

# POLITICAL SCIENCE HS 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## PART A CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS

1. Discuss briefly about the relationship between India and China
  - a. After India gained independence and the inception of the People's Republic of China there was hope that both would come together to shape the future of the developing world, Asia in particular.
  - b. However after the Chinese takeover of Tibet in 1950 and the final settlement of the Sino Indian border, China and India were involved in a border conflict in 1962 over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin region of Ladakh.
  - c. After 1962 diplomatic relations between the two countries were downgraded until the 1976. It was only from the 1970s that India's relationship with China improved. A series of talks were initiated to resolve the border issue in 1981.
  - d. PM Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988 improved India China relations. Several agreements on cultural exchange and cooperation in science and technology were signed and four border posts for trade were initiated. Since 1999 India and China trade has grown to 30% per year and bilateral trade increased to more than 84 billion in 2017.
  - e. Increasing communication and transportation links, common economic interests and global concerns have led to a sound relationship between China and India despite border issues.
2. Discuss briefly about the economic consequences of globalization.
  - a. Globalization has led to greater trade in commodities all over the world and restrictions on imports by different countries have been lifted.
  - b. Restrictions on movement of capital across countries has also been lifted which means investors can now invest in countries other than their own.
  - c. Globalization has led to spread of ideas across borders through internet and social media. However, the same degree of movement is not seen of people across borders and developed countries are seen

to be jealously guarding their borders and jobs through strict visa policies.

- d. Economic globalization has not brought prosperity for all, and many supporters of social justice worry that state retracting from its welfare activities has led to further poverty and exploitation. They have also criticized forced economic globalization which has caused ruin for poorer countries.

### 3. Write briefly about global poverty.

- a. Poverty is a source of non-traditional insecurity. Among the world's poorest countries population is expected to triple in the next 50 years while population in rich countries are shrinking. This will lead to further rise of global poverty.
- b. In poor nations low incomes and high population growth reinforce each other to make nations even poorer while in rich nations, high income and low population growth makes them richer. Poverty in the South has led to large scale migration in the North which has also created international frictions.
- c. Globally this disparity contributes to the Global North and South divide with most rich countries of the West falling in the North and the poor nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America falling the Global South.
- d. In Sub-Saharan countries the average life expectancy is only 40 years. The infant mortality rate in Sweden is only 3 out of 1000 while that of India is 1 out of 7 and Africa is 1 out of 5. These figures show the disparity between countries of Global North and South.

### 4. What is the relationship between the rights of indigenous people and environment? Discuss briefly.

- a. The issue of indigenous rights brings the issue of environment, resources, and politics together. The UNO defines indigenous populations as comprising the descendants of peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country at a time when the persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world and subdued them.
- b. Indigenous peoples today live in conformity with their own culture, tradition and practices than the country of which they are a part of. The indigenous communities of the world call for the admission of indigenous people to the world community as equals and accept them as enduring communities with identities of their own.

- c. The loss of land which is the loss of an economic resource base is the main threat to the survival of indigenous population. They depend mainly on cultivation of land for their survival. For centuries, the indigenous lived freely on their land and had access to its resources but overtime due to colonization their lands and culture became subjected to external forces.
- d. The modern development brought by colonizing forces have displaced indigenous people from their own lands and access to resources. Most developmental projects have been at the cost of the lands, culture and identity of indigenous people who have lost more than gained anything from such development.

5. Do you think India should be given permanent membership in UN Security Council? Justify your answer.

India deserves permanent membership in UN Security Council for the following reasons:

- a. India is the second most populous country in the world comprising almost 1/5 of the world population.
- b. India is the world's largest democracy.
- c. India has participated in almost all the initiatives of the United Nations. It's role in the UN peacekeeping efforts is along and substantial one.
- d. India has also made regular financial contributions to the UNO and never faltered on its payments.

Thus, since India is an emerging global power its claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council is justified.

6. Discuss briefly about the New International Economic Order.

- a. The New International Economic Order (NIEO) was a set of proposals put forward by the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) who were mostly Least Developed Countries (LDC's) during the Cold War.
- b. The main objective of the NIEO was to develop themselves economically and free themselves from their dependence on the rich countries of the First World.
- c. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) brought out a report titled *Towards a New Trade Policy for Development* in 1972 to achieve the goals of the LDCs.
- d. The report proposed several reforms such as giving control to LDCs over their natural resources, obtain access to Western markets, reduce

- the cost of technology bought from Western countries, provide greater role to LDCs in international economic institutions.
- e. The NIEO initiative however faded by 1980s due to stiff opposition from Western countries.

