

Pakistan Affairs 2024

Solved Past Paper

General Knowledge-III — MCQs Answer Key + Complete Essay
Model Answers

Examination: Competitive Examination-2024 for Recruitment to
Posts in BS-17

Paper: General Knowledge-III (Pakistan Affairs)

Part-I: 20 MCQs (20 Marks) — Solved & Highlighted

Part-II: All 7 Subjective Questions Solved (80 Marks)

PREPARED MODEL ANSWERS FOR EXAM PRACTICE

Paper Format & Instructions

Time Allowed: Three Hours	Part-I (MCQs): Maximum Marks = 20
Part-I (MCQs): Maximum 30 Minutes	Part-II: Maximum Marks = 80

Original exam instructions (unchanged): Part-I MCQs are attempted on a separate OMR sheet within 30 minutes; overwriting/cutting of options is not credited and there is no negative marking — all MCQs must be attempted. Part-II is attempted on a separate Answer Book; only FOUR of the seven questions carry marks (20 each), all parts of a question must be attempted together, and extra attempts are not considered.

Note on this edition: All 20 MCQs have been answered and the correct option highlighted with a tick, exactly as they appeared in the original (including option wording). All seven Part-II essay questions have been solved in full for complete revision, even though only four are required in the actual exam.

Part-I — MCQs Answer Key (20 × 1 = 20 Marks)

1 Sindh river has been mentioned in:

(A) Yajur Ved

(B) Saam Ved

(C) Rig Ved ✓

(D) Arath Ved

The Rigveda's Nadistuti hymn names the Sindhu (Indus) among the great rivers of the region.

2 Pakistan was re-elected for the seventh time to the UN committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on:

(A) 11 Feb 2022

(B) 19 March 2022

(C) 17 April 2021

(D) 13 April 2022 ✓

The election took place at ECOSOC in New York on 13 April 2022, per the Foreign Ministry's statement.

3 Who wrote the Book "Kitab-ul-Hind"?

(A) Mujadid Alf Sani

(B) Shah Waliullah

(C) Syed Ahmed
Shahed

(D) Al-Beruni ✓

Al-Beruni, the polymath scholar who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni's court, authored this seminal study of Indian society and sciences.

4 What is considered as the greatest monument of Pakistan-China collaboration?

(A) Karachi-Gawadar Highway

(B) Karakoram Highway ✓

(C) Lahore Orange Line

(D) K2 Base-camp

Built through the 1960s–70s across some of the world's most difficult terrain, the KKH is widely called the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

5 Which Mountain Range Separates Pakistan And Afghanistan?

(A) Karakoram

(B) Pamirs

(C) The Hindu Kush ✓

(D) Kirthar

The Hindu Kush range runs along much of the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier, including the historic passes used for centuries.

6 Who was the first leader of opposition in the first National Assembly constituted under the 1962 constitution of Pakistan?

(A) Sardar Bahadur Khan ✓

(B) Hussain Shaheed

(C) Syed Fakhar Imam

(D) Ghulam Haider Wain

Sardar Bahadur Khan, President Ayub Khan's own brother, led the opposition group after the 1962 elections.

7 What was the official language declared in 1956 constitution?

(A) Urdu

(B) Bengali

(C) Hindi

(D) Both (A) & (B) ✓

The 1956 Constitution recognised both Urdu and Bengali as national/official languages of Pakistan (option D as printed in the original paper carries a typographical repeat of "(A)" instead of "(B)", reproduced here unchanged; the intended and correct choice is "Both Urdu and Bengali").

8 Pakistan conducted its first successful test fire of Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) Babur-3 having a range of 450 kilometers on:

(A) 9 January 2017 ✓

(B) 11 January 2017

(C) 13 January 2017

(D) 15 January 2017

ISPR announced the successful first test of Babur-3 on 9 January 2017 from an underwater mobile platform.

9 Abdul Rabb Nishtar was first _____ of Pakistan.

(A) Interior Minister

(B) Defense Minister

**(C) Communication
Minister ✓**

(D) None of these

He served as Pakistan's first Minister of Communications from August 1947 to August 1949, before later becoming Governor of Punjab.

