



CSS PAKISTAN AFFAIRS 2023 SOLVED PAST PAPER

**Federal Public Service Commission | Competitive Examination
2023**

Complete Model Answers for Part-II Essay Questions
General Knowledge-III (Pakistan Affairs) — BS-17 Federal Government Recruitment

Prepared for CSS, PMS & Competitive Examination Aspirants

Q. No.	Topic	Marks
Q2	Charismatic Leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah (1937-47)	20
Q3	Causes of Agricultural Decline in Pakistan	20
Q4	Causes Hindering Industrial Development in Pakistan	20
Q5	Why Democracy Could Not Take Root in Pakistan	20
Q6	Repercussions of Joining the US-led War on Terror	20
Q7	Pakistan's Geo-Strategic and Geo-Political Importance	20
Q8	Youth Bulge and Sustainable Economic Development	20

Note: Part-I (MCQs) is not included in the original question paper provided; this document presents fully solved model answers for all seven Part-II essay questions.

Question: Write a detailed and systematic analysis of the charismatic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the leader of Indian Muslims during the crisis-ridden decade of 1937-47.

Answer. Muhammad Ali Jinnah's leadership between 1937 and 1947 transformed a politically fragmented Muslim community into a united nation capable of achieving an independent homeland. His charisma rested not on populist emotionalism but on constitutional acumen, unwavering conviction, personal integrity, and an extraordinary capacity to translate a scattered communal sentiment into an organized political movement.

Political Context of the Decade (1937-47)

- The 1937 provincial elections exposed the Muslim League's organizational weakness and the Congress's claim to represent all Indians, including Muslims.
- The Congress ministries (1937-39) and their perceived high-handedness toward Muslims convinced Jinnah that safeguards within a united India were unworkable.
- World War II, the Cripps Mission, the Quit India Movement, and the Simla Conference progressively hardened communal positions and created openings that Jinnah skilfully exploited.

Traits and Sources of Jinnah's Charismatic Leadership

- Constitutionalism and legal mastery: Jinnah's training as a barrister gave the Muslim demand a rigorous, negotiable, and internationally comprehensible form rather than mere agitation.
- Personal integrity and incorruptibility: his austere lifestyle and refusal to compromise principles for personal gain earned him unmatched credibility across factions.
- Clarity of vision: from 'Hindu-Muslim unity' in his early career to the architect of the Two-Nation Theory, he articulated an evolving but internally consistent political philosophy.
- Organizational rebuilding of the All-India Muslim League: he revived a moribund party into a mass movement, drawing in provincial leaders, landlords, students, and women.
- Communication and symbolism: his direct, disciplined rhetoric and the disciplined public image he cultivated made him a unifying symbol transcending sectarian and regional differences within the Muslim community.

Key Milestones Demonstrating His Leadership

- Lahore Resolution (1940): Jinnah converted a vague communal anxiety into a concrete constitutional demand for separate Muslim states.
- 1945-46 elections: under his leadership the Muslim League swept the reserved Muslim seats, providing an unanswerable electoral mandate for Pakistan.
- Direct Action and negotiations (1946-47): Jinnah balanced pressure tactics with continued participation in constitutional dialogue, including the Cabinet Mission Plan negotiations.
- Final negotiations with Mountbatten: his firm insistence on a sovereign Pakistan, even at the cost of a truncated territory, showed pragmatic resolve over maximalist rhetoric.

Challenges Managed Through Charismatic Authority

- Reconciling competing regional interests of Punjab, Bengal, Sindh, and the NWFP within a single national platform.
- Countering the Congress's narrative and British ambivalence simultaneously, often single-handedly representing the entire Muslim case in high-level negotiations.
- Managing internal dissent from provincial Muslim leaders and rival groups such as the Unionists and the Khaksars.

Conclusion: Jinnah's leadership during 1937-47 exemplifies charismatic authority built on principle rather than populism. His constitutional strategy, personal credibility, and organizational skill converted a disparate community into a nation-state within a single decade, making him rightly regarded as the singular architect of Pakistan.