7. What 9/11 indicates in world politics? Discuss briefly.

- a. The 9/11 attack led to a ferocious response from the USA. The then President George W. Bush launched a 'Global War on Terror' as a response to the terrorist attack on American soil.
- b. As part of this war, the Operation Enduring Freedom was started against suspected militants such as Al-Qaeda and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.
- c. The USA made arrests all over the world often without the knowledge of the governments to which those arrested belonged. Many were put in secret prisons namely the Guantanamo Bay, a US naval base in Cuba which had no international law protection. The prisoners did not enjoy any rights and even representatives of the UNO were disallowed from meeting them.
- d. Thus 9/11 and its aftermath indicates USA's hegemony and brute use of power at the international level. USA superseded national governments and their sovereignty and also the authority of the UNO.

8. Discuss briefly the functions of the World Bank.

- a. The World Bank was Created during the Second World War in 1944. It's activities are focused on the developing countries. It works for human development, agriculture and rural development, environmental protection, infrastructure and governance.
- b. It provides loans and grants to the member countries especially developing countries to employ in developmental activities related to the above mentioned areas.
- c. As such the World Bank exercises enormous influence on the economic policies of developing countries.
- d. The World Bank is also often criticised for setting the economic agenda of the poorer nations attaching strict rules to its loans and enforcing free market reforms

9. Discuss briefly about the components of the Security Strategy of India.

- a. India first security strategy is the strengthening of its military capabilities. Since it is surrounded by nuclear powers India's decision

to test its nuclear weapons in 1998 was justified by the Indian government to safeguard its national security.

- b. The second strategy is to strengthen international norms and institutions to protect its security interests. India supported the NAM, disarmament, decolonization and argued for a more equitable New International Economic Order. India was one of the signatories of Kyoto Protocol for environmental protection and is part of the UN peacekeeping mission.
- c. The third component of India's security is to deal with the internal challenges such as militant and separatist groups in the Northeast India, Kashmir and Punjab.
- d. The fourth component is to develop the country's economy in a way to lift the vast mass of citizens out of poverty and inequalities. There is a pressure on the government to combine economic growth with human development.

#### 10. Discuss the cultural consequences of globalization.

- a. Globalisation leads to the rise of a uniform culture or what is called cultural homogenization.
- b. Cultural homogenization is seen as a threat to diversity cultures in the world as it is Western culture which is imposed in the name of global culture. There is especially an influence of an American way of life globally on weaker cultures. This also further adds to the soft power of American hegemony.
- c. However, it can be said that culture is hardly static, and flow of culture is a constant, multilateral process. An inflow of external influences also leads to larger number of choices and modify the culture without overwhelming the traditional culture.
- d. Globalisation has also led to cultures becoming more distinct, a process which is called cultural heterogenization. Cultures have become more different as a response to the homogenizing effect of globalization.

#### 11. Discuss briefly the causes of conflict between India and Pakistan.

- a. India and Pakistan have been embroiled in a conflict over Kashmir since independence. Both countries claim Kashmir to be a part of their respective territories. Wars in 1947-48 and 1965 failed to settle the matter. In 1971 India won a decisive war against Pakistan but the Kashmir issue remains unsettled.

- b. India and Pakistan are also embroiled in an arms race with both acquiring nuclear weapons and missiles in the 1990s. In 1998 India conducted a nuclear test in Pokhran and Pakistan responded with its own test within a few days in Chagai Hills.
- c. Both countries are also embroiled in a conflict over the Siachen glacier which is a geo-strategic spot for both countries.
- d. Both countries do not trust each other and have accused one another for fomenting terrorist and anti-national activities on each other's soil. The Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan has been accused of being involved in anti-India campaigns in Khalistan or Northeast India. While Pakistan has accused India of doing the same in Balochistan and Sindh.

12. discuss briefly about the need of reforms in the United nations.

