

CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA | WORKSHEET

Class 12 - Political Science

1. Which among the following statements is not true about the India-Maldives relations? [1]

a) India has bilateral agreements with the Maldives under SAFTA	b) India has also contributed to the island's economic development
c) India's ties with the Maldives remain warm and cordial	d) India provide help to the Maldives when Sri Lankan mercenaries attacked it

2. Which trade agreement promised a free trade zone for SAARC countries? [1]

a) South Asian Free Trade	b) Northwest American Free Trade
c) North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement	d) North America Free Trade Agreement

3. Which of the following leaders has led the popular struggle against the domination of West Pakistan? [1]

a) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	b) Lt. Gen H.M. Ershad
c) Ziaur Rahman	d) Indira Gandhi

4. Which among the following statements about the Indo-Bhutan relationship is not true? [1]

a) Bhutan has had some differences over the Indian migrants	b) India remains the biggest source of development aid to Bhutan
c) India and Bhutan do not have any major conflicts with each other	d) The Bhutanese monarch weed out the guerrillas from Northeastern India

5. Which among the following is not a reason for the India Nepal sour relations? [1]

a) A trade-related dispute in the past	b) Interlocking water management grids
c) Allowing its citizens to travel and work without Visas and Passports respectively	d) The warm relationship between Nepal and China

6. Which of the following is not a reason for the India Pakistan conflict? [1]

a) Over acquisition of arms	b) Over the control of Siachen Glacier
c) Over the demarcation line in Sir Creek in the Rann of Kutch	d) Over the Chittagong Hill Tracts

7. Name the nation which became a member of the SAARC recently. [1]

a) Afghanistan	b) Bhutan
c) Pakistan	d) Myanmar

8. Which party dominates the political affairs of Maldives? [1]

agreement on river-water sharing

South Asian politics

c) The parliament of the Maldives voted unanimously to introduce a communist system

d) SAFTA was signed at the 12th SAARC Summit in Islamabad

20. Study the picture given below and answer the questions that follow:

[5]

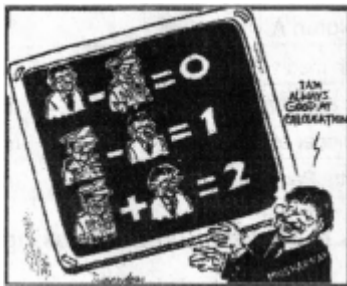


Questions

- i. What does the cartoon represent?
- ii. Which animals do represent Sinhala and LTTE?
- iii. What does Sri Lankan leadership speak in the cartoon?
- iv. Write a short note on the Civil War in Sri Lanka.

21. Study the cartoon given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

[5]



- i. Identify the country related to this cartoon.
- ii. Evaluate the system of governance being practised in this country.
- iii. How is the system of governance in India different from that of the country related to the cartoon?

22. What does SAFTA stand for? When was it signed? What is the spirit behind it?

[2]

23. What are the problem and conflict that India have with Pakistan?

[2]

24. "Democracy in South Asia has expanded the global imagination of democracy". Do you agree? Justify.

[2]

25. Why did India help Bangladesh to get independence and how?

[2]

26. Who led the popular struggle in East Pakistan? What led to his assassination in 1975?

[2]

27. How are the external powers influencing bilateral relations in South Asia? Take any one example to illustrate your point.

[4]

28. Explain any five points of conflict between India and Bangladesh.

[4]

29. Describe India-Sri Lanka relations.

[4]

30. Explain India's changing relationship with Pakistan.

[4]

31. List three challenges to democracy in Nepal.

[4]

32. Explain any four causes of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

[4]

33. Assess the positive and negative aspects of India's relations with Bangladesh.

[6]

34. Examine the changing Indo-China relations.

[6]

