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PSIR CRASH COURSE

TEST - (3)

NAME - KRISHNA JOSHI

DATE - 20-08-2023

UPSC ROLL NO. - 2201788

Political Science & International Relations**Crash Course & Test Series - 2023****Test 3****Time Allowed: 3 Hours****Max Marks: 250****Name** _____**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				X	X	
5						
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8				X	X	
Grand Total						

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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,

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

Q1.7 (a) Comment on post-modernist critique of structuralism. (10)

Structuralist theory believes that there is an objective reality that can be comprehensively understood. This theory has been derived from Ferdinand D. Saussure's concept of structuralism in language.

Saussure stated that language is capable of communicating objective realities. However, post-modernists like Foucault and Derrida have outrightly challenged structuralism.

According to post-modernists, there is no objective reality, rather everything is a "discourse". Post modernists believe "knowledge is power" i.e. no knowledge is absolute rather the narratives

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of the powerful are imposed as
"knowledge".

While structuralists talk of one
absolute truth, post-modernists
assert that there are multiple
truths and no truth is
complete in itself.

Post-modernist theory is of
particular relevance in the
contemporary world of "complex
interdependence" where there are
multiple narratives and
centres of power.

(b) Discuss the feminist approach to security. (10)

"Personal which is political,
is also quite likely, international"
- Cynthia Enloe

The concept of security holds key importance in international politics. Traditionally, security has been defined by realists in terms of power. According to them, each state is a source of "security dilemma" to the other. Therefore, states must acquire power in order to ensure security.

According to liberals, security pertains to both international and human security. Therefore, states must engage in cooperation and interdependence.

However, feminist approach to security rejects these conventional state-centric definitions of security. Feminists like Ann J. Tickner assert that the scope of security should be widened to include women's security both in public as well as private spaces. The violence against women in war, and conflict, women's work as prostitutes near military bases, care workers for wounded soldiers, and as decision makers also needs to be included in international debates on peace and security.

According to feminists, feminist notion of security, peace and justice is more conducive for creating a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world.

(C) Discuss the role of MNCs in shaping the politics across the developing countries. (10)

Multinational corporations are companies whose business operations are spread across multiple countries.

MNCs have been playing important role in shaping the politics of developing countries since the rise of capitalism in 17th-18th century.

Initially companies like East India company colonised the countries of Asia and Africa and drained them of their wealth and resources.

In the contemporary context, MNCs are engaged in controlling developing countries through market and cultural dominance.

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MNCs have provided wider variety of goods, services and technology to the developing world yet at the same time, they have been interfering in their political domains. In some countries, MNCs have promoted the democratic narratives of west. Macdonaldisation, coca-colisation are examples of cultural imperialism unleashed by MNCs. MNCs have also diluted the sovereignty of states due to their transnational reach.

Marxist scholars have charged MNCs for draining the wealth of peripheral developing countries to promote the welfare of industrialised core.

Therefore, we can say that the control of MNCs over developing countries has changed from geopolitical to geo-economical.

(d) Describe the political sociology approach. (16)

Political Sociology approach in comparative politics is an inter-disciplinary approach that studies how society and politics interact with each other.

The approach particularly studies the phenomena located at the interface of politics and society like pressure groups, voting behaviour, etc.

The significance of this approach stems from the fact that it has enabled the study of developing countries. Traditional

approaches of comparative politics relied on studying only the institutional

structures across the states
However, developing countries
cannot be studied through
that approach because they
often lack constitutionalism

Understanding the influence of
society on politics and vice-versa
makes the analysis more
diverse and comprehensive.

For instance, Rajni Kothari's study
of casteisation of politics and
politicisation of caste in India
is a suitable example of
political sociology approach

However, the approach has been
criticised by political scientists
who fear that the subject
of politics might get
submerged under sociology.
Therefore, scholars like
Theda Skocpol have called the
"state back in".

(e) Critically evaluate Democratic peace theory. (10)

Democratic peace theory has been one of the most influential ideas of Immanuel Kant.

Kant, in his pamphlet 'Perpetual Peace' popularised the democratic peace theory.

The theory suggests that democratic regimes are conducive for world peace.

Accountability to citizens, pressure of public opinion and institutionalised systems of checks and balances, keep democratic regimes away from thinking of engaging in war.