- a. In recent years there has been greater demand for reforms of the United Nations. Firstly there is a demand for reform of the organisation's structures and processes. There has been demand for an increase in the UN Security Council's permanent and non-permanent membership and to include countries from Asia, Africa and South America.
- b. The UN was established right after the end of Second World War is dominated by Western countries and lacks equitable representation. Hence to represent today's political realities, more countries of the developing nations have to be included in the UN's structures.
- c. Secondly there is a demand for reform and review of the issues that fall within the jurisdiction of the UN. Several countries and experts want the UN to play a greater and more effective role in peace and security missions such as through a Peacebuilding Commission, through the Human Rights Council, achievement of Millennium Development Goals etc
- d. Not all are in agreement with expansion of the spheres of the UN's roles. Several countries want the UN's role to be confined to developmental and humanitarian work as there are questions to what specifically the UN can or should do to achieve peace. Questions have been raised on UN's intervention in domestic issues of countries which might erode their sovereignty.

13. What is the relationship between human security and health? Discuss briefly.

- a. Health epidemics such as HIV-AIDS, bird flu, Covid-19 have rapidly spread across countries through migration, tourism, business and military operations. One country's success or failure in limiting the epidemic affects infections in other countries.
- b. The access to treatment and medicines for these diseases greatly affect human security. For instance, North America and other industrialised countries due to its efficiency in creating new drug therapies can mitigate the impact of diseases. However poorer countries with least access to advanced and new medicines and therapies suffer and push the people into further poverty.
- c. Epidemics among animal are also a major source of concern for human security. Livestock diseases and death lead to economic crisis with huge losses in production and supply of animal products. This has a great impact on livelihoods of the people.
- d. Besides new diseases, even old diseases often mutate into drug resistant strains leading to a huge concern for human security.

14. Write 2 arguments in favour of and 2 arguments against globalization

- a. Globalisation leads to a 'worldwide interconnectedness' and has thus involved greater trade in commodities across the globe. The restrictions imposed on imports or capital investment by countries have now been reduced leading to a free flow of goods as well as capital.
- b. Globalisation has also led to a free flow of information and ideas across the globe especially through internet, world wide web and social media. Communication and exchange of ideas has led to a far more interconnected world mentally and psychologically.
- c. However, the growing influence of multinational companies due to globalisation is seen as a threat to the sovereignty of national governments. Since the market is the prime determiner of economic and social priorities, it reduces the power of governments to formulate its own policies.
- d. Most governments have retracted to a minimal state instead of welfare in the wake of globalisation. The state is reduced to performing only functions of maintaining law and order and ensuring national security. This leads to the removal of social security nets of the economically weaker citizens pushing them to further poverty and exploitation.



**15. Why did big powers need to have alliance with smaller countries? Right 4 reasons.**

The superpowers needed to have alliance with smaller countries for the following reasons:

- a. They needed access to vital natural resources such as oil and minerals
- b. They needed territory from where their nuclear weapons could be launched.
- c. They needed locations from where they could spy on each other.
- d. They needed economic support as many small allies could pay for their military expense.

**16. Discuss briefly about the constraints on US hegemony.**

- a. The first constraint is the institutional architecture of USA itself. Division of powers among the executive, legislature and judiciary limit the unrestrained exercise of military by the executive.
- b. The open nature of American society from the mass media to other civil society organisations is a huge constraint on American military action overseas.
- c. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) also limits the US hegemony since it doesn't want to hamper its relation with allies.
- d. However, in the post 9/11 era none of these constraints seemed to operate.

**17. Discuss briefly about the recent relationship between India and Pakistan.**

- a. Although India and Pakistan's relationship has mostly been of conflict of late there has been many attempts at peace and cooperation and reduce the risk of war.
- b. Leaders have met at several summits and meeting to find solutions to common problems. USA has been a prime mediator in building good relations between India and Pakistan.
- c. Number of buses have opened up between both countries and trade has increased substantially in the last five years. Visa is also granted easily.
- d. Social activists and prominent personalities have collaborated to keep the atmosphere friendly between the two countries.

**18. Discuss briefly about the political consequences of globalization.**

- a. Globalisation results in an erosion of state capacity. The old 'welfare state' system is giving way to a minimalist state system where the state



only performs certain core functions such as maintenance of law and order and ensuring citizens' security. The state has withdrawn from many of its welfare measures for the citizens.

- b. In a globalised world the market is the prime determinant of social and economic priorities. This has led to the entry and increased role of multinational companies further reducing the decision making capacities of national governments.
- c. However, in many ways it can also be said that globalization has led to a boost in state capacity. Due to the availability of enhanced technology to collect information states have been able to use it to rule more powerfully.
- d. Despite globalization and importance of market, the primacy of the state remains unchallenged a political community. Nation-states continue to function as earlier with continued rivalries as well as policing and security functions.