Q.No.3**20 Marks**

Question: *Having the largest irrigation system in the world, the land of the sub-continent served as the main food supply basket for the British power for more than a century, but now Pakistan has to import food commodities. Discuss in detail the causes of this agricultural decline.*

Answer. Pakistan inherited the Indus Basin Irrigation System, the largest contiguous irrigation network in the world, which once made the region a granary for the British Empire. Despite this natural advantage, Pakistan today is a net importer of key food commodities such as wheat, sugar, pulses, and edible oil, reflecting a structural agricultural decline rooted in policy neglect, resource mismanagement, and demographic pressure.

Water Management and Irrigation-Related Causes

- Waterlogging and salinity affect a substantial share of irrigated land due to poor drainage and outdated canal infrastructure.
- Inefficient flood irrigation methods cause massive water wastage compared to modern drip or sprinkler systems.
- Inter-provincial water disputes and delays in consensus on reservoirs (e.g., Kalabagh Dam controversy) have stalled additional storage capacity, leaving Pakistan dependent on inefficient live-flow irrigation.
- Declining per capita water availability, pushing the country toward water-scarce status.

Structural and Land-Related Causes

- Fragmentation of landholdings through inheritance has produced uneconomical smallholdings unable to benefit from mechanization or economies of scale.
- Persistence of feudal and semi-feudal land tenure structures discourages tenant investment in land improvement.
- Urban encroachment and housing societies have consumed large tracts of fertile agricultural land, particularly around Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad.

Policy and Institutional Causes

- Inconsistent support price policies for wheat and sugarcane distort cropping decisions and discourage crop diversification.
- Weak agricultural research and extension services have slowed the adoption of high-yield, climate-resilient seed varieties.
- Subsidy leakages and elite capture of agricultural credit and inputs have limited benefits reaching small farmers.
- Underinvestment in cold storage, warehousing, and agro-processing leads to heavy post-harvest losses.

Climatic and Environmental Causes

- Increasing frequency of floods (as in 2010 and 2022) and droughts disrupts cropping cycles.
- Rising temperatures and shifting monsoon patterns affect the yield of staple crops such as wheat and cotton.
- Glacial melt variability threatens the long-term reliability of the Indus system's water supply.

Demographic and Economic Pressures

- Rapid population growth has outpaced growth in agricultural productivity, converting a historical surplus into a structural deficit.
- Rural-to-urban migration has reduced the agricultural labour force even as mechanization remains limited.
- Rising cost of inputs (fertilizer, fuel, seeds) driven by currency depreciation has squeezed farmer margins and discouraged investment.

Conclusion: *The decline is the outcome of decades of underinvestment in irrigation efficiency, land reform, research, and climate adaptation rather than any loss of natural potential. Reversing it requires modernizing irrigation, enforcing equitable land and water governance, strengthening agri-research, and building climate resilience to restore Pakistan's historical position as a food-surplus economy.*

Q.No.4**20 Marks**

Question: *Industrialization is the backbone of the modern economic system and uplifts the standard of living of the masses. Elaborate causes for the hindrance of industrial development in Pakistan.*

Answer. Industrial growth is central to employment generation, export diversification, and rising living standards. Pakistan's industrial base, however, has remained narrow and stagnant relative to regional peers, held back by chronic energy shortages, policy inconsistency, weak infrastructure, and structural governance failures.

Energy and Infrastructure Constraints

- Persistent electricity and gas shortages, along with high tariffs driven by circular debt, raise the cost of production and erode competitiveness.
- Inadequate transport and logistics infrastructure increases the cost of moving raw materials and finished goods, particularly from the interior to ports.
- Underdeveloped industrial estates and special economic zones limit economies of agglomeration.

Policy and Governance Causes

- Frequent changes in tax, tariff, and regulatory policy create uncertainty that discourages long-term investment.
- A complex and inconsistent taxation regime, along with a narrow tax base, imposes disproportionate burdens on the formal industrial sector.
- Bureaucratic red tape and inconsistent implementation of the 'ease of doing business' reforms discourage both domestic and foreign investment.
- Political instability and frequent changes in economic management undermine investor confidence.