However, the theory has been criticised by scholars as a

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sign of hegemony of the west.
USA, in particular has used
this theory to encourage
regime change. Scholars have
suggested that US policy
of promoting democracy at
gun-point, like in Afghanistan
causes more insecurity and
destabilisation in the
world, than peace.

Democratisation in the world
order and non-interference
in internal affairs of states
can be considered as
viable strategies for world
peace.

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Q2. Discuss the feature of system theory of International Politics. Do you think it is an inadequate theory? (20 m.)

System theory of International Politics considers the world as a system constituted by individual units. The study of interaction between the units and the system as a whole is the core concern of this approach.

The approach is a part of behaviouralist tradition in International Politics that seeks to understand the "science of politics". Systems theory is known to have been inspired by Ludwig von Betanlaffy's concept of "integration of knowledge",

which means application of concepts ^{and} ~~of~~ terminologies of natural sciences in politics.

the systems theory has been used by Morton Kaplan to understand the world order. He creates around ten different models of world system including unipolar, bipolar, unstable block, multipolar, etc. He presents these models in terms of poles as areas of magnetic attraction which attract the satellite states.

Though this approach has added diversity and objectivity to the discipline, it has been criticised by many scholars.

According to Liber, this theory has no explanatory relevance and is nothing more than a conceptual framework.

Traditionalists like Hedley Bull have also pointed out the inadequacies of this approach. According to them, the theory unnecessarily complicates the discipline by adding technical jargon. Moreover, it has no analytical value as it is simply presenting models without explaining how one system transforms into the other.

However, the theory cannot be completely dismissed. It has been most appropriately

defined as a "huge mis-step
in the right direction".

Though it suffers from inadequacies but it opened a new avenue of understanding the world system. This approach enabled later scholars like Kenneth Waltz and Mearsheimer to present a more comprehensive analysis of the world system.

Later, theories of micro-view like game theory were also developed to address the gaps of the macroscopic systems theory.

Therefore, the theory holds relevance in understanding the discipline from a broader and more scientific lens.

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(b) Distinguish between functions of political parties and pressure groups. Compare and contrast the nature of politics of pressure groups in developed and developing societies (15m)

According to E.E. Schattschneider, political parties are like the "umbilical cords" which connect citizens to the government.

Pressure groups are associations actively organised to pursue certain common interests and influence policy making.

Both political parties and pressure groups play important role in making a democracy more vibrant and active. However, the fundamental difference between the two is that political parties seek power, contest elections and

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aim to form government, while pressure groups only influence policy making but do not involve in electoral processes.

In terms of the input-output model of structural-functional approach, political parties play the role of "interest aggregation" while pressure groups engage in "interest articulation".

The politics of pressure groups has gained momentum in contemporary times. Therefore, the present day democracies have been described as pluralists wherein the power is distributed across multiple pressure groups.

In the developed world, associational pressure groups

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like corporate houses hold immense power. But in developing countries, non-associational pressure groups like those based on caste, religion, etc. are more assertive since these are prismatic societies where tradition and modernity coexist. Moreover, the institutional pressure groups are more active in developing world since most of them are "over-developed" states with strong and wide government machinery. But they are limited in developed countries due to the presence of minimal states.

Pressure groups and political parties are important to keep governance citizen centric and participative.

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(C) world system theory is a macro-sociological view seeking to explain the dynamics of capitalist world economy. Discuss the contemporary relevance of world system theory. (15 m.)

The world system theory propounded by Emmanuel Wallerstein is a macro-sociological theory that divides the world system based on transnational division of labour.

The theory suggests that the countries forming the industrialised core (e.g. G-7 countries) drain the resources and wealth of the countries located at the periphery (e.g. G-77). Moreover, the theory also explains a third category of

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countries called the semi-periphery which are located at the interface between the core and periphery. These countries (like china, India, etc) have considerable industrial base, skilled and semi-skilled labour and have been beneficiaries of globalisation. However, they have also been a source of drain of wealth of less developed economies.

This theory has been used by dependency school scholars like A.G. Frank and Samir Amin to elucidate the neo-imperialism of west that has been responsible for "development".

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of under-development' in developing countries.

Though the theory holds relevance in understanding the dynamics of global economics, yet it has been criticised for its sheer - economic reductionism.