1. Discuss critically about the new international economic order.

- a. The New International Economic Order (NIEO) was a set of proposals put forward during the Cold War by the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) who were mostly Least Developed Countries (LDC's).
- b. The main objective of the NIEO was to develop themselves economically and free themselves from their dependence on the rich countries of the First World.
- c. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) brought out a report titled *Towards a New Trade Policy for Development* in 1972 to achieve the goals of the LDCs.
- d. The report proposed several reforms such as giving control to LDCs over their natural resources which were being exploited by the Western countries, obtain access to Western markets so that they could sell their products and earn more profit, reduce the cost of technology bought from Western countries, provide greater role to LDCs in international economic institutions.
- e. The NIEO initiatives gained strength by 1970s and thus NAM became an important economic pressure group.
- f. However by 1980s the NIEO's influence had faded due to stiff opposition from Western countries and due to disunity among the NAM countries.

2. What was India's stand in the Cold War era discuss.

- a. India was a leading member in the Non-Aligned Movement and hence India's role during the Cold War was two-fold.
- b. India stayed away from the two superpowers and their alliances while also raising its voice against the newly independent countries joining the two power blocs.
- c. The then PM of India, Nehru who was also a leader of NAM stressed that India was in favour of active intervention in world affairs to soften Cold War rivalries and prevent full scale war.
- d. Indian diplomats and leaders were used to communicate and mediate between Cold War rivals such as the Korean War in the early 1950s.
- e. India repeatedly tried to activate those international and regional organisations which were not part of USA or USSR led alliances to join the NAM.
- f. Nehru stressed that such stance was neither passive nor negative and the 'commonwealth of free and cooperating nations' could play a positive role in softening the Cold War if not end it.

3. Discuss the consequences of disintegration of Soviet Union/USSR.

- a. The disintegration of Soviet Union led to the end of the Cold War and related confrontations.
- b. The ideological dispute between capitalist USA and communist USSR was over as well as the military rivalry between their respective alliances combined with arms race.
- c. Power relations in the world changed with the end of bipolarity leading to a unipolar world. The USA soon became the only superpower.
- d. The capitalist economy was now the sole dominant system backed by powerful international economic institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
- e. The liberal democracy model as championed by USA and its allies became the best way to organize political life.
- f. The end of USSR led to the independence of many new countries from the Baltic, East European and Central Asian regions. Several of these countries also joined the NATO.

4. Discuss India's relationship with USA

- a. India and USA share a complex relationship. During the Cold War India was closest with USSR and hence its relation with USA was not great.

- b. However in 1991 with India opting for liberalising its economy, relations with USA gained strength and USA became India's largest economic partner.
- c. India and USA's relations mainly depend on two factors- technological dimension and the Indian-American diaspora.
- d. USA absorbs 65% of India's total exports in the software sector. Most of the technical staff at Boeing, employees at the Silicon Valley are of Indian origin as well as the owners of hi-tech start-ups in USA.
- e. There are varying views within India regarding its relationship with USA. Many suggest that opposing the American hegemony is futile and rather India should take advantage by maintaining good relations with the US.
- f. Several observers want India to concentrate on its own comprehensive development and remain aloof from USA. While many also suggest that India should take a leading role in establishing coalition with developing nations which would perhaps in the future be able to do away with US hegemony.

5. Why did Soviet Union disintegrate? Discuss elaborately.

- a. There were several internal weaknesses of the Soviet political and economic institutions which could not meet the aspirations of its people and ultimately led to its collapse.
- b. Economic stagnation led to severe consumer shortages which led to mass dissent.
- c. The Soviet Union's maximum expenditure was to develop and maintain its military and nuclear arsenal. It also spent much of its resources on developing its satellite states in Central Asia and East Europe leading to huge burden on its economy.
- d. Political stagnation of the Soviet Union after 70 years of Communist Party's rule also hastened its collapse. The administration was highly centralised and corruption had increased.
- e. Gorbachev's reforms of glasnost and perestroika had mixed response from the people. Some felt that the reforms should have been brought earlier while many especially in the Communist Party opposed these reforms. Gorbachev lost support to his government from both sides.
- f. There was growing nationalist sentiment among many member republics of the USSR such as Estonia, Ukraine, Georgia etc which finally proved to be the final push in USSR's collapse.

