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TOPIC;

PAKISTAN LAND , PEOPLE, SOCIETY (SUMMARY).

SUBJECT;

PAKISTAN STUDIES

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- SEMESTER . 02

SUBMITTED TO ;

• MAM TOOBA

SUBMISSION DATE ; 21.04.2025 ,

- Pakistan:

Land, People, and Society

(Economic Challenges: Financial Crisis, Unemployment, Poverty, and Debt)

Pakistan is a country of remarkable diversity, located in South Asia and sharing borders with China, India, Afghanistan, and Iran. It spans an area of over 880,000 square kilometers and features a wide variety of landscapes, including towering mountains, fertile plains, deserts, and a long coastline. The country is geographically divided into four main regions: the Northern and Western Highlands, the Indus Plain, the Balochistan Plateau, and the Coastal Areas. The highlands, including parts of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush ranges, are home to some of the world's highest peaks and glaciers. These areas are not only ecologically significant but also offer opportunities for

tourism and water resource development. The Indus Plain is the agricultural backbone of the country, formed by the Indus River and its tributaries. It supports the majority of the population and plays a critical role in food production. The Baluchistan Plateau, though arid and less populated, is rich in mineral resources and holds strategic importance due to its proximity to neighboring countries and potential development projects. Along the Arabian Sea, Pakistan's coastal regions, including the ports of Karachi and Gwadar, are vital for trade and economic connectivity.

Pakistan experiences a wide range of climates, from arid and semi-arid in the south and west to temperate and alpine in the north. The country has four distinct seasons—winter, summer, monsoon, and autumn—each influencing agricultural practices and water availability. Water management is crucial due to seasonal variation and increasing demand from the growing population. In terms of natural resources, Pakistan is well-endowed with significant deposits of coal, salt, limestone, gypsum, natural gas, and limited oil reserves. The Indus River system is essential for irrigation and hydroelectricity, while forests and fisheries, although not extensive,

contribute to the ecological and economic well-being of the country.

With a population exceeding 240 million, Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world. It is ethnically diverse, comprising groups such as Punjabis, Sindhis, Pashtuns, Baloch, and Muhajirs, each with distinct languages, customs, and traditions. This diversity enriches the cultural landscape but also requires careful management to ensure national unity. Urdu serves as the national language and a unifying force, while English is commonly used in official and educational contexts. Most of the population is Muslim, and Islam plays a central role in shaping the country's culture, laws, and daily life. Pakistani society is largely traditional and rural, though urbanization is rapidly increasing. The extended family system is prevalent, with strong patriarchal values. While cities offer better educational and employment opportunities, they also face challenges like overcrowding, pollution, and infrastructure deficits. Social issues such as poverty, illiteracy, inadequate healthcare, and gender inequality continue to hinder progress. Education, particularly for girls, remains a priority for

national development, though access and quality vary widely across regions.

Culturally, Pakistan is the inheritor of a rich and ancient legacy. The country's history includes the Indus Valley Civilization, Buddhist Gandhara art, and centuries of Islamic culture. This fusion is visible in its architecture, literature, music, and spiritual practices. Cities like Lahore, Multan, and Peshawar are cultural centers, hosting traditional arts and Sufi festivals. Despite modern influences, traditions remain strong, and religious and cultural festivals are widely celebrated.

Urban centers such as Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad are economic and administrative hubs experiencing rapid growth. These cities are vital for industrial activity, education, and innovation but also require better urban planning to address traffic, housing, and environmental concerns. Development projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aim to boost infrastructure, trade, and regional connectivity, offering long-term benefits for the country's economy.

In conclusion, Pakistan is a land of contrasts—rich in resources, culture, and human potential, yet challenged

by social, economic, and environmental issues. Effective management of its land, people, and society is essential for achieving sustainable development and national prosperity.