According to scholars, the world relations are more complex and dynamic than the simple economic classification of the theory.

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Q 3.7 (a) Explain the difference between 'realist' and 'neo-realist' approach to international politics. Discuss the relevance of feminist critique of realism. (20m.)

Realism is the hegemonic school of thought in international politics. It is said that theories of international politics are nothing but a dialogue between realism and others.

The traditional realist approach has been popularised by Hans Morgenthau, the father of Realism. According to Morgenthau, the Hobbesian selfish nature of man is reflected in the power-seeking behaviour of states. Conventional realism believes that each state is a source

of "insecurity" for the other, therefore, states must seek limitless power in order to secure their national interest.

The neo-realist approach makes certain modifications in theory of Realism. According to neo-realists like Kenneth Waltz, the power-seeking attitude of states is definitely true but is not the consequence of human nature. Rather, it is the anarchichal structure of the world which compels states to seek power.

Hence, neo-realism is also called structural Realism.

The fundamental difference between the two theories is methodological. While

Classical realism makes a philosophical analysis, neo-realism uses the behavioural method.

Another difference between the two is rooted in their contents. While classical realism is based on analysis of states' behaviour in pre-cold war times, Kenneth

Waltz's theory belongs to the detente period. Therefore, Waltz suggests that states should engage in defensive realism and gain only that much power as is needed for security. According to him, hegemony can be counter-productive as it was witnessed in the case of Hitler. However, another

neo-realist, Mearsheimer has stated that no amount of power can be enough for security. Therefore, states should engage in offensive realism. Despite difference, realists of all ages, have established the principle of balance of power as the timeless wisdom in international politics.

Feminists have criticised realists for their masculinist understanding of world order and human nature. According to them, if human nature is about aggression, it is also about development, care and reproduction. Therefore, feminists have called for ethics of care and justice to establish world peace.

we can say that feminist critique of realism intends to make it more humane and inclusive.

(b) Critically examine the relevance of theory of Balance of Power in 21st century. (15 m.)

"The aspiration for power is the distinguishing feature of International Politics"

— Hans Morgenthau

Balance of power has been regarded as an architectonic principle in International Politics. The concept is a part of Realist theory which suggests that international system is anarchical. Therefore, states remain in perpetual "security dilemma" and the only way to overcome this dilemma is to gain power.

According to Morgenthau, power is synonymous with national interest.

Balance of power is based on the politics of European countries prior to the second world war. It suggests that no single state should be allowed to gain preponderance so as to challenge or undermine the sovereignty of others. If any state/alliance seeks hegemony, others should collectively act to restore equilibrium.

The theory continues to hold relevance in the 21st century as well. For example, states acting as per their own national interests in

the present Ukraine crisis.
Russia seeks power over Eastern Europe, USA seeks power over the world and china is currently strengthening its military and economic might to challenge the power of USA.

However, the relevance of Balance of power has been challenged by liberals and post colonial scholars. According to liberals, cooperation, and security are the ways of a peaceful world. And as per post colonial scholars Balance of power is a Euro-centric concept that is not relevant to understand the dilemmas of third world countries which face more of "in-security" dilemma in the form of internal threats.

(C) What is gender justice? Do you think gender justice in law as well as in practice is key to achieve SDGs? (15m)

"gender is not what you are, rather what you do. It is an act of doing, rather than being" - Judith Butler

gender justice refers to the state of equity and equality for all genders in all spheres of life. The issue of gender justice has been a global concern as women have been victims of subordination and injustice the world over.

gender justice is an essential pre-requisite for achievement of sustainable development goals as Michel Obama said, no nation can progress

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by stifling the potential of half of its population and depriving itself of their population

gender justice can not only help in achieving SDG-5 (gender equality) rather all the SDGs. For instance, SDG-1 - poverty alleviation needs particular focus on women and LGBTQ+ as world-over, there has been feminisation of poverty. Around 70% of women in the world live on less than \$1 a day.

Similarly, SDGs of health care and education are also dependent on women empowerment. Around 2/3rd of world's illiterates are women.

Moreover, gender justice simply in terms of laws and rules is not enough, an attitudinal change in ways of the world is required to bring about a meaningful change in women's condition. For example, though there is a law to prohibit dowry and child marriage in India, yet these illegal activities are rampant due to societal sanction.

