



Very Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks]

1. Mention the names of member states of SAARC.

Answer: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives.

2. Mention any two objectives of SAARC.

Answer:

1. To provide an integrated programme for regional development.
2. To accelerate economic growth, social progress in the region.

3. “Democracy in South Asia has expanded the global imagination of democracy”. Do you agree? Justify.

Answer: The various countries in South Asia have experienced mixed record of democracies and the people also share an aspiration for democracy to be flourished not only in rich or developed countries but in developing and underdeveloped countries also which can be drawn from the examples of Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives, because—

1. Every ordinary citizen, rich or poor belonging to different religions view the idea of democracy positively and support the institutions of representative democracy.
2. They prefer democracy over any other form of democracy and think that democracy is suitable for their country.

4. Explain the problems that India have with Pakistan.

Answer: India have following problems with Pakistan:

1. The problem of Kashmir on the issues of Pak occupied Kashmir (Pok) and Line of Control (LOC). India claims Kashmir to be its integral part and Pakistan refuses to accept it. Hence, wars took place in 1965 and 1971, but issue remained unsettled.
2. Problems over starting issues like control of Siachin glacier and over acquisition of arms involved both the states acquiring nuclear weapons and missiles to deliver such arms against each other in 1990s.
3. Pakistan government has been blamed for using a strategy of low key violence by helping Kashmiri militants with arms, training, money and protection to carry out terrorist strikes against India.
4. Pak’s spy agency Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) is alleged to involve in various anti India campaigns.

5. “Military rule and democracy are the two sides of a coin in Pakistan”. Examine the statement.

Answer: Military rule and democracy co-exist or are the two sides of a coin can be examined with the following facts:

1. After the implementation of first constitution in Pakistan, General Ayub Khan took the command, but was overthrown by military general Yahya Khan due to dissatisfaction of rule.
2. Again in 1971, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto formed an elected government which was later removed by General Zia-ul- Haq in 1977.
3. 1982 onwards, pro-democracy movements took place resulting an elected democratic government in 1988 under leadership of Benazir Bhutto, replaced by Nawaz Sharif.
4. Nawaz Sharif was again removed by General Pervez Musharraf in 1999 and in 2005, he got himself elected as president but was later dethroned by the court.

6. What is Indus River Water Treaty? Mention its significance also.
Answer: India and Pakistan signed Indus River Water Treaty by the mediation of the world bank in 1960 over the issue of sharing of rivers of the Indus basin. This treaty has been survived despite many military conflicts between these two countries. .

7. Why did India help Bangladesh to get independence and how?
Answer: Bangladesh was created by the support of India because:
1. West Pakistan did not allow Awami League, an East Pakistani Party to form government despite winning all the seats.
2. East Pakistanis rebelled against and were suppressed by the army of West Pakistan, resulting large scale migration into India.
3. This created huge refugee problem for India.
4. Hence, India supported the demand of East Pakistanis financially and militarily.
5. In December 1971, a war took place between India and Pakistan and ended with the surrender of Pakistani forces by forming Bangladesh as an independent country.

8. Mention some points of agreement between India and Nepal.
Answer: India and Nepal enjoy the following agreements:
1. Allow their citizens to travel and work without visas and passport.
2. India is the largest aid giver to Nepal to provide financial and technical assistance in areas of trade, scientific cooperation, common natural resources and electricity generation.

9. Mention the features of SAFTA.
Answer: 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 sustain mutual trade and cooperation among SAARC members.

10. Mention some other conflicts in South Asia except with that of India.
Answer:
1. Nepal and Bhutan as well as Bangladesh and Myanmar have disagreement over the migration of ethnic Nepalese into Bhutan and Rohingyas into Myanmar.
2. Bangladesh and Nepal bear some differences over the future of Himalayan river water.

Short Answer Type Questions [4 Marks]

1. Despite the mixed record of democratic experience, the people of all the countries of South Asia share the aspiration of democracy.
Answer: The various countries in South Asia have experienced mixed record of democracies and the people also share an aspiration for democracy to be flourished not only in rich or developed countries but in developing and underdeveloped countries also which can be drawn from the examples of Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives, because:
1. Every ordinary citizen, rich or poor and belonging to different religions view the idea of democracy positively and support the institutions of representative democracy.
2. They prefer democracy over any other form of democracy and think that democracy is suitable for their country.

