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CSS Past Papers

Subject: International Relations

Year: 2026

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FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION-2026
FOR RECRUITMENT TO POSTS IN BS-17
UNDER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Roll Number

CSS International Relations (IR) Paper-I 2026

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS	PART-I MCQS	MAXIMUM MARKS = 20
PART-I (MCQS): MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES	PART-II MCQS	MAXIMUM MARKS = 80
NOTE: 1. First attempt PART-I (MCQS) on separate OMR Answer Sheet which shall be taken back after 30 minutes. 2. Overwriting/cutting of the options/answers will not be given credit. 3. There is no negative marking. All MCQs must be attempted.		



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Legalversity

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PAPER-I

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(PART-I MCQs)

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(PART-II)

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NOTE: (i) First attempt PART-I (MCQs) on separate OMR Answer Sheet which shall be taken back after 30 minutes.

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PART-I (MCQs) (COMPULSORY)

Q-1. (i) Select the best option/answer and fill in the appropriate Box ☐ on the OMR Answer Sheet. (20x1=20)
(ii) Answers given anywhere else, other than OMR Answer Sheet, will not be considered.

- According to the Balance of Power theory, peace is maintained when:
 - Global institutions govern all disputes
 - No single state becomes overwhelmingly powerful
 - Economic inequality is minimized
 - Single state governs all disputes
- A key criticism of Realism is that it:
 - Focuses excessively on international law
 - Assumes all states are cooperative
 - Overlooks the role of ideas, norms, and domestic politics in shaping state behavior
 - None of these
- The balance of Power concept suggests:
 - States form alliances to prevent any one state from dominating
 - All states should disarm to achieve peace
 - International organizations cause stability
 - None of these
- Which of the following is a key determinant of foreign policy?
 - Domestic political structures
 - Economic and military capabilities
 - Both (A) & (B)
 - Geographical location
- Total War differs from Limited War in that:
 - Limited war involves total mobilization of society
 - Total war mobilizes all societal resources for conflict
 - Total war is always defensive
 - None of these
- Deterrence Theory is based on the idea that:
 - Threat of retaliation prevents aggression
 - International law guarantees compliance
 - Both (A) & (B)
 - None of these
- International law primarily serves to:
 - Provide legally binding rules governing relations among states
 - Ensure states always have the same interests
 - Both (A) & (B)
 - None of these
- Which of the following is a primary function of the IMF?
 - Lending to countries facing balance-of-payments crises
 - Building infrastructure in developing countries
 - Ensuring that recipient countries undertake reforms
 - Both (A) & (C)
- Treaty of Friendship between Pakistan and China was signed in:
 - 1959
 - 1971
 - 1992
 - None of these
- Which international tribunal has the right to prosecute individuals for war crimes and crimes against humanity?
 - United Nations Prosecution Council
 - International Court of Justice
 - International Criminal Court
 - Both (A) & (C)
- Causes of war often include:
 - Competition over resources
 - Nationalism and ideological differences
 - Both (A) & (B)
 - None of these
- The World Bank differs from the IMF because it primarily:
 - Handles balance-of-payments crises
 - Manages global monetary policy
 - Focuses on long-term development and poverty reduction
 - Both (A) & (C)
- According to _____, 'war is an extension of politics by other means'.
 - Hans Morgenthau
 - Sun Tzu
 - Thomas Hobbes
 - None of these
- What is regionalism?
 - Creation of a new regional polity bringing together a number of different constituent parts
 - Regular and sustained interaction between states on policy issues
 - Development of institutionalized cooperation among states and other actors on the basis of regional contiguity as a feature of global politics
 - None of these
- The last SAARC Summit was held in _____ in Nepal.
 - 2022
 - 2019
 - 2016
 - None of these
- Which scenario best demonstrates the use of deterrence in international relations?
 - A country mobilizes all its resources to prevent attack
 - A country relies on international courts for security
 - A country signs international security regimes
 - None of these
- National interest is influenced by:
 - Political, Military & economic capability
 - Geography, resources, historical experiences, and domestic politics
 - Cultural similarities with other states only
 - None of these

NOTE:

- i. **Part-II** is to be attempted on the separate **Answer Book**.
- ii. Attempt **ALL** questions from **Part-II**.
- iii. All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
- iv. Write **Q.NO** in the **Answer Book** in according with **Q.No** in the **Q.Paper**.
- v. **No Page/Space** be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of **Answer Book** must be crossed.
- vi. Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.

Q. No. 2. Critically discuss the concept of Balance of Power in light of Hans Morgenthau's thought.

Q. No. 3. Evaluate the relevance of the nation-state system in the context of global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and supranational organizations.

Q. No. 4. Critically evaluate the Theory of Deterrence in the Indo-Pakistan context with special reference to the May 2025 conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Q. No. 5. Analyse how the scope of International Relations has expanded with the rise of non-state actors in global politics.

Q. No. 6. Evaluate the effectiveness of international law in managing conflicts where there is asymmetry in power dynamics with special reference to the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Q. No. 7. Is bipolarity inherently more stable than multipolarity? Discuss with reference to classical and contemporary IR scholarship.

Q. No. 8. Comment and contextualize the following statements:

Fighting terrorism is like being a goalkeeper; you can make a hundred brilliant saves, but the only shot that people remember is the one that gets past you.

State terrorism is the new threat to Global Security.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PAPER-I, CSS-2024

18. Which statement best reflects feminist IR theory?
- (A) Gendered assumptions shape security policies and international priorities.
 (B) Gender role in international law ensures equality automatically.
 (C) Gender-sensitive economic growth determines all foreign policy.
19. Woodrow Wilson was proponent of:
- (A) Realism (B) Idealism (C) Constructivism (D) Feminism
20. Pakistan shares land and/or maritime borders with _____ countries.
- (A) 3 (B) 4 (C) 5 (D) 6

PART-II

- NOTE:** (i) Part-II is to be attempted on the separate Answer Book.
 (ii) Attempt **ONLY FOUR** questions from **PART-II**. **ALL** questions carry **EQUAL** marks.
 (iii) All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
 (iv) Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q. Paper.
 (v) No Page/Space be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of Answer Book must be crossed.
 (vi) Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.



- Q. No. 2. Critically discuss the concept of Balance of Power in light of Hans Morgenthau's thought. (20)
- Q. No. 3. Evaluate the relevance of the nation-state system in the context of global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and supranational organizations. (20)
- Q. No. 4. Critically evaluate Theory of Deterrence in Indo-Pakistan context with special reference to May 2025 conflict between the two nuclear armed neighbours. (20)
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- Q. No. 6. Evaluate the effectiveness of international law in managing conflicts where there is asymmetry in power dynamics with special reference to Israel-Gaza conflict. (20)
- Q. No. 7. Is bipolarity inherently more stable than multipolarity? Discuss with reference to classical and contemporary IR scholarship. (20)
- Q. No. 8. Comment and contextualize the following statements. (10 each) (20)
- (a) Fighting terrorism is like being a golfer: you can make a hundred brilliant saves but the only shot that people remember is the one that gets past you.
 (b) State terrorism is the new threat to Global Security.