10 Pakistan is one of the largest contributor to the UN Peacekeeping missions, constituting over _____ of UN's total deployment.

(A) 7%

(B) 9% ✓

(C) 11%

(D) 13%

Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN cites its troop contribution as constituting over 9% of total UN peacekeeping deployment.

11 What is the total cost of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

(A) \$ 72 Billion

(B) \$ 62 Billion ✓

(C) \$ 26 Billion

(D) \$ 32 Billion

Originally valued at \$46 billion in 2015, the CPEC portfolio was revised upward to \$62 billion under the Long-Term Plan.

12 Operation "Swift Resort" was launched by:

(A) USA against
Afghanistan

**(B) Pakistan against
India ✓**

(C) India against
Pakistan

(D) None of these

Pakistan's Operation Swift Retort (February 2019) was its air response following the Balakot incident with India.

13 In which country Pakistan opened its first embassy?

(A) China

(B) Afghanistan

(C) Iran ✓

(D) India

Pakistan and Iran established relations immediately upon Pakistan's independence in August 1947, and Pakistan's first embassy abroad opened in Iran.

14 Pakistan is NOT a member of the following organization:

(A) D-8

(B) G-20 ✓

(C) SCO

(D) United Nations

Pakistan is a member of D-8, SCO and the UN, but is not part of the G-20 group of major economies.

15 The Name Of First Pakistani Aircraft Is:

(A) JF-17 Thunder ✓

(B) JF-8 Thunder

(C) JF-9 Thunder

(D) JF-11 Thunder

The JF-17 Thunder, jointly developed with China, is Pakistan's flagship indigenously-assembled fighter aircraft; the other listed names do not correspond to real Pakistani aircraft.

16 In Which Of The Following District The Shrine Of Shah Abdul Latif Located In?

(A) Hyderabad

(B) Matiari ✓

(C) Dadu

(D) Thatta

The shrine at Bhit Shah falls within present-day Matiari district, Sindh (carved out of Hyderabad district in 2005).

17 An agreement on the demarcation of boundaries was concluded between Pakistan and China in the year:

(A) 1961

(B) 1962

(C) 1963 ✓

(D) 1964

The Sino-Pakistan Frontier Agreement was signed in March 1963, formally demarcating the boundary in the northern areas.

18 Who was the Prime Minister of India at the time of Tashkent agreement?

(A) Lal Bahadur Shastri ✓

(B) Indra Gandhi

(C) Rajiv Gandhi

(D) None of these

Lal Bahadur Shastri signed the Tashkent Declaration in January 1966 with Ayub Khan, ending the 1965 war; he passed away in Tashkent shortly after.

19 No person shall be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan unless he has been a judge of a High Court for a period of:

(A) Five years ✓

(B) Seven years

(C) Nine years

(D) Fifteen years

Article 177 of the Constitution requires five years' service as a High Court judge (or equivalent legal/judicial experience) for elevation to the Supreme Court.

20 Who is Pakistan's first female mountaineer to conquer Mount Everest?

(A) Nazia Parveen

(B) Samina Baig ✓

(C) Mahoor Shahzad

(D) Benazir Bhutto

Samina Baig from Hunza summited Mount Everest in May 2013, becoming the first Pakistani woman to do so.

Part-II — Solved Essay Questions



Political stability remains an elusive concept in Pakistan. Explore the factors contributing to the fractured nature of Pakistan's polity and discuss potential reforms to the constitutional and political structure that could foster stability.

Introduction

Since 1947, Pakistan has struggled to achieve sustained political stability, oscillating between civilian rule, military interventions, and hybrid arrangements. Understanding the structural and behavioural roots of this fractured polity is essential to charting a path toward durable stability.