Solution

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- (a)** India has bilateral agreements with the Maldives under SAFTA
Explanation: The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) is the free trade arrangement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). India has bilateral agreements with Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka and not with the Maldives.
- (a)** South Asian Free Trade
Explanation: SAARC members signed the South Asian Free Trade (SAFTA) agreement which promised the formation of a free trade zone for the whole of South Asia. A new chapter of peace and cooperation might evolve in South Asia if all the countries in the region allow free trade across the borders. This is the spirit behind the idea of SAFTA. The Agreement was signed in 2004 and came into effect on 1 January 2006. SAFTA aims at lowering trade tariffs.
- (a)** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
Explanation: A popular struggle against West Pakistani dominance was led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In the 1970 election, the Awami League under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won all seats but the government dominated by the West Pakistani leadership refused to convene the assembly.
- (a)** Bhutan has had some differences over the Indian migrants
Explanation: In South Asia, not all conflicts are between India and its neighbours. Bhutan and Nepal have had a disagreement in the past over the migration of ethnic Nepalese into Bhutan.
- (b)** Interlocking water management grids
Explanation: Nepal and India share a friendly relation with each other but certain issues like warm relation of Nepal with China, Maoist movement in Nepal etc have disturbed the relation. Despite differences, trade, scientific co-operation, electricity generation and interlocking water management grids hold the two countries together.
- (d)** Over the Chittagong Hill Tracts
Explanation: Bangladeshi governments have felt that the Indian government behaves like a regional bully over the sharing of river waters, encouraging rebellion in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, trying to extract its natural gas and being unfair in trade. The two countries have not succeeded in resolving their boundary dispute.
- (a)** Afghanistan
Explanation: Afghanistan joined the SAARC in 2007 and got its membership. At present, there are eight member countries in SAARC - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It also has nine Observers, namely China, EU, Iran, Republic of Korea, Australia, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, and the USA.
- (c)** Maldivian Democratic Party
Explanation: The Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) dominates the political affairs of the island. The MDP won the 2018 Elections.
- (b)** India
Explanation: India enjoys a very special relationship with Bhutan and does not have any major conflict with the Bhutanese government. India is involved in big hydroelectric projects in Bhutan and remains the Himalayan kingdom's biggest source of development aid.
- (b)** The Gorkhas
Explanation: There was a huge influence of Maoists in many parts of Nepal who believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite. Hence, a triangular conflict among the Monarchist forces, the democrats and the Maoists took place for some time. The parliament was abolished and the government was dismissed by the king in 2002.
- (a)** Nepal
Explanation: Nepal was the Hindu Kingdom in the past but later changed into a constitutional monarchy for many years. In the wake of a strong pro-democracy movement, the king accepted the demand for a new democratic Constitution in 1990. There was a conflict among the democrats, Maoists and monarchist forces which led to the abolition of parliament and dismissal of government in 2002 by the king.
- (b)** India and Bangladesh
Explanation: The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India signed on 12 December 1996 for a period of 30

years was marked as a major footstep towards the conclusion of a longstanding conflict over sharing of the Ganges water.

13. **(d)** Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman
Explanation: Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman
14. **(a)** Pakistan
Explanation: Pakistan
15. **(b)** Maoist guerrillas
Explanation: During the nineties, the Maoists of Nepal were successful in spreading their influence in many parts of Nepal. They believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite. This led to a violent conflict between the **Maoist guerrillas** and the armed forces of the **king**.
16. **(b)** January 2004
Explanation: It was started in the 12th meeting of SAARC held in Islamabad.
17. **(c)** Communists who believe in the ideology of Mao
Explanation: Maoist were the **communists who believe in the ideology of the** Chinese communist revolutionary **Mao Zedong**. During the nineties, the Maoists of Nepal were successful in spreading their influence in many parts of Nepal. They believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite.
18. **(c)** Nepal
Explanation: Nepal was a Hindu kingdom in the past and then a constitutional monarchy in the modern period for many years. Throughout this period, political parties and common people of Nepal have wanted a more open and responsive system of government. But the king, with the help of the army, retained full control over the government and restricted the expansion of democracy in Nepal.
19. **(c)** The parliament of the Maldives voted unanimously to introduce a communist system
Explanation: The Maldives was a Sultanate till 1968 when it was transformed into a republic with a presidential form of government. In June 2005, the parliament of the Maldives voted unanimously to introduce a multi-party system. The Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) dominates the political affairs of the island.
20. i. Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict between LTTE and Sinhala.
ii. Sinhala by Lion, LTTE by Tiger.
iii. Sri Lankan leadership is supposed to balance both Sinhala hardliners and Tamil militants while negotiating peace
CIVIL WAR IN SRI LANKA: Civil war in Sri Lanka was an armed conflict fought on the island of Sri Lanka. Beginning on 23 July 1983, there was an intermittent insurgency against the government by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (the LTTE, also known as the Tamil Tigers), which fought to create an independent Tamil state called Tamil Eelam in the north and the east of the island. After a 26-year military campaign, the Sri Lankan military defeated the Tamil Tigers in May 2009, bringing the civil war to an end. In 2015 the Sri Lankan government decided to create a truth commission based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa to probe allegations during the war. According to Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera, a new constitution is expected to solve issues related to the war and ensure non-recurrence. However the government criticized both Sinhala and Tamil extremists for obstructing transitional justice.
21. i. The country related to this cartoon is Pakistan.
ii. The Government of Pakistan is a federal government established by the Constitution of Pakistan as a constituted governing authority of the four provinces of a proclaimed and established a parliamentary democratic republic, constitutionally called the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
iii. India and Pakistan are neighbouring countries that share much in history and culture. The difference between two does not appear to be in law. Both have constitutions that enshrine parliamentary democracy as the law of the land. The difference between the two appears to be a culture of democracy that has evolved in India over the last 57 years, while in Pakistan democracy remains stillborn.
22. i. The term SAFTA stands for the South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement. It was signed in 2004 at the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad to provide for a free trade zone for the whole of South Asia. It was SAPTA which gradually progressed to SAFTA. The leaders at the tenth SAARC summit in Colombo decided to set up a committee of experts to conclude a treaty by 2001 on SAFTA. SAFTA would ensure the free flow of items between the South Asian countries and promote and sustain mutual trade and economic co-operation in the region.
ii. The spirit behind SAFTA is that peace and cooperation would evolve in South Asia if all the countries in the region allow free trade across the borders. The agreement on SAFTA came into effect on 1st January 2006. SAFTA aims at lowering trade tariffs by 20 percent by 2007.

