

**GS Advanced Program 2023****Generic Booklet**

Test Name/Code/No. : ...692019

Name			
Email ID.			
Roll No.			
Mobile No.		Date	

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes**Instructions to Candidates -**

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -
<https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on -
<https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
Overall Grade/Score	

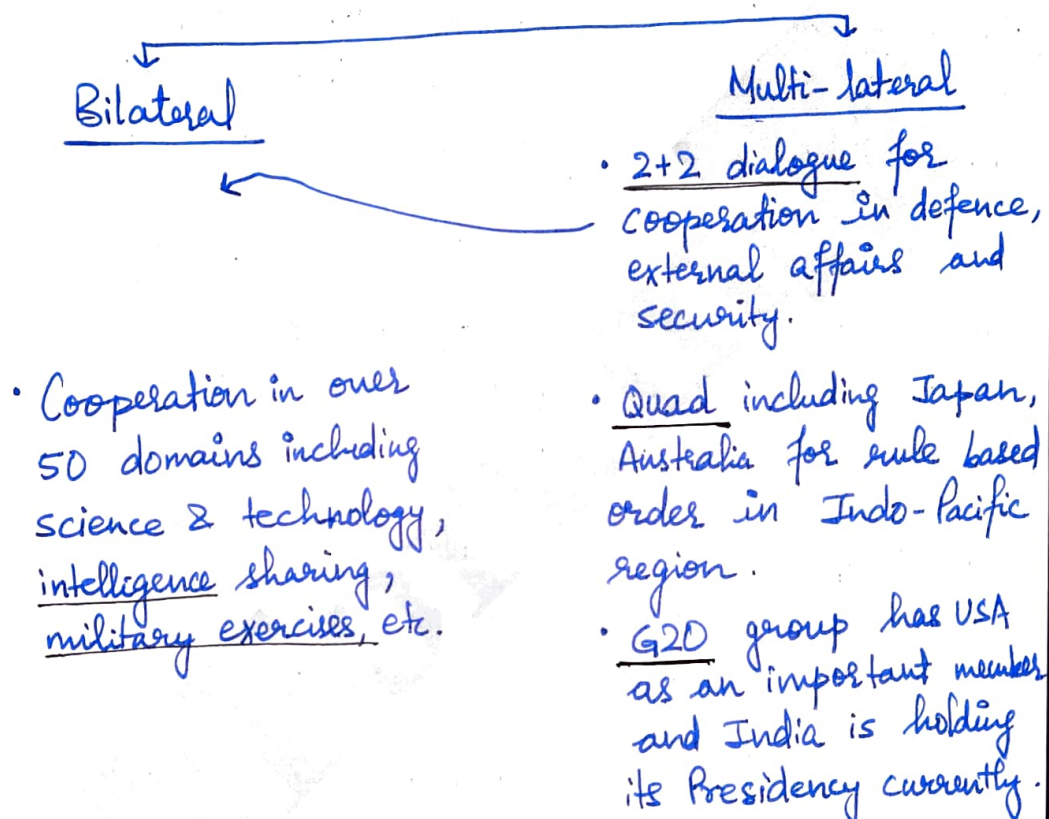
PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Forum IAS

Start Writing Here

Q.1)

India and USA have together worked to evolve their bilateral and multilateral relationship over time.

India - USA engagements:Importance of 2+2 dialogue:

The 2+2 dialogue involving foreign ministers and defence ministers of the two nations is advantageous for advance and conclusive pacts in security and defence.

India is also engaged with other nations in 2+2 dialogue but with the USA it

is at ministerial level unlike in case of other nations. Thus, it speaks of the importance and potential of the dialogue.

The dialogue impacts the Indo-US relations across domains :-

- (i) Closer proximity - The dialogue will prove that India is as close to USA as to Russia, without any prejudice against West.
- (ii) Security - The security alliance of India-USA will be stepped up as agreements like COMCASA and LEMOA have been signed.
- (iii) Indo-Pacific order - Together the nations will be able to work closely on a rule base order in the region.
- (iv) Beyond security - Collaboration on sectors like space and initiative to enhance people to people connect will help.

