

## 1. CPEC / Pakistan-China Relations / OBOR / BRI

- **Theme:** Economic cooperation, infrastructure projects, regional connectivity, and strategic importance.
  - **Questions:**
    - 2016 – Q5: Discuss the prospects and challenges to the construction of “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor”. How will CPEC become a game changer for the region?
    - 2017 – Q3: What measures do you suggest to improve the security conditions of Balochistan in respect to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the role of regional powers to sabotage it?
    - 2017 – Q7: Critically examine China’s strategic vision behind its ‘One Belt, One Road’ venture.
    - 2018 – Q2: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is considered as a game-changer. How the CPEC can be helpful to uplift the Pakistan’s economy? Discuss.
    - 2019 – Q2: Examine China strategic vision behind ‘The Belt and Road initiative (BRI)’ also known as One Belt One Road (OBOR).
    - 2023 – Q5: Discuss the project idea China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is the great leap forward of economic regionalization in the globalized world. Explain its potential advantages, challenges, and future prospects.
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## 2. National Action Plan (NAP) / Internal Security / Counter-Terrorism

- **Theme:** Internal security measures, counterterrorism strategies, and stabilization of Pakistan.
- **Questions:**
  - 2016 – Q2: Discuss in detail the efficacy of counter terrorism measures adopted by the government, especially with reference to the National Action Plan.
  - 2017 – Q2: Highlight the role of National Action Plan (NAP) in stabilization of internal security of Pakistan. Critically analyze its outcomes?

- 2019 – Q7: How can the governing structure have the capacity to neutralize threats to internal security of Pakistan?
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### **3. US-China Strategic Competition / Global Power Rivalry / Indo-Pacific**

- **Theme:** Global strategic competition, China-US rivalry, regional dominance, and geopolitical shifts.
  - **Questions:**
    - 2016 – Q7: Examine the emerging strategic competition between China and the US and its impact on global order.
    - 2017 – Q5: Explain the salient contours of the US ‘rebalancing’ policy and China’s assertive policy in South China Sea and latter’s disputes with the regional countries. Critically evaluate.
    - 2018 – Q4: How the United States is trying to keep its dominant position in the Asia-Pacific and what is the China’s response to it?
    - 2020 – Q6: Strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific region is increasingly becoming intense. Define the interests and role of US, China, India, Japan and Australia in the geopolitics of Indo-Pacific region.
    - 2022 – Q7: The US and China have been in an on-going trade war since 2018. In academic circles, it has been argued that this conflict may as well be the Second Cold War. Critically evaluate the future world order with main actors as China, Russia and the US.
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### **4. Middle East / Saudi-Iran / OIC / GCC / Regional Conflicts**

- **Theme:** Middle East tensions, sectarian divides, Muslim unity, and Pakistan’s role.
- **Questions:**
  - 2016 – Q6: How do you see recent developments in the Middle East, particularly with reference to deteriorating relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran? What role, if any, Pakistan could play in reducing the tensions between the two Muslim countries?
  - 2017 – Q4: Critically analyze the US-Russia relations in context of ISIS and its impact on the security situation of Middle East.

- 2018 – Q5: Critically analyze the newly established Islamic Military Alliance and its future implications for the Muslim World?
  - 2018 – Q6: Describe the 2017 Qatar Diplomatic Crisis and its impact on the Middle East.
  - 2020 – Q7: Discuss in detail the role of OIC, Arab league and GCC in the Middle East crises and conflicts.
  - 2024 – Q5: Saudi Arabia and Iran both have significant place in Pakistan’s foreign policy. How Pakistan can maintain friendly relations with both Saudi Arabia and Iran, especially after the mediation of China between the two countries?
  - 2024 – Q6: Palestine conflict is a long-standing one on the United Nations table. Discuss its recent escalation since October 2023 and critically assess the big powers’ reaction to it.
  - 2022 – Q4: Muslim Ummah has failed to unite under one roof. The leadership, their internal wrangling and sectarian divide keeps them away from each other. Discuss ways and means to unite the Muslim Ummah with a pragmatic approach.
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## 5. Climate Change / Environment / Water & Energy

- **Theme:** Environmental issues, climate agreements, energy crises, and sustainable development.
- **Questions:**
  - 2016 – Q8: Discuss the adverse impact of climate change on the world and the measures recently adopted by the Paris Conference to address this issue.
  - 2019 – Q3: Elaborate the reasons and impacts on Donald Trump withdrawal from climate change Paris agreement in 2015.
  - 2020 – Q2: What impact global climate change will have on the water resources of Pakistan? How will it affect inter-provincial harmony?
  - 2023 – Q3: The UN climate summit (COP-27) in Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt) discussed Pakistan’s catastrophic summer floods exacerbated by climate

change. Discuss the COP 27 roadmap and proposed measures for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Pakistan.

- 2023 – Q6: Discuss the severe consequences of rapid population growth which will affect every country on earth.
  - 2024 – Q8c: Climate Change and the Big Powers' role
  - 2025 – Q8: Discuss the reasons of environmental degradation in Pakistan and suggest remedial measures for sustainable environmental rehabilitation.
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## **6. Economy / Exports / Debt / Governance**

- **Theme:** Economic stability, export performance, fiscal management, and governance reforms.
  - **Questions:**
    - 2016 – Q3: What measures would you suggest to improve the economy of Pakistan particularly in the areas of debt reduction and enhancing export capacity?
    - 2018 – Q2: CPEC is considered a game-changer. How can it uplift Pakistan's economy?
    - 2019 – Q5: Give a critical review of Pakistan Energy Policy 2013–2018
    - 2019 – Q6: How can the corruption elimination strategy be made part of governance system of Pakistan?
    - 2023 – Q8: Critically discuss why Pakistan's economic growth continues to be a "Balance-of Payments" constraint and explain radical structural reforms to improve export performance?
    - 2025 – Q3: Discuss in detail the reasons for fragility of economic stability of Pakistan and suggest pragmatic remedial measures for ensuring smooth and sustainable economic growth.
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## **7. Pakistan-India / Regional Security / Kashmir / Afghanistan**

- **Theme:** Security issues, border tensions, strategic relations, peace, and conflict resolution.

- **Questions:**

- 2016 – Q4: Discuss the possibilities of progress under the recently agreed rubric of comprehensive dialogue between Pakistan and India. In your opinion what are the major constraints at present?
- 2020 – Q4: Given the volatile lockdown in Indian Occupied Kashmir, what are the viable policy choices available to Pakistan? What can Pakistan realistically do to ease the sufferings of Kashmiri people?
- 2021 – Q3: What are the similarities and differences between Nagorno-Kaharabakh and Kashmir conflicts?
- 2021 – Q6: Some scholars term Afghan Peace Deal as the US Withdrawal Deal. Do you agree? Discuss the contours of the Afghan peace process.
- 2025 – Q4: Discuss the contours of Pakistan's strategic relations with India and Afghanistan in detail. Do you foresee any serious security challenges from these neighbours in near future?
- 2025 – Q7: Discuss the prospects of peace in South Asia with reference to Kashmir Conflict and Nuclear Arms-race between India and Pakistan.