Financial and Structural Causes

- Limited access to affordable long-term credit, especially for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), restricts capacity expansion.
- High policy interest rates, often used to control inflation, raise the cost of industrial borrowing.
- Currency volatility increases the cost of imported machinery and raw materials on which much of Pakistan's industry depends.
- Reliance on a narrow industrial base concentrated in textiles, leaving the economy vulnerable to global price shocks.

Human Capital and Technology Gaps

- Low investment in technical and vocational education has produced a skills mismatch between industry needs and workforce capabilities.
- Limited research and development spending has kept much of Pakistani industry technologically outdated relative to competitors such as Bangladesh and Vietnam.
- Weak linkages between universities, research institutions, and industry hinder innovation and product upgrading.

External and Security Factors

- Security concerns in past decades raised risk premiums and discouraged foreign direct investment in manufacturing.
- Trade policy gaps, including limited preferential access to major markets compared to competitors, have constrained export-led industrial growth.
- Smuggling and under-invoicing of imported goods undercut domestic industries, particularly in consumer goods.

Conclusion: Industrial stagnation in Pakistan is less a function of lacking potential and more a consequence of policy inconsistency, energy insecurity, weak human capital development, and governance failures. A coherent long-term industrial policy, reliable energy supply, financial sector deepening, and investment in skills are essential to unlock the country's manufacturing potential.

Q.No.5**20 Marks**

Question: *The evolution of democratic system has always remained a dilemma in Pakistan, even after passing more than seven decades of its existence the democracy could not get its roots. Discuss in detail.*

Answer. Since independence in 1947, Pakistan has oscillated between civilian and military rule, with democratic institutions repeatedly interrupted or weakened. Understanding why democracy has failed to consolidate requires examining historical, institutional, structural, and political causes that have collectively obstructed sustained democratic governance.

Historical and Foundational Causes

- The early death of Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah (1948) and assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan (1951) deprived the new state of stabilizing political leadership at a formative stage.
- Delay in framing a constitution (achieved only in 1956, and again after abrogation in 1962 and 1973) prevented early institutionalization of democratic norms.
- A strong, centralized colonial-era bureaucracy and army inherited disproportionate administrative capacity relative to weak political parties.

Military Interventions and Institutional Imbalance

- Direct military rule under Ayub Khan (1958), Zia-ul-Haq (1977), and Musharraf (1999) repeatedly derailed democratic continuity and weakened civilian institution-building.
- The doctrine of civil-military imbalance has meant that even elected governments often operate with limited control over key foreign policy and security domains.
- Frequent use of Article 58(2)(b) (prior to its removal) allowed presidents to dismiss elected governments, further destabilizing parliamentary continuity.

Weaknesses in Political Party Structures

- Dominance of dynastic and personality-centered politics within major parties has limited internal democracy and leadership renewal.
- Weak local government systems have prevented the grassroots political training that typically nurtures durable democratic culture.
- Political parties' reliance on 'electables' with local patronage networks rather than ideology or performance record has weakened programmatic politics.

Socio-Economic and Structural Causes

- Persistent feudal and biradari-based social structures in rural areas dilute genuine electoral competition and accountability.
- Low literacy rates and limited civic education have historically constrained informed political participation.

- Economic dependency on external assistance has sometimes made governments more accountable to external stakeholders than domestic electorates.

Judicial and Constitutional Factors

- The judiciary's historical validation of extra-constitutional takeovers under the 'doctrine of necessity' legitimized military interventions for decades.
- Frequent constitutional amendments to suit the interests of ruling elites have undermined institutional stability.

Signs of Gradual Improvement

- Since 2008, Pakistan has witnessed consecutive civilian transitions of power, including peaceful transfers following general elections.
- The 18th Amendment (2010) enhanced provincial autonomy and curtailed presidential discretionary powers, strengthening the parliamentary system.
- A more assertive judiciary, active media, and vibrant civil society have expanded space for democratic accountability.

Conclusion: Pakistan's democratic dilemma stems from an inherited institutional imbalance between civil and military authority, weak intra-party democracy, and socio-economic structures that impede genuine political competition. While recent decades show incremental consolidation, sustained democratic rootedness will require continued civilian supremacy, local government empowerment, and reform of political party structures.