## 6. Discuss elaborately The US hegemony as an economic superpower.

- a. The USA as the global hegemon is the leading provider of global public goods. Public goods mean those goods that can be consumed by one without reducing the amount for another such as fresh air, clean water, roads etc
- b. The USA's multi-oceanic naval power runs the sea-lanes of communication without which free global trade would not be possible. USA thus also controls the law of the seas and ensures freedom of navigation in international waters.
- c. The internet is also the most popular global public good today. The internet is the direct outcome of the USA's military research, and it runs on the global network of satellites. USA owns the most of these satellites.
- d. The USA alone shares 21% of the world economy and is present in almost all sectors of the international economic system.
- e. The Bretton Woods system which still structures the basic world economy was created by the USA at the end of the Second World War. The WTO, World Bank and the IMF are products of American hegemony.
- f. A classic example of USA's economic hegemony is the popularity of the MBA degree. The idea that business is a skill and can be taught at a university is uniquely American. The first business school was established in USA in 1881 and after 1950s it is popular all over the world.

## 7. What are the main pillars of ASEAN? Discuss elaborately.

ASEAN's three main pillars are- ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

- a. The ASEAN Security Community based on the idea that territorial disputes should not escalate into full scale war. By 2003, ASEAN members upheld through several agreements to ensure peace, neutrality, cooperation, non-interference and respect for national sovereignty. The ASEAN Regional Forum established in 1994 carries out the coordination of security and foreign policy of the ASEAN.
- b. The objective of the ASEAN Economic Community is the creation of a common market and production base within ASEAN states to aid social and economic development within the states. It also works on strengthening ASEAN Dispute Settlement Mechanism to settle economic disputes. ASEAN has focused on creating a Free Trade Area (FTA) for investment, labour and services.

- c. ASEAN is a strong regional organisation. Its Vision 2020 has defined an outward-looking role for ASEAN. The Socio-Cultural Community encourages negotiation over conflict and has mediated the end of Cambodian conflict, East Timor crisis and meets annually to discuss East Asian cooperation.

#### 8. Discuss the rise of China as an economic power.

- a. China's attained economic success since 1978 and has been the fastest growing economy since. It is estimated that it will overtake USA as the world's largest economy by 2040.
- b. After the inception of the People's Republic of China in 1949, it followed a Soviet model under its leader Mao. It attempted to create a state-owned heavy industries sector from the capital accumulated from agriculture. China decided to substitute imports with domestic goods due to shortage of foreign exchange.
- c. Employment and social welfare were assured for all, and China went ahead other developing countries in providing education and healthcare to its citizens. However, the population growth was not proportionate to the agricultural or industrial production. Growth was slow which made per capita income low.
- d. Thus, Chinese leadership took major decisions to end its economic isolation and established relations with the USA in 1972. Premier Zhou En Lai proposed four modernisations (agriculture, industry, science and technology and military). By 1978, the then leader Deng Xiaoping announced the 'open door' policy in China and brought in economic reforms.
- e. China opened its economy step by step. The privatization of agriculture in 1982 led to rise in agricultural production and rural incomes. This was followed by privatization of industry in 1998. Trade barriers were lifted in Special Economic Zones which brought in foreign investors and high rate of growth in foreign trade. China is the most important destination for Foreign Direct Investment and has large foreign exchange reserves which allow it to make huge investments in other countries.
- f. China's inclusion in the World Trade Organisation deepened its integration in the world economy. It is now a regional as well as global power with incredible influence with its trading partners. Its issues with USA, ASEAN, Russia and Japan are now tempered by economic considerations. Its investments in Latin America and Africa have also

strengthened its influence among the developing nations as a global economic power.

9. Discuss the latest trend in Indo-US relationship.

- a. In 1991 with India opting for liberalising its economy, relations with USA gained strength and USA became India's largest economic partner. India and USA's relations mainly depend on two factors- technological dimension and the Indian-American diaspora.
- b. The USA absorbs 65% of India's total exports in software sector which goes to show the interdependence between both countries in the technological dimension.
- c. The Indian-American diaspora is seen to have greater influence with increasing number of political leaders and diplomats of Indian origin. For example the present US Vice President Kamala Harris is of Indian origin.
- d. The Indian diaspora provide manpower in the USA's technological sector. For example, 35% of technical staff at Boeing is of Indian origin, 3 lakh Indians work at Silicon Valley and 15% of all hi-tech startups in US are by people of Indian origin.
- e. There are varying views within India regarding its relationship with USA. Many suggest that opposing the American hegemony is futile and rather India should take advantage by maintaining good relations with the US.
- f. Several observers want India to concentrate on its own comprehensive development and remain aloof from USA. While many also suggest that India should take a leading role in establishing coalition with developing nations which would perhaps in the future be able to do away with US hegemony.