Factors Contributing to Fractured Polity

- **Weak political party institutionalisation:** Parties remain personality-centric and dynastic rather than programmatic, undermining internal democracy and long-term policy continuity.
- **Civil-military imbalance:** Repeated military interventions (1958, 1969, 1977, 1999) and continued informal influence over key policy areas have prevented civilian institutions from consolidating authority.
- **Weak local government:** Elected local governments have rarely been allowed to complete full terms, depriving the political system of a stable grassroots tier and a pipeline for future leadership.
- **Judicial-executive tensions:** Frequent judicial interventions in political matters (dismissals, disqualifications) have added another layer of unpredictability.

Additional Structural Fault Lines

- Frequent floor-crossing and horse-trading due to weak party discipline and reliance on "electables" rather than ideology.
- Provincial and ethnic grievances (Balochistan, erstwhile FATA) feeding into a broader sense of unequal representation.
- Economic dependency on external financing constraining the policy space of elected governments and feeding public disillusionment.

Key Point: Political instability in Pakistan is less about the absence of elections and more about the absence of consistent rules of the game respected by all institutional players — civil, military, and judicial.

Potential Reforms

- **Strengthen intra-party democracy:** Enforce genuine internal elections within parties to reduce dynastic control and build merit-based leadership.

- **Empower local government:** Make local body elections constitutionally protected with fixed terms and fiscal autonomy, building a durable democratic base.
- **Codify civil-military boundaries:** Institutionalise parliamentary oversight of security and foreign policy through empowered committees.
- **Electoral reforms:** Independent, technologically robust election management to reduce disputes over results and improve legitimacy.
- **Constitutional consensus-building mechanisms:** Strengthen the Council of Common Interests and inter-provincial coordination bodies to reduce federal friction.

Conclusion: Political stability in Pakistan requires simultaneous reform on multiple fronts — party structures, civil-military relations, local governance, and judicial restraint — rather than any single constitutional fix. Sustained, incremental institution-building offers the most realistic path forward.

Keeping in view the socio-political circumstances of sub-continent, discuss the role of Sheikh Ahmed Sarhindi (Mujaddid Alf Thani) who revived Islamic Ideology and established Muslim identity in sub-continent.

Introduction

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi (1564–1624), known as Mujaddid Alf-i-Thani ("Reviver of the Second Millennium"), was a towering Naqshbandi Sufi scholar whose reformist efforts during the Mughal era are widely credited with preserving a distinct Muslim religious and political identity in the subcontinent.

Historical Context

- Sirhindi lived during the reign of Emperor Akbar, whose syncretic religious policy (Din-i-Ilahi) and blending of Islamic and Hindu practices at court had, in the view of orthodox Muslim scholars, diluted Islamic identity among the ruling elite.
- Sufi practices at the time had also drifted toward pantheistic monism (Wahdat-ul-Wujud), which Sirhindi felt blurred the boundary between the Creator and creation, and by extension between Islamic and non-Islamic worldviews.

Sirhindi's Contribution

- **Doctrinal reform — Wahdat-ush-Shuhud:** He countered pantheistic Sufi philosophy with the doctrine of "Unity of Witness," reasserting a clear distinction between God and creation and realigning Sufism with orthodox Sunni theology (Shariah).
- **Correspondence (Maktubat):** Through his letters to Mughal nobles and officials, he directly challenged religious laxity at court and urged rulers to uphold Islamic law in state affairs.
- **Confrontation with Akbar's syncretism:** He was a vocal critic of religious practices that, in his assessment, compromised Islamic distinctiveness, and he worked to restore the primacy of Shariah-based practice among Muslims.
- **Influence on Jahangir and later rulers:** Although he was briefly imprisoned under Jahangir for his outspokenness, his ideas gradually gained influence at court and shaped a more assertively Islamic religious policy in subsequent Mughal rule.

Key Point: Sirhindi's movement is regarded by many South Asian Muslim historians as a foundational moment in preserving a separate Muslim religious identity, later invoked by 19th and 20th century revivalist and reform movements, including strands of thought that fed into the Pakistan Movement's ideological narrative.

