests between two.

Hence, there is a need to harness potential of both nations. Need to move beyond domestic issues to collaborate in emerging areas like Blue economy, sustainable development.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Q.5(c)

Explain the New horizons in India Africa relations. (10 Marks)

India - Africa has had ancient linkages with Africa referred to as 'Mother Continent'

with increasing economic growth in Africa, the continent has shown 'resurgence' in recent times.

The 10 guiding principles given by PM in Uganda highlight the new horizons in India - Africa relations.

1. Africa at top of India's foreign policy priority - Increasing line of credit (LoC) given to African countries, almost all African countries have Indian embassy

2. Focus on African solutions

eg. Building capacity of Africa under ITEC programme, training of African professionals

3. Focus on security issues

eg. maritime security under SAGAR, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium to control piracy off African coast



- 4. Shift from Bilateral to Multilateral  
eg. India-Africa forum summits
- 5. Partnering in areas like Climate change  
(International solar Alliance), sustainable  
Development
- 6. Partnering with 3rd country eg. with Japan-  
for Asia Africa Growth Corridor

Therefore, India-Africa relation have gained new dynamism in recent past and continue to grow with increasing business & people linkages.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.5(d)

Elaborate the reasons why India needs more FTAs. (10 Marks)

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are those which seek to reduce tariff barriers to goods, services & investment, thereby improving market access to goods.

India has only one regional FTA with ASEAN, and few bilateral FTAs like with Japan, South Korea etc.

### Need of more FTAs

1. Dysfunctional WTO - therefore, FTAs are needed to improve trade relations
2. Focus on export led growth - The success of 'make in India' depends on easy access to other markets
3. To be part of Global supply chains -
4. Improve competitiveness of Indian products  
eg. Exclusion from RCEP make Indian goods expensive vis RCEP signatories



5. Push to services sector - which is export-dependent

However, the experience of Indian FTAs has not been good.

eg. Trade deficit with 11 out of 15 RCEP nations.

Hence, need is to carefully balance our interests in new FTAs and renegotiate existing ones to serve our economic interests.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks:	





Q.5(e)

Write a short note on India's humanitarian diplomacy. (10 Marks)

Recent COVID pandemic saw India punching much above its weight & taking leadership during the crisis.

India's humanitarian diplomacy can be seen through various areas -

1. Aid and assistance during disasters  
eg. Quick assistance to Nepal during 2015  
Nepal Earthquake  
Assistance to Tsunami-hit regions during 2004  
Tsunami in Indian Oceans

2. with respect to food security  
eg. food supplies to Afghanistan as it faces 'acute' food shortages as highlighted by world food programme

3. Medicines Aid

eg. medicines to African countries for AIDS, TB, measles etc.

Recent Vaccine Maitri Initiative - prandip

for vaccines worldwide

4. Largest contributor to UN Peacekeeping forces -  
more than 2,50,000 <sup>personnel</sup> ~~people~~ have been  
contributed

5. Evacuation missions during civil wars  
eg. Rahat, Santkat Mochan

This has earned considerable goodwill for  
India. Continues to be a strong element  
of our soft power.

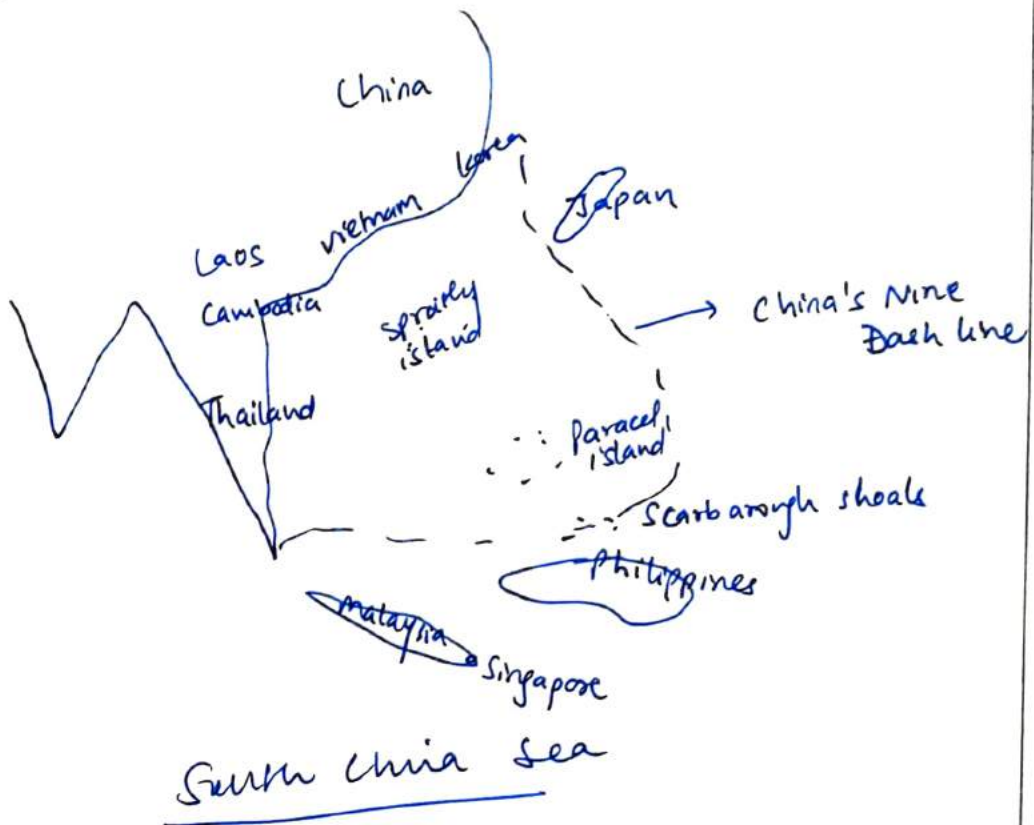
Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.6(a)