10. Examine the political and diplomatic influence of European Union.

- a. The European Union has great political and diplomatic influence. The EU is the world's second biggest economy with the GDP of more than 17 trillion in 2016 next to that of the USA. Its currency the Euro can pose a threat to the dominance of the US dollar. This gives the EU great political mileage in diplomatic issues such as that with China and neighbouring countries in Asia and Africa.
- b. The EU functions as an important bloc in international economic organisations such as the World Trade Organization. The EU also has



two members-Britain and France which hold permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

- c. The EU includes several non-permanent members of the Security Council which enables it to influence some US policies such as the US position on Iran's nuclear program.
- d. It's use of diplomacy, economic investments and negotiations rather than coercion and military force has been effective such as in the case of its dialogue with China on human rights and environmental degradation.
- e. Militarily the EU's combined armed forces are the second largest in the world. it's total spending on defence is second after the US. Two EU member states Britain and France have nuclear arsenals of 550 nuclear warheads approximately and EU is also the world's second most important source of space and communications technology.
- f. As a supranational organization the EU is able to intervene in economic political and social areas. However there is also a deep seated Euroscepticism about the EU's integrationist agenda and many countries thus have their own foreign relations and defence policies. For instance, UK opted out of EU in the famous Brexit referendum.

#### 11. Discuss the aims and achievements of ASEAN.

- a. ASEAN was established in 1967 by five countries- Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines by signing the Bangkok Declaration. The first aim of ASEAN was to accelerate economic growth and through that social progress and cultural development.
- b. A secondary objective was to promote regional peace and stability based on the rule of law and principles of the United Nations charter. Unlike the EU the ASEAN does not have supranational structures and institutions. ASEAN believes in the 'ASEAN Way' which is a form of interaction that is informal, non-confrontational and cooperative while respecting national sovereignty.
- c. ASEAN broadened its objectives beyond the social and economic spheres and in 2003 Asian established its three pillars namely the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN sociocultural community.
- d. The ASEAN's achievements are multifold. Firstly it is the only regional association in Asia that provides a political forum where Asian countries and the major powers can discuss political and security concerns.



- e. ASEAN today has a booming economy and is growing faster than the US, EU and Japan. This accounts for the growth in its influence both in the region and beyond. The ASEAN created a common market for its member states to aid social and economic development in the region. It has also focused on creating a Free Trade Area (FTA) for investment, labour and services. The US China followed by many other countries have already moved to negotiate FTAs with the ASEAN.
- f. The ASEAN's Vision 2020 has defined an outward looking role for ASEAN in the international community. This builds on the already existing ASEAN policy to encourage negotiation over conflicts in the region. Thus ASEAN has mediated the end of the Cambodian conflict, the East Timor crisis and meets annually to discuss East Asian cooperation.

## 12. Discuss India's relationship with China.

- a. After India gained independence and the inception of the People's Republic of China there was hope that both would come together to shape the future of the developing world, Asia in particular.
- b. However after the Chinese takeover of Tibet in 1950 and the final settlement of the Sino Indian border, China and India were involved in a border conflict in 1962 over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin region of Ladakh.
- c. After 1962 diplomatic relations between the two countries were downgraded until the 1976. It was only from the 1970s that India's relationship with China improved. A series of talks were initiated to resolve the border issue in 1981.
- d. PM Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988 improved India China relations. Several agreements on cultural exchange and cooperation in science and technology were signed and four border posts for trade were initiated. Since 1999 India and China trade has grown to 30% per year and bilateral trade increased to more than 84 billion in 2017.
- e. Increasing communication and transportation links, common economic interests and global concerns have led to a sound relationship between China and India despite border issues.
- f. Since both countries have shared interest they have agreed to cooperate with each other in areas that could otherwise create conflict between the two such as bidding for energy deals. At the global level India and China have adopted similar policies in international economic institutions like the World Trade Organization.