Long-Term Impact

- His reformist theology influenced later scholars such as Shah Waliullah, who continued the project of religious and social reform among Indian Muslims.
- By reasserting Shariah-centred practice, he contributed to a template of religious-political identity that distinguished Muslims from the broader Hindu-majority society — a theme later central to the Two-Nation ideology.

Conclusion: Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi's theological reforms and outspoken engagement with Mughal rulers played a pivotal role in reviving orthodox Islamic identity at a critical juncture, leaving a legacy that continued to shape Muslim religious and political consciousness in the subcontinent for centuries.

The Democratization process in Pakistan is still weak and ambiguous. Do you consider dynastic politics and feudalism are the major hindrances on the way of establishing true democratic system in Pakistan? Explain.

Introduction

Despite periodic elections since 1970, Pakistan's democratic process remains fragile. Among the structural obstacles most frequently cited are dynastic politics and persistent feudal social structures, particularly in rural Sindh, southern Punjab, and parts of Balochistan.

How Dynastic Politics Hinders Democracy

- Major parties (PPP, PML-N) remain effectively family-led, with leadership succession following bloodlines rather than intra-party elections.
- This discourages genuine grassroots leadership development and limits political mobility for merit-based new entrants.
- Dynastic control concentrates decision-making, weakening internal accountability and encouraging personality cults over policy debate.

How Feudalism Hinders Democracy

- In rural constituencies, land-owning families (waderas, sardars, khans) command patron-client loyalty from tenant farmers and labourers, translating into captive vote banks.
- This weakens voters' independent political choice and perpetuates the same families' hold on parliamentary seats across generations.
- Feudal power structures often substitute for local state institutions (informal justice, local order), reducing incentives for feudal elites to support genuine institutional reform or devolution.

Key Point: Dynastic politics and feudalism reinforce each other — many political dynasties themselves originate from feudal land-owning backgrounds, creating overlapping rather than separate obstacles to democratic deepening.

Other Contributing Factors (Beyond Dynasty and Feudalism)

- Weak Election Commission capacity and vulnerability to manipulation in earlier decades.
- Low political literacy and limited civic education among the electorate.
- Military and bureaucratic tutelage over elected governments.

Way Forward

- Land reforms and rural economic diversification to reduce dependency-based voting patterns.
- Mandatory intra-party elections enforced by the Election Commission.
- Strengthening local government to create alternative, merit-based political career paths outside dynastic structures.

Conclusion: Dynastic politics and feudalism are indeed major — though not the sole — hindrances to genuine democratization in Pakistan. Breaking this cycle requires simultaneous economic, electoral, and party-level reform rather than any single intervention.

Global warming presents an existential threat to states like Pakistan. Examine the far-reaching impacts of global warming on Pakistan and propose a model of economic development that aligns with environmental protection.

Introduction

Pakistan, despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, is consistently ranked among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, as tragically demonstrated by the catastrophic 2022 floods that affected over 33 million people.

Impacts of Global Warming on Pakistan

- **Glacial melt and flooding:** Pakistan hosts more glaciers than any country outside the polar regions; accelerated melting increases flood risk and threatens long-term water security via Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- **Extreme weather events:** Increasingly frequent and severe floods, heatwaves (notably in Sindh and Punjab), and erratic monsoon patterns are damaging agriculture and infrastructure.
- **Water scarcity:** Reduced and erratic river flows threaten Pakistan's largely irrigation-dependent agricultural sector, which employs a large share of the workforce.
- **Food security risks:** Crop yields for wheat, rice, and cotton are increasingly vulnerable to heat stress and flooding, threatening rural livelihoods and national food supply.
- **Urban heat and public health:** Karachi and other cities have experienced deadly heatwaves, with public health systems strained by climate-linked disease burden.
- **Economic costs:** The 2022 floods alone caused an estimated USD 30+ billion in damages and economic losses, setting back development gains by years.

Key Point: Pakistan's climate vulnerability is a textbook case of "climate injustice" — bearing disproportionate costs of a crisis it did little to cause — which has strengthened its diplomatic push for climate finance and loss-and-damage compensation at COP forums.