23. India has the following problems with Pakistan:

- i. The two countries got embroiled in a problem of Kashmir. The Pakistani government claimed that it belonged to them. But India claims Kashmir to be its integral part and Pakistan refuses to accept it. The war between India and Pakistan in 1947-48 and 1965 failed to settle the matter. The 1947-48 war resulted in the division of the province into Pakistan occupied Kashmir and the Indian province of Jammu and Kashmir divided by the Line of Control. In 1971, India won the decisive war against Pakistan but the issue remained unsettled.
- ii. Other Problem was of the control of Siachen glacier and over the acquisition of arms and states acquiring nuclear weapons and missiles.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Its Spy agency, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), is alleged to be involved in various anti-India campaigns.

24. 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:

- i. Every ordinary citizen, rich or poor belonging to different religions view the idea of democracy positively and support the institutions of representative democracy.
- ii. They prefer democracy over any other form of democracy and think that democracy is suitable for their country.
- iii. There has been a hint of spread and demand for democracy as we have witnessed in the case of Nepal. Nepal has transformed politically from Monarchy to Democracy. It confirms the expansion of Democracy in South Asia.

25. Bangladesh was created by the support of India because:

- i. 1. In 1970, West Pakistan did not allow Awami League led by Sheikh Mujib won all seats in East Pakistan.
- ii. 2. But East Pakistani's rebelled against and were suppressed by the army of West Pakistan.
- iii. 3. This led to a large scale migration into India, creating a huge refugee problem for India.
- iv. 4. The government of India supported the demanded of the people of East Pakistan for their independence and helped them, financially and militarily.
- v. 5. In December 1971, a war took place between India and Pakistan and ended with the surrender of Pakistani forces in East Pakistan and the formation of Bangladesh as an independent country.

26. a. Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman led the popular struggle in East Pakistan.

b. In 1975 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman got the constitution to change from parliamentary to presidential form of government. He demanded autonomy for the eastern region. In 1970 elections in the then Pakistan, the Awami League-led by Sheikh Mujib won all the seats in East Pakistan. This led to tensions and conflicts and ultimately to his assassination in August 1975.

27. The external powers influence bilateral relations in South Asia because no region exists in a vacuum. It is influenced by outside powers and events no matter how much it may try to insulate itself from non-regional powers:

- i. China and the United States remain key players in South Asian politics.
- ii. Sino-Indian relations have improved significantly in the last ten years, but China's strategic partnership with Pakistan remains a major irritant.
- iii. The demands of development and globalisation have brought the two Asian giants closer, and their economic ties have multiplied rapidly since 1991.
- iv. The US has had good relations with both India and Pakistan since the end of the Cold War and increasingly works as a moderator in India-Pakistan relations.
- v. Economic reforms and liberal economic policies in both countries have greatly increased the depth of American participation in the region.
- vi. The large South Asian diasporas in the US and the huge size of population and markets of the region also give America an added stake in the future of regional security and peace.
- vii. However, South Asia will continue to be known as a conflict-prone zone or will evolve into a regional bloc with some common cultural features and trade interests will depend more on the people and the region than any other outside power.