Q.No.6**20 Marks**

Question: *Joining the US led coalition in the war against terrorism has many short and long term repercussions for Pakistan. Elaborate.*

Answer. Pakistan's decision to join the US-led coalition after the September 2001 attacks fundamentally reshaped its security, economic, and social landscape. While the alliance brought certain strategic and financial benefits, it also imposed severe and lasting costs on the country's stability and international standing.

Short-Term Repercussions

- Immediate military and economic assistance flowed into Pakistan, including Coalition Support Fund reimbursements and debt rescheduling by international lenders.
- Pakistan's strategic relevance to Washington increased sharply, temporarily easing post-1998 nuclear-related sanctions.
- A sharp rise in cross-border militancy followed as displaced militants from Afghanistan relocated into Pakistan's tribal areas, triggering waves of terrorism within the country.
- Domestic political polarization intensified, with segments of society viewing the alliance as compromising national sovereignty.

Long-Term Security Repercussions

- Pakistan became host to sustained military operations (e.g., in South Waziristan and Swat) against homegrown militant networks that emerged partly as a backlash to the alliance.
- Tens of thousands of civilian and security force casualties were suffered as terrorism spread from the tribal belt into major cities.
- The rise of groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) can be traced substantially to the post-2001 security environment.
- Large-scale internal displacement from conflict zones created long-term humanitarian and rehabilitation challenges.

Economic Repercussions

- Estimated direct and indirect economic losses to Pakistan from the war on terror have run into hundreds of billions of dollars over two decades.
- Foreign investment and tourism suffered due to the perception of insecurity, particularly through the 2000s and early 2010s.
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation costs for conflict-affected regions such as FATA (now merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) placed a continuing fiscal burden.

Diplomatic and Strategic Repercussions

- Pakistan's relationship with the US became transactional and trust-deficient, marked by periodic tensions over drone strikes and allegations of double games (e.g., post-Abbottabad raid in 2011).
- Pakistan's regional standing was affected by perceptions of harbouring militant sanctuaries, complicating relations with Afghanistan and India.
- The alliance accelerated Pakistan's strategic pivot toward China as an alternative and more reliable partner.

Social Repercussions

- Rise of extremist narratives and sectarianism affected social cohesion in parts of the country.
- The tribal belt's traditional social and administrative structures were disrupted, with long-term consequences for governance in the merged districts.

Conclusion: While the coalition brought short-term financial relief and renewed strategic relevance, Pakistan bore disproportionately heavy long-term costs in the form of internal militancy, economic loss, and diplomatic mistrust. The experience underscores the need for an independent, interest-based foreign policy that anticipates such second-order security consequences.

Q.No.7**20 Marks**

Question: *Pakistan is located on the cross-road of South Asia. Explain its geo-strategic/political importance and challenges.*

Answer. Pakistan occupies a unique geographic position at the confluence of South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and China, giving it exceptional geo-strategic significance. This position brings substantial opportunities for connectivity and influence, but also exposes the country to complex security and diplomatic challenges.

Geo-Strategic Importance

- Pakistan serves as the shortest land bridge connecting landlocked Central Asian states and western China to warm-water ports on the Arabian Sea.
- Gwadar Port and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) place Pakistan at the heart of China's Belt and Road connectivity strategy.
- Proximity to the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz gives Pakistan relevance to global energy security and shipping routes.
- Shared borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran, and proximity to Central Asia make Pakistan a pivotal actor in regional security architecture.
- Pakistan's nuclear capability and the size of its armed forces give it a significant deterrent and diplomatic weight in South Asian and Muslim-world affairs.

Geo-Political Importance

- Pakistan's role as a bridge between the Muslim world and major powers (US, China) has historically made it a sought-after diplomatic partner.
- Its membership in forums such as the OIC, SAARC, ECO, and SCO situates it within multiple regional cooperation frameworks.
- Pakistan's historical role in Afghan affairs, including during the Soviet-Afghan war and the post-2021 Taliban takeover, gives it continuing influence over Afghan stability.