In essence, India and USA are important strategic partners in the world today and collaborative efforts will lead to mutual benefits.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.2) India has historically been seen as a close partner of Russia, especially for former's defence needs. In the wake of Russia-Ukraine war, it has further strained India's relations with the West.

India's stand & response to the war

- (i) Abstained on vote against Russia in the UN General Assembly. India has been criticised for it.
- (ii) Increased energy procurement from Russia on preferential terms has angered the Western world.
- (iii) No open condemnation of Russia for its Ukraine invasion by India.
- (iv) Continued procurement of S-400 missile system and other equipments from Russia.
- (v) India - Russia are further discussing a permanent - Rupee-Rubal trade which goes against Western interest.

Largely, India's stand though being neutral has to some extent strained its relations with West. But also, PM Modi's assertion that "today's era is not of war" is being received well.

With India's dependence on Russia for its defence and Russia being a tested partner, it must not alienate Russia. But also, USA is a strategic partner for economy, maritime security, technology, etc. Hence, there is a need to strike a balance between its relations.

Multi-lateralism of India must continue:

- (i) Assert India's strategic autonomy -
Continuation of maintaining autonomy alongside condemning violence is the right step ahead.
- (ii) Increased cooperation with USA on economic front can make West realise the importance of India in realising the goals of recovery, reduce inflation and bring back stability.
- (iii) Continued relationship with Russia for its defense and energy supplies will help Indian economy and security.

India must continue with its Quiet Diplomacy without blaming either sides for war. It must keep condemning the war. India can also take the opportunity to arbitrate and change the course, as is being seen as a potential arbitrator.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.3)

India - China being the two major countries have seen their relations evolving from Panchasheel, to 1962 War and the ongoing challenges in the recent times. The interests of the countries have seen convergence and divergence in the recent times. But there are major issues standing in their relations:-

- 1) Territorial disputes - Issue in the Ladakh region and Arunachal Pradesh has created a rift between the two nations.
- 2) Economic/Trade imbalance - China's dominance and India's trade deficit is a cause of concern for India.
- 3) Maritime security challenges - China's policy with respect to expansion in maritime reach has caused security concerns for India.
- 4) China's debt trap policy & BRI - China is using debt trap diplomacy to force nations to lose autonomy. Its BRI project passing through Aksai Chin region has been raised as a concern for India.

Despite challenges, there is need for the two large nations to find a balance. Steps must be taken in this direction.

Leaving behind conflicts :

- (i) Settling border disputes - At least a no-aggression policy on borders can help ease the relations.
- (ii) Discuss contentions - Holding work on either side until resolution for projects causing rift can help.
- (iii) Exchange of people and evoking cultural ties will help earn good name among people.
- (iv) Support to technology and development for each other's benefit.
- (v) Constructive use of global forums not blocking each other initiatives on terrorism, trade, etc.

India and China must work together as the two nations are not the replacement for each other. As rightly said, "The world has enough for both India and China".

Therefore, work must be done to bring benefits for Asia as a whole. This can be done by moving on from the conflict ridden past to focus on evolving realities of today's world.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.4)

India and UK have a long shared historic legacy because of the colonial rule over India. Since then, UK has been an important aspect of India's foreign trade and policy.

Despite legacy, there are many policy constraints in India-UK relations.

Hindrances in relations:

- (i) Impact of Brexit on India - India being the second largest investor (FDI) in UK, the Brexit had a volatile impact on Indian stock markets.
- (ii) UK's involvement in BRI - China's BRI effort is being supported by UK, which is not appreciated by India.
- (iii) UK becoming safe hideout for Indian fugitives is being disliked by India. UK laws, thus, creating a hindrance in relations.
- (iv) Tariff barriers between the nations has kept the bilateral trade low off-bate, especially in the light of Brexit.
- (v) India's policy of evoking the colonial era issues has kept the two nations at an arms length distance always.

Need of the hour is to solve the issues around these constraints with collaborative efforts.

In realising this goal, Brexit has also brought opportunities for India to improve India-UK relations.