The contemporary debates on marital rape, women's right to abortion, hijab issue and death of Mahsa Amini have once again reminded the world of the need for gender justice in order to attain a sustainable world order.

SECTION - B
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Q5.7(a) weaknesses of traditional approach to comparative politics(10)

Comparative Politics is a discipline in Political Science that studies various political phenomena through comparisons across states. Comparisons provide a more comprehensive understanding of politics in the world.

Traditional approach to comparative politics relied on study of constitutions of states. The major weakness of the approach was that it was limited in scope to the Euro-centric world. It disregarded the existence of developing countries of third world.

Moreover, Behaviouralists have criticised the approach for being static and essentially non-comparative. According to Behaviouralists, states should be studied based on political systems and processes for dynamic view. It proved to be non-comparative because it studied only the western world which was largely homogeneous.

Though traditional comparative Politics should be credited for initiating the comparative methodology, the weaknesses of the approach should also be addressed.

(b) New International Economic Order.
(10)

New International Economic Order refers to the demands made by the developing world to make the global economy more inclusive and equitable.

NIEO was developed in response to the gaps of the Liberal International Economic Order (LIEO). While LIEO, was established by USA post the second world war to promote free market economy, globalisation and free trade (e.g. Brettonwoods system, WTO, etc), NIEO was demanded to correct the deficiencies of

LIEO. LIEO resulted in huge inequalities among the countries. Therefore, developing world demanded that special provisions be made to address their poverty and under-development. NIEO involved, special and preferential treatment of developing countries in world trade, providing them financial assistance and technological support for a level playing field.

However, inequalities continue to plague the developing and least developed countries. The tug of war between global North and South at WTO shows that the developed world is still resisting implementation of NIEO in true sense.

(C) The concept of over-developed state
(10)

According to Hamza Alwi, the post colonial states of the developing world are over-developed. It means that the political structures of these countries are more developed than economic and social.

Post colonial states are described as over-developed because their state machinery was instituted long back by their colonial masters. Since then, these countries have a state apparatus in place and the same bureaucratic apparatus.

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rules them even today.

Alvi calls them self-perpetuating as these bureaucratic states acquired power from the colonial masters but did not decentralise it with other stakeholders in the market and society.

Therefore, the states have immense power in these countries. The military in Pakistan and bureaucracy in India best exemplify the models of over-developed states.

Decentralisation of power and shedding of colonial legacies of dominance can free these states from this developmental mis-match.

(d) India's role in U.N. Peacekeeping
(10m)

United Nations peacekeeping operations are the tools to ensure peace and security in the conflict ridden zones of the world.

Peacekeeping is operationalised based on the consent of the states. It involves deployment of troops to monitor ceasefire implementation, postwar recovery, restoring law and order, etc.

India has played phenomenal role in UN peacekeeping. India has been the largest cumulative contributor of UN peacekeeping.

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troops. Around 2,00,000 Indian
~~and~~ troops have participated in
49 out of total 71 peacekeeping
missions. Moreover, India also
has been the first to deploy
an all-women contingent in
2007.

Besides, India is also playing
an active role in calling for
reforms in UN peacekeeping
operations like accountability for
crimes against troops, and
involvement of troop contributing
states in decision making
process.

This responsible contribution
adds to India's global
stature and further
strengthens its candidature
for United Nations Security
Council membership.

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(e) International Court of Justice

International Court of Justice (ICJ), headquartered at the Hague is the UN body for peaceful adjudication of disputes.

ICJ consists of 15 judges who are appointed jointly by UN Security Council and General Assembly. They are appointed on a regional basis so as to represent diverse legal cultures of the world.

ICJ is called as the World Court as it resolves disputes between the states. Some of its judgements have been successful like Corfu Channel Case and the

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Recent Kulbhushan Jadhav case between India and Pakistan.

However, ICJ has also been criticised for lack of enforcement mechanisms.

Since the enforcement power for ICJ's verdicts lies with UN Security Council, P-5 countries get an opportunity to manipulate or render the judgements irrelevant.

Moreover, delays in judgements and the mechanism of "compulsory jurisdiction" of ICJ have also been criticised.