**Fight for South China Sea is the fight for the soul of international order. Comment. What is India's approach to South China Sea? (20 Marks)**

Indo-Pacific is emerging as the next great place for 'Game of Powers'. South China sea remains an integral arena of this Great Game.



Fight for South China Sea:

1: China's assertion over Islands of South China sea - Nine Dash line

In conflict with other territories like Vietnam, Philippines



2. China's militarisation of these islands of Spratly & Paracel islands with an aim to control trade in South China sea
3. Increasing Chinese naval presence - encroaching others territorial waters in the region

The clear violation of UNCLOS over high seas trade has raised uncertainty over China not obeying global laws.

As a fight for soul of international order:

1. Refusal to comply with decision of Permanent Court of Arbitration - seen as defiance to global institutions
2. As an act against freedom of navigation (basis for liberal world order)
3. Aggressive approach over peaceful resolution of disputes
4. ASEAN states bandwagoning with China



(discussion over draft code of conduct) - showing increasing hegemony of China in region

5. may lead to China asserting its dominance in other areas

eg. Indian ocean through string of beads, in territorial disputes

Therefore, saving the soul of International order based on rules-based order is necessary in the conflict in South China Sea.

India's approach:

1. In his vision for Indo-Pacific, PM Modi in Shangri La Dialogue (2018) called for "open, inclusive & rules based Indo-Pacific".

ie. India wants South China Sea to be inclusive for all.

2. Adherence to rules under UNCLOS and abiding by decision of Tribunal is the approach of India towards the dispute

3. Partnering with like-minded countries eg. through QUAD to ensure safe & secure maritime connectivity

4. Defence partnerships with countries eg. Vietnam, Indonesia to strengthen their capacities

India's trade with East Asia & South East Asia goes through South China Sea. Hence, it is imperative for India to ensure that the region remains open for all the countries.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que. 6(b)

USA's exit necessitates paradigmatic shift in India's Afghanistan policy. Explain? (15 Marks)

USA's exit from Afghanistan has altered the geodynamics of the Central Asian region.

India's Afghanistan policy prior to exit has been —

1. Focus on 'Afghan led, Afghan controlled talks' — through Afghan Government
2. No talks with Terror eg. No diplomatic relation with Afghanistan when Taliban was in power in 1990s

However, now there is a need to shift in our policy.

Necessity of shift:

1. Taliban in power — much more stronger control than before
2. Learning from past experience eg. IC814 hijack, giving strategic space to Pakistan



3. Need to maintain stable Afghan relations - ensure Afghan not used to launch terror attacks in India

4. Control the support to Indian insurgent groups in J&K

This shift has been seen through:

1. Informal attendance in the 'Moscow Format' led by Russia in talks with Taliban
2. Minister for External Affairs virtually present in Doha Talks with Taliban
3. Indian readiness to engage with all parties in the region including Taliban
4. Supply of essential medicines & relief to Afghanistan

To ensure regional balance & its own national interest it is important





for India to have a more nuanced approach.  
The Indian Resolution in UN on Afghanistan  
in reflection of our intention to ensure  
terrorism does not take roots in Taliban-  
led Afghanistan.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que. 6(c)

New Delhi faces challenges in managing its relations with Iran within its competing interests and conflicting relations with other countries. Discuss? (15 Marks)

Relations of India-Iran has always been dictated by larger geo-politics.  
eg. Durny cold war, Iran closeness to US, and India's non-alignment.

Present challenges include -

1) managing competing interests -

- India's dependence on Iran for access to Afghanistan & Central Asia versus Iran's closeness to Pakistan
- Developing India's naval presence in Chabahar port as a counter to Pakistan's Gwadar port (under China's BRI)
- Energy security - Iran as a cheaper option for supply of oil
- Iran important stakeholder to manage Pakistan in the region



However, these interests have been in conflict with India's relations with other countries -

## Managing conflicting relations :

1. India - US : Pressurising India to reduce dependence on Iran

eg. US sanctions on Iran - hindering development of Chabahar port

Led India to reduce oil imports from Iran

Hampered India's connectivity projects  
eg. INSTC, Chabahar port -

2. India - Saudi Arabia (~~Leff~~ Gulf countries) -  
who see Iran as a rival

3. India - Israel - growing relations with Israel which is a rival to Iran

This has put India on a diplomatic tightrope vis Iran. Iran often accuses India as 'India's qiblah is Washington' as it prefers US over Iran relations.

With recent growth in Iran - China - Pakistan axis, this relation has got more strained.

However, need is to realize Iran remains an important partner & a good relation is beneficial for both of nations.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	