Opportunities alongside Brexit

- (i) Fresh negotiations with Britain for a bilateral agreement can now be done. Negotiations for India-UK FTA, thus, are ongoing.
- (ii) Leverage UK's alienation by EU as UK unilaterally left Brexit. This has made UK look for stronger partners beyond Europe. India can play a role here.
- (iii) India can seek relaxed norms for its businesses and diaspora in UK, which will help strongly in UK's recovery economically.
- (iv) India can further step up its investments, academic and economic agreements with UK bilaterally.

Thus, India has the opportunity in the wake of Brexit to strengthen its position in UK. The opportunity must be utilised by using the legacy to India's advantage.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average				Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

Q.5)

France and India have been friends and partners with collaborations across multiple domains. France has always been supportive of India in key principle issues.

Collaboration & Support from France:

Terrorism - France has stood beside India to condemn terrorism in all its form. We share resources in combating terrorism.

Energy - France has supported India in establishing Jaitpur Nuclear plant signed in 2008-09. Through this total capacity of 9,900 MW is to be installed.

Space - India's ISRO and France's CNES have partnered, and France also supports India's Gaganyaan project, supplying equipments to India.

Military exercise - Joint exercises across services are being conducted with France.

Security - India procured Rafale jets with the support of French government for India's defence security.

France has also supported India's permanent membership to UNSC and membership to NSG.

Collaborations in the time to come:

- (i) People to people connect is one area where France-India can work together. Stronger citizenry ties will strengthen the partnership.
- (ii) Easing business bilaterally through FTAs and relaxed norms. This will help in boosting trade which is quite low at present.
- (iii) Work on cultural assimilation through exchanges on academic front can bring the two nations closer further.
- (iv) India must work on quality and service of its exports to enhance trade with France.

India can have a credible partner in France in the Europe. Thus, consolidating the efforts of the countries with work on areas untouched can help improve relations further.

Q.6)

US - Russia rivalry in the 20th century has always posed a threat on the two countries from each other. Despite US being seen as a superpower today, it has found another challenge in the form of China in the recent times.

The Chinese threat to US hegemony is often seen as stronger than the threat being posed by Russia in the past and present. The following factors play a role in China's might; unlike Russia :-

Economy

China has a vibrant economy and is seen as factory of the world.

USA runs a trade deficit with China and is finding it difficult to counter China's products.

