



Passage Based Questions [5 Marks]

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions:

Pakistan and Bangladesh have experienced both civilian and military rulers, with Bangladesh remaining democracy, in the Post Cold War period. Pakistan began the post cold war period with successive democratic governments under Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif respectively. But it suffered a military coup in 1999 and has been run by a military regime since then. Till 2006, Nepal was a constitutional monarchy with the danger of the king taking over executive powers. In 2006, a successful uprising led to restoration of democracy and reduced the king to a nominal position, from the experience of Bangladesh and Nepal, we can say that democracy is becoming an accepted norm in the entire region of South Asia.

Questions:

1. How did Pakistan begin with Post Cold War period?
2. Mention two reasons for the aspiration of democracy in South Asia.
3. Why these findings are significant?

Answer:

1. Pakistan began with post cold war period with successive democratic government under Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif.
2. Ordinary citizens rich or poor or belonging to different religions or institutions view democracy more suitable and support them.
3. Because it was earlier believed that democracy could flourish and find support only in prosperous countries of the world.

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions:

No region exists in a vacuum. It is influenced by outside powers and events, no matter how much it may try to insulate itself from non-regional powers. China and the United States remain key players in South Asian politics. Sino-Indian relations have improved significantly in the last ten years, but China's strategic partnership with Pakistan remains a major irritant. The demands of development and globalisation have brought the two Asian giants closer and their economic ties have multiplied rapidly since 1991.

Questions:

1. Which two countries have been referred to as outside powers?
2. Which are the two Asian giants and why they have been called so?
3. China's strategic partnership with Pakistan is a major irritant for which country and why?

Answer:

1. The US and China.
2. India and China, because both of them have been considered as rising economic powers in the world.
3. India, because China has been seen as a contributor to Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Long Answer Type Questions [6 Marks]

1. Assess the positive and negative aspects of India's relations with Bangladesh.

Answer: Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan from 1947 to 1971. It consisted of the partitioned areas of Bengal and Assam from British India. The people of this region resented the domination of

Western Pakistan and the imposition of Urdu language. Soon after the partition, they began protests against the unfair treatment meted out to the Bengali culture and language. They demanded autonomy for the eastern region. But the government dominated by the West Pakistan leadership refused their demand. The Pakistan army tried to suppress the mass movement of the Bengali people. Thousands were killed by the Pakistan army. This led a large scale migration into India, creating a huge refugee problem for India. The government of India supported the demand of the people of East Pakistan for their independence and helped them financially and militarily. This resulted in a war between India and Pakistan in December 1971 that ended in surrender of the Pakistan forces in East Pakistan and the formation of Bangladesh as an independent country.

2. How is the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) a major regional initiative by South Asian States to evolve co-operation through multilateral means? Assess.

Answer: Role of SAARC:

Role of SAARC can be identified in the following ways:

1. 'South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation' (SAARC) is a regional initiative among South Asian States to evolve cooperation since 1985 onwards.
2. It consists of seven members to encourage mutual harmony and understanding.
3. SAARC has initiated SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Agreement) to form free trade zones for whole South Asia for collective economic security.
4. SAARC has projected economic development of its member states to reduce their dependencies on the non-regional powers. South Asian free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) was signed by SAARC members in 2004 with the following features:
 1. Formation of free trade zone for whole South Asia.
 2. To lower trade tariffs by 20%.
 3. To sustain mutual trade and cooperation among SAARC members.

3. Like India why could democracy not take roots in Pakistan despite the fact that both the countries share a common part?

Or

Explain the factors responsible for Pak's failure in building a stable democracy.

Or

Describe any two pro-democracy factors present in Pakistan which can pave the way for establishing a lasting democratic setup over there?

Or

"Since 1947 Pakistan has been experimenting with democratic system and the military rule". In the light of above statement explain any two reasons why democratic system has not been stable there?

Answer: The following factors are responsible for Pakistan's failure in building a stable democracy:

1. The lack of genuine international support for a democratic rule in Pakistan has encouraged to military to continue its dominance. The US and other countries have also supported military rule due to fulfilling their own interests.
2. Pakistan's conflict with India has made paramilitary groups more powerful which have often said that political parties and democracy in Pakistan are flawed, that Pakistan's security would be harmed by selfish minded parties and chaotic democracy, hence army stay in power is justified.
3. The social dominance of military, clergy, and owning aristocracy has led to frequent overthrow of elected governments and the establishing of military governments.

4. Global Islamic Terrorism and their apprehension that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal might fall into hands of these terrorist groups, the military regime in Pakistan was seen as the protector of western interests in West Asia and South Asia.

The two pro-democracy factors present in Pakistan that can pave the way for establishing a lasting democratic set up over there are:

1. Pakistan bears a courageous and entirely free press.
2. Pakistan enjoys strong human rights movement.

4. What are the major differences between SAARC and European Union as an alternative centres of power?

Answer:

1. The European Union bears economic political-diplomatic and military influence all over the region and its closest neighbours whereas SAARC is limited towards its South Asian Region only.
2. The member states of European Union are maximum from among the developed countries while SAARC members are from among least developed countries (LOCs)
3. The EU behaves like a nation state by having its own anthem and currency but SAARC does not enjoy these.
4. The EU performance as an important bloc in international economic organisations such as WTO but SAARC has initiated SAFTA only to cooperate economically among its member states.

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