2. Describe any two major issues of conflicts between India and Pakistan leading to the war of 1971.
Answer: The 1947-48 war resulted in the division of the province into Pakistan occupied Kashmir (Pok) and the Indian province of Jammu and Kashmir divided by the Line of Control (LOC). Pakistan claims Kashmir to be its part but India presumes it to be its integral part. Hence, these conflicts led to war in 1971 and India won but the issues remain unsettled.

3. Describe any four consequences of Bangladesh war of 1971.

Ans: 1. India supported the demand of East Pakistan financially and militarily.

2. The war of 1971 made Pakistani forces to surrender in East Pakistan.

3. Bangladesh was formed as an independent country.

4. Bangladesh drafted its constitution declaring faith in secularism, democracy and socialism.

4. Explain India's changing relationship with Pakistan.

Answer: Although Indo-Pakistan relations seem to be story of endemic conflict and violence, there have been a series of efforts to manage tensions and build peace under the various agreements:

1. Agreed to undertake confidence building measures to reduce the risk of war.

2. Social activists and prominent personalities have collaborated to create an atmosphere of friendship.

3. Leaders have met at summits to create better understanding.

4. Bus routes have been opened up between these two countries.

5. Trade between the two parts of Punjab has increased substantially in the last five years.

6. Visas have been given more easily. Despite above mentioned agreements and initiatives, we cannot be sure that both the countries are well on their way to friendship, still some areas of conflict exist there to be sorted out.

5. Highlight any two issues of cooperation as well as confrontation each between India and Bangladesh.

Or

Explain any two points of conflict between India and Bangladesh.

Answer: Co-operation:

1. Economic relations have been improved considerably in last ten years.

2. Bangladesh is the part of India's 'Look East' policy to link up South East Asia via Myanmar.

3. Both the countries have cooperated regularly on the issues of disaster management and environment.

Confrontation:

1. Bear differences over several issues including the sharing of Ganga and Brahmaputra river water.

2. India is unhappy on the issues of denial of illegal immigration, refusal to allow Indian troops and not to export natural gas to India.

6. What is meant by SAARC? How can peace and cooperation be enhanced through it?

Answer: SAARC stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation for mutual trust and understanding among states of South Asia.

Role of SAARC:

1. SAARC is a regional initiative among South Asian states to evolve cooperation since 1985 onwards.

2. It consists of seven member's 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 on economic development of its member states to reduce their dependencies on the non-regional powers.

7. Name the countries included in South Asia. How can peace and cooperation be enhanced in this region?

Answer: Countries included in South Asia are India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. South Asian countries are diverse in every sense, still constitute one geo-political space by enhancing peace and cooperation in the following way-

1. People in all these countries share an aspiration of fair democracy.
2. South Asian members recognise the importance of cooperation and friendly relations among themselves.
3. SAARC is the regional initiative to evolve cooperation among member states.
4. SAARC members have signed South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) to free trade for the whole of south Asia.

8. How was democracy restored in Nepal over monarchy? Explain

Answer: Nepal was a Hindu kingdom in the past and then a constitutional monarchy in the modern period for many years-

1. Throughout this period, the political parties and common people wanted to establish democracy, but the king retained full control with the help of army and restricted expansion of democracy.
2. The king accepted new democratic constitution in 1990 due to pro-democracy movement but again in 2007, due to triangular conflict of monarchists, democrats and maoists, king abolished the parliament.
3. A massive countrywide pro-democracy protest took place and achieved first major victory to force king to restore the house of representatives.
4. But Nepal's transition to democracy is not complete. It is moving towards the framing of constituent assembly to frame and its constitution.

9. Why did India and Nepal experience differences between themselves?

Answer: India and Nepal experience differences between themselves due to the following reasons-

1. Indian government expressed displeasure at the warm relationship between Nepal and China.
2. India is unhappy on inaction of Nepal government against anti-Indian elements.
3. The Maoist movement in Nepal is a security threat to India giving rise to Naxalite groups in various states of India from Bihar in the North to Andhra Pradesh in the South.

10. Mention some features of Indo-Bhutan relationship.

Answer: India does not have any major conflict with the Bhutanese government.

1. The efforts made by Bhutanese monarch to weed out the guerrillas and militants from north-eastern India that operate in the country have been helpful to India.
2. India is involved in big hydroelectric projects in Bhutan and remains the Himalayan Kingdom's biggest source of development aid.

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