28. The issues of tension (negative aspects) between India and Bangladesh are :

- i. Sharing of river waters of Ganga and Brahmaputra has been one of the biggest issues between India and Bangladesh.
- ii. Indian Government is not happy with Bangladesh's refusal to act on unlawful immigration to India. It seems that the government of Bangladesh is deliberately not trying to stop these activities.
- iii. Bangladesh's support to anti-Indian Islamic fundamentalist groups. Therefore there has been a matter of conflicts between both the countries.

- iv. Bangladesh refused to allow Indian troops to move through its territory to the North-East region.
- v. Bangladesh refused to export natural gas to India and allow Myanmar to do so through its territory.

29. **India-Sri Lanka relations:**

The Government of India tried to negotiate with the Sri Lankan government to protect the interests of the Tamils. In 1987, the government of India for the first time got directly involved in the Sri Lankan Tamil question. India signed an accord with the Sri Lankan government. In 1989, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) pulled out of Sri Lanka without attaining its objectives. They treated this as an interference in their internal affairs. Ethnic conflict is still going on but India now prefers a policy of disengagement vis-a-vis Sri Lanka's internal troubles. India has now signed a free trade agreement with Sri Lanka. India has helped Sri Lanka in post-tsunami reconstruction. Thus, the relations between the two countries have improved.

30. 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:

- The two countries have agreed to undertake confidence building measures to reduce the risk of war.
- Social activists and prominent personalities have collaborated to create an atmosphere of friendship among the people of both countries.
- Leaders have met at summits to understand each other better and to find solutions .
- A number of bus routes have been opened up between these two countries.
- In last five years trade between the two parts of Punjab has increased substantially.
- Visas have been given more easily.

31. During the nineties, the Maoists of Nepal were successful in spreading their influence in many parts of Nepal. Three challenges to democracy in Nepal are as given below:

- i. They believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite. This led to violent conflicts between the Maoist guerrillas and the armed forces of the king. Now they want the constitution to include the radical programmes of social and social restructuring.
- ii. Some sections think that a nominal monarchy is necessary for Nepal to retain its link with the past.
- iii. Differences between the Maoists and the parties in the Seven Parties Alliance are also challenging to the democracy in Nepal.

32. The four causes of ethnic conflict were :

- i. The bone of contention was the region of Ceylon which was represented by the majority Sinhala group. They opposed the migration and settlements of Tamils from India in their region. Hence a series of conflict started between both the countries.
- ii. According to the group, Sri Lanka was only for Sinhala people and not for Tamils. They did not want to share power as well as resources with Tamils. This attitude of Sinhala people led to the establishment of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a militant organization, which desired for a separate country.
- iii. In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala language was made the official language, therefore there was a closed door for job opportunities in government offices for Tamils.
- iv. The presence of Indian troops was not liked by many Sri Lankans and hence in 1989, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) pulled out of Sri Lanka without attaining its objective.

33. From 1947 to 1971, Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan. It consisted of the partitioned areas of Bengal and Assam from British India. The people of this region resented the domination of Western Pakistan and the imposition of Urdu language. Soon after the partition, they began protests against the unfair treatment meted out to the Bengali culture and language. They also demanded fair representation in administration and a fair share in political power. Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman led the struggle against West Pakistani domination. He demanded autonomy for the eastern region.

In the 1970 elections, Sheikh Mujib won all the seats in East Pakistan. But the government dominated by the West Pakistani leadership refused to convene the assembly. Sheikh Mujib was arrested. Under the military rule of General Yahya Khan, the Pakistan army tried to suppress the mass movement of the Bengali people. Thousands of people were killed by the Pakistan army. This led a large scale migration into India, creating a huge refugee problem for India. The government of India supported the demand of the people of East Pakistan for their independence and helped them financially and militarily. This resulted in a war between India and Pakistan in December 1971 that ended in surrender of the Pakistan forces in East Pakistan and the formation of Bangladesh as an independent country.

34. **Indo-China Relations:**

- i. India signed the border treaty of 1954 with China, popularly known as Panchsheel treaty, followed shortly after Pakistan's induction into an alliance. India also had to strengthen herself against another developing threat from China. It appears that Nehru decided to buy time in regard to China. Nehru visited China in 1954 and discussed the issue of war and peace with Chairman Mao. He emphasised there the peculiarity of China's communism, which he described as not a full-blooded communism.

- ii. In 1958, with the occupation of Tibet by China, interests of India and China met in the heart of Central Asia. A conflict on interests