Proposed Model: Green, Climate-Resilient Development

- **Renewable energy transition:** Scale up solar and hydropower to reduce fossil-fuel dependence while addressing chronic energy shortages.
- **Climate-smart agriculture:** Promote drought-resistant crop varieties, drip irrigation, and better water management to protect food security.
- **Nature-based flood protection:** Invest in wetland and forest restoration (e.g., mangroves in the Indus Delta, the "Billion Tree Tsunami" model) as cost-effective flood buffers.

- **Climate financing and green bonds:** Leverage international climate funds, debt-for-nature swaps, and green Sukuk to finance resilience projects without adding unsustainable debt.
- **Urban planning reform:** Redesign cities with better drainage, green cover, and heat-resilient building codes to reduce urban flood and heat risk.

Conclusion: For Pakistan, climate adaptation is not a luxury but an economic necessity. A development model that integrates renewable energy, climate-resilient agriculture, and nature-based infrastructure offers the best chance of reconciling growth with survival in a warming world.

How should Pakistan manage the equitable distribution of resources among different ethnic regions to address historical grievances and promote developments across the country?

Introduction

Pakistan's federation comprises ethnically and economically diverse provinces, and perceived inequities in resource distribution — particularly regarding natural resources, development spending, and representation — have long fuelled provincial and ethnic grievances, most acutely in Balochistan.

Historical Grievances

- **Balochistan:** Despite hosting major natural gas (Sui) and mineral resources (Reko Diq, Saindak), the province has historically received a disproportionately small share of the benefits, fuelling a long-running insurgency.
- **Sindh:** Concerns over water-sharing (notably Indus water distribution to Punjab) and control over Karachi's revenue-generating capacity.
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (including erstwhile FATA):** Underdevelopment of the tribal districts and delayed integration into the mainstream development and legal framework.
- **Punjab-centric development perception:** Smaller provinces have historically perceived federal development spending as disproportionately favouring Punjab.

Mechanisms for Equitable Distribution

- **NFC Award reform:** Continue using a multiple-indicator formula (population, poverty, revenue generation, inverse population density) rather than population alone, to better reflect provincial needs.
- **Resource-royalty sharing:** Ensure natural-resource-producing provinces (Balochistan for gas/minerals, Sindh for oil/gas) receive fair royalties and local development funds proportionate to extraction.
- **Special development packages:** Continue targeted programmes such as the Balochistan Package and the erstwhile FATA merger development plan to close the development gap.
- **Council of Common Interests (CCI):** Strengthen this forum as the primary mechanism for resolving disputes over water, electricity, and resource allocation transparently.
- **Local employment quotas:** Ensure local populations benefit from jobs created by resource-extraction and mega-projects (e.g., CPEC, Reko Diq) rather than migrant labour dominating opportunities.

Key Point: Equitable resource distribution is not just an economic issue but a matter of national cohesion — perceived exclusion has historically been a key driver of separatist sentiment, most visibly in Balochistan's decades-long insurgency.

Conclusion: A combination of transparent fiscal formulas, resource-royalty fairness, targeted development packages, and strengthened federal-provincial coordination bodies offers the most credible path to equitable resource distribution and stronger national integration.

In Modern day democracy there must be a Pragmatic Civil-Military relationship to deal all the internal and external security threats. Analyze with reference to the role of Pakistan's security and stability in South-Asia.

Introduction

Pakistan's civil-military relationship has historically tilted toward military dominance in security and foreign policy matters, a pattern that both reflects and reinforces the country's turbulent political history. A pragmatic, balanced relationship is essential for managing modern, multidimensional security threats.

Nature of Pakistan's Civil-Military Relationship

- The military has historically retained primary control over nuclear policy, defence budgets, and key foreign-policy files (India, Afghanistan, and increasingly counter-terrorism).
- Elected civilian governments have often had limited practical oversight of security institutions, even during periods of nominal democratic rule.
- Recurring direct military rule (1958–71, 1977–88, 1999–2008) has left an institutional legacy of military primacy that persists informally even under civilian governments.