Associated Challenges

- Persistent tension with India over Kashmir and conventional/nuclear deterrence dynamics remains a central security challenge.
- Instability in Afghanistan, including cross-border militancy from groups such as the TTP, directly threatens Pakistan's internal security.
- Balancing simultaneous strategic partnerships with China and the United States amid intensifying great-power rivalry requires careful diplomatic navigation.
- Security risks to CPEC projects and personnel in Balochistan and elsewhere threaten to undermine the corridor's economic promise.

- Iran-Pakistan border management and periodic tensions over militant activity add another layer of complexity.
- Domestic political and economic instability weakens Pakistan's capacity to fully leverage its geographic advantages.

Way Forward

- Prioritizing regional connectivity projects (CPEC, TAPI gas pipeline, trade with Central Asia) to convert geography into economic dividend.
- Pursuing sustained diplomatic engagement to stabilize relations with Afghanistan and manage the Kashmir dispute through dialogue.
- Strengthening internal security and economic stability to make the most of external strategic opportunities.

Conclusion: Pakistan's crossroads location endows it with strategic leverage that few countries possess, but realizing this potential requires resolving persistent security and diplomatic challenges. A stable, economically strong Pakistan can convert geography into genuine geo-economic advantage rather than a source of continual geo-political vulnerability.

Q.No.8**20 Marks**

Question: *Pakistan is considered to be the fifth-largest youth bulge country in the world. Given this youth bulge, deliberate on ways forward for Sustainable Economic Development in Pakistan.*

Answer. With roughly two-thirds of its population under the age of 30, Pakistan possesses one of the largest youth populations globally. This demographic dividend can become a powerful engine for sustainable economic growth if matched with the right investments in education, employment, and governance, or it could instead become a demographic burden if mismanaged.

Significance of the Youth Bulge

- A large working-age population can potentially raise national savings, productivity, and economic growth if adequately employed.
- The youth bulge coincides with global shifts toward digital economies, offering opportunities in IT, freelancing, and remote services.
- A young population also represents a large domestic consumer market attractive to both local and foreign investors.

Current Challenges

- High youth unemployment and underemployment persist due to a mismatch between educational output and labour market demand.
- Low public spending on education and health compared to regional peers limits human capital development.
- Gender disparities in education and workforce participation leave a significant portion of the potential workforce underutilized.
- Limited access to technical and vocational training constrains the employability of school leavers.

Ways Forward for Sustainable Economic Development

- Education and skills reform: expanding access to quality primary and secondary education, and scaling up technical and vocational training aligned with market needs (e.g., IT, renewable energy, construction trades).
- Digital economy promotion: investing in digital infrastructure and IT training to enable youth participation in the global freelance and tech economy, building on Pakistan's growing freelancer base.
- Entrepreneurship and access to finance: expanding microfinance, startup incubators, and youth-focused credit schemes to encourage small business formation.
- Labour market reform: improving labour market information systems and job-matching platforms to reduce structural unemployment.

- Women's economic inclusion: removing barriers to female labour force participation through safe transport, childcare support, and workplace policies.
- Population planning: strengthening family planning and reproductive health programs to ensure the youth bulge does not outpace the economy's absorptive capacity.
- Public-private partnerships: engaging industry in curriculum design and apprenticeship programs to close the skills gap.
- Export-oriented industrial growth: channeling youth employment into higher value-added, export-oriented manufacturing and services sectors to generate sustainable foreign exchange earnings.

Institutional and Policy Support Needed

- A dedicated national youth employment strategy with measurable targets and inter-ministerial coordination.
- Increased allocation of GDP to education and health sectors, moving toward internationally recommended benchmarks.
- Decentralization of skills development programs to provincial and local levels to address regional disparities.

Conclusion: *Pakistan's youth bulge represents its single greatest economic opportunity of this century, but only if matched by decisive investment in education, skills, employment generation, and inclusive policies. Failure to do so risks converting demographic potential into demographic pressure, whereas success could position Pakistan among the fastest-growing economies of the coming decades.*