Reform and strengthening of the body can make its existence more meaningful in creating a peaceful world.

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Q 7} (a) Terrorism is a complex and a highly pervasive global system problem. Comment. To what extent international cooperation is crucial in addressing the threat? (20m.)

"Terrorism in one part of the world, is a threat to peace everywhere"
- Ruchika Kamboj

Terrorism refers to the use of violence for political objectives. It is a complex, global and highly pervasive phenomena that has been known to the world since centuries.

It is believed that terrorism's earliest roots can be traced to the "Reign of Terror" in France in 18th century.

However, in the contemporary times, terrorism has become trans-national and also a tool of religious fundamentalism.

Though terrorism is an inhuman act that should be curbed, scholars have opined that terrorism, till today is not actually a global phenomenon.

It has been USA's strategy to securitise terrorism as a global problem since the 2001 attack on World Trade Centre. USA has built this narrative to justify its policies in the name of counter-terrorism.

While USA has associated terrorism with Islam and created Islamophobia,

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we need to take into account the terrorist tactics of Khalistan movement, North East insurgents, etc. to understand that it is not inherent to any religion.

Moreover, terrorism has also been used as a geopolitical strategy by countries like Pakistan (against India) and USA (against china).

Though terrorism involves brutalities and violence, it is said that terrorism is the weapon of the weak. It is used by those groups who have been failed by their states.

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In the present context, with internet and social media, terrorism has become trans-national in nature. use of cryptocurrency for terror funding and online radicalisation of youth are difficult for a single state to deal with. Therefore, international cooperation on countering terrorism is the urgent need of the hour.

India's efforts in calling for a comprehensive definition of terrorism and a multilateral extradition agreement are appropriate steps on the way to terror-free world.

(b) In the absence of comprehensive reforms, UN faces 'crisis of confidence'.
- Pm Modi. Discuss. Do you think India as the voice of Global South can offer a solution to the current crisis in multilateralism? (15 m)

"United Nations was not created to take humanity to heaven, rather, to save it from hell"
- Dag Hammarskjöld

United Nations is the largest international organisation comprising of 193 states, that aims to create peace and security in the world.

Though UN has played significant role in promoting sustainable development, cooperation and peacekeeping, it is seen as ^{an} anachronistic

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body in need of urgent reforms. As PM Modi said, it suffers from "crisis of confidence" due to its undemocratic and exclusionary procedures. For instance, the dominance of P-5 in the security council, the divergence between general assembly and security council, and the undemocratic nature of veto powers of P-5 are areas of urgent reform. Moreover, regular funding and a standing army are also essential for strengthening of UN.

India has been an active representative of global south in making demands for "reformed multilateralism".

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India has demanded expansion of UNSC, a relationship of complementarity between UNCTA and UNSC and also adequate representation to currently un-represented and under-represented countries of Africa, Carribean, etc.

India's vision of an inclusive world order characterised by its vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam" and its active leadership in platforms like G4, G77, L69, and G-20, make it an appropriate representative of the voice of global south in demands for renewed multilateralism.

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(C) The current chaos in the world is a structural change from Pax Americana to Pax sinica. Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer. (15)

According to Gramsci, hegemony entails economic, political and most importantly ideological prowess over the ruled. The present world order is witnessing the tussle between China and America for world hegemony.

Pax Americana refers to the unipolar world order that survived from 1991-2001. In the present context, American hegemony is fast receding in the face of China's vision of establishing Pax Sinica. For instance,

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China's Belt and Road Projects are spanning continents. China's assertion in South China Sea and its rapid military modernisation are also challenging US hegemony.

However, the current chaos in the world is not simply due to these two competing powers. It is much more complex due to assertion of power by various other powers like India, Russia, etc.

Also, while China has considerably displaced USA from West Asia (e.g. Saudi Arab Peace initiative) and is also challenging

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the power of dollar through
internationalisation of Renminbi,
USA's military expenditure
is even today ~~15 times~~ much
more than next 15
powers combined. Similarly,
the resilience and trust
of dollar is difficult for
chinese currency to overcome.

Therefore, we can say that the
current world order is in
a state of flux. It is marked
by complex interdependence
where war and trade
coexist. Establishment of
Pax Sinica though distant,
is possible in future if USA
and the swing powers like
India do not assert
their power and strength.