Demography

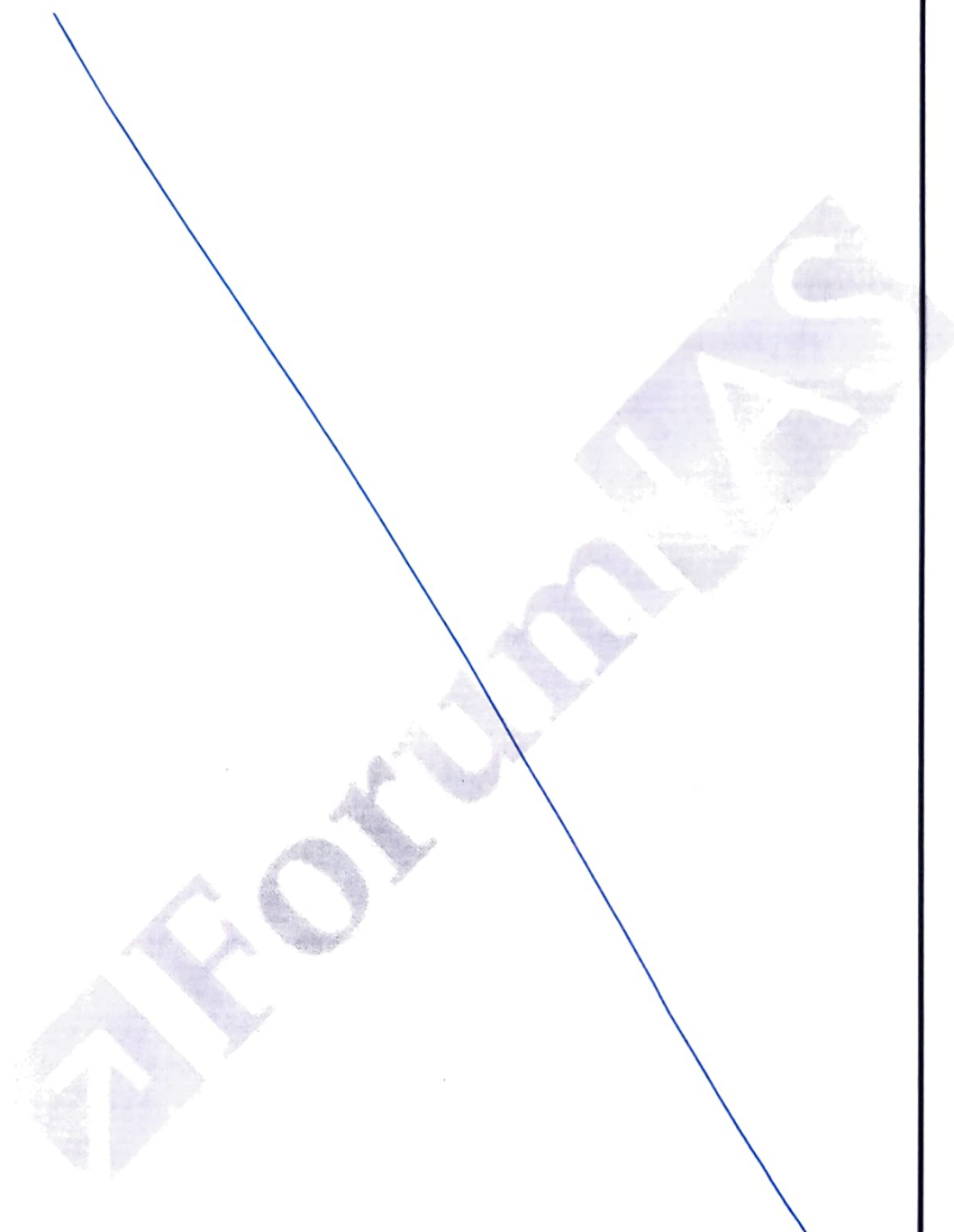
140 Billion strong population with a huge workforce.

Work on skilling and re-skilling of the workforce to stay relevant to the market.

China has strengthened and consolidated its position across domains like economy, security, trade, and leadership.

Thus, it is not disabled with lacunas as was in case of Russia. Disintegrating economy, lack of line of leadership, lack of reskilling were the challenges that kept Russia in a flux. China having worked on these, emerges stronger than Russia ever had been.

Therefore, it would not be wrong to say that US faces a greater threat from China than the Russia.



Overall Grading (√)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.7)

India and Japan have a long history of a cordial relationship. The two countries have never fought wars against each other. Instead it was Japanese that had strengthened Azad Hind Fauj's march for independence.

India - Japan also share partnerships across domains including cultural and strategic partnerships.

Cultural - Cultural exchange and the prevalence of Buddhism in Japan connects the people of the two nations.

Developmental - Japan's development fund has India as its largest destination for almost a decade. Work on Delhi Metro was with Japanese support. Projects like High-speed railways are being worked on in collaboration.

Relief & Disaster Management - India-Japan have been sharing the know how and resources on disaster management, important to both the nations.

Technological - India has always received favours from Japan in terms of technological

advancement leading to success stories like Maruti - Suzuki.

Furthering Indo-Japanese relationship will not help the partners but also create opportunities for the World.

Enhancing trade between the nations will lead to improved supply chain engagement of India. This can help the world improve its manufacturing and servicing capabilities.

Maritime alliances can help in ensuring a rule based order in Indo-Pacific as is being aimed at through QUAD collaboration.

Furthering disaster management alliance of Indo-Japan can help the world depend on them for relief and disaster management.

In essence, India-Japan strategic partnership can help use the market potential and mass production capabilities of India with the advanced technological support of Japan. This will bring rich dividends for the World, especially Asia.

Areas to step up collaboration :

Trade & Economy - Integration of the two economies for a higher level of trade is something India-Japan can work on.

Superior delivery of projects under collaboration will help enhance confidence between the countries.

Enhanced multilateral cooperation to reach faster on the outcomes in multilateral grouping.

Work on alleviating fear of Japan with respect to India - Russia relations.

The above measures will further strengthen the long standing India-Japan ties.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9