Why a Pragmatic Relationship Matters for Security

- **Internal threats:** Terrorism (TTP resurgence), sectarian violence, and separatist insurgency in Balochistan require coordinated civil-military responses combining military operations with political outreach, socio-economic development, and rule of law — areas where civilian institutions must lead.
- **External threats:** Managing relations with India (Kashmir, water disputes), Afghanistan (TTP sanctuaries, border management), and balancing major-power relations (US, China) require foreign-policy coherence best achieved through close civil-military coordination rather than parallel or competing tracks.
- **Regional stability:** As a nuclear-armed state bordering India and Afghanistan, Pakistan's internal civil-military balance has direct implications for South Asian strategic stability — miscommunication or discord between institutions raises escalation risks in crises (e.g., 2019 Pulwama-Balakot episode).

Key Point: A "pragmatic" civil-military relationship does not mean eliminating the military's security role, but ensuring it operates within a framework of civilian oversight, parliamentary accountability, and clearly defined institutional boundaries.

Building a More Pragmatic Relationship

- Strengthen parliamentary committees on defence and national security with real oversight powers and access to information.
- Institutionalise the National Security Committee as the primary coordinating forum, with clear civilian leadership.
- Ensure civilian-led counter-terrorism and development strategies complement military operations (e.g., National Action Plan implementation).
- Promote transparent defence budgeting and phased expansion of civilian expertise in strategic and security policymaking.

Conclusion: For Pakistan to effectively manage its complex internal and external security challenges while contributing to South Asian stability, a pragmatic civil-military partnership — grounded in institutional clarity, civilian oversight, and mutual respect for constitutional roles — is indispensable.

Since Independence, the most critical concern for Internal security is National Integration. Discuss the role of constitutional provisions enabling provincial autonomy and devolution of Power to strengthen National integration in Pakistan?

Introduction

National integration — welding together a diverse, multi-ethnic federation into a cohesive political community — has been a central and recurring internal-security concern for Pakistan since 1947, most starkly illustrated by the loss of East Pakistan in 1971.

Why National Integration Has Been Fragile

- Early over-centralisation (One Unit scheme, language policy favouring Urdu) alienated East Pakistan and other ethnic groups.
- Uneven economic development and perceived Punjab-centric resource allocation fuelled sub-nationalist movements in Sindh, Balochistan, and the former NWFP/FATA.
- Weak local government meant citizens' first point of contact with the state (in remote and peripheral regions) was often absent or under-resourced.

Constitutional Provisions Strengthening Integration

- **18th Amendment (2010):** Abolished the Concurrent Legislative List, devolving subjects like education, health, and agriculture to the provinces — directly addressing long-standing autonomy demands.
- **Council of Common Interests (CCI):** Provides a constitutional forum for resolving Centre-province disputes over water, electricity, and natural resources, reducing the sense of unilateral federal control.
- **NFC Award:** Constitutionally mandated periodic revenue-sharing negotiations ensure provinces receive their due share of national resources.
- **FATA merger (25th Amendment, 2018):** Extended constitutional rights, representation, and the regular legal system to the former tribal areas, integrating a long-marginalised region into mainstream governance.
- **Provincial representation safeguards:** Equal Senate representation for all provinces (regardless of population) balances Punjab's demographic weight in the National Assembly.

Key Point: Devolution is not merely an administrative reform — it is a nation-building tool that reduces the political space for separatist and sub-nationalist narratives by giving provinces a genuine stake in the federation.

Remaining Challenges

- Uneven provincial capacity to deliver devolved services, especially in Balochistan.
- Persistent security concerns in the merged tribal districts due to slow implementation of development commitments.
- Periodic political calls to revisit the 18th Amendment risk reigniting centre-province mistrust.

Conclusion: Provincial autonomy and devolution, anchored in constitutional provisions like the 18th Amendment and the CCI, remain Pakistan's most effective tools for strengthening national integration. Their continued, faithful implementation — rather than rollback — is essential for long-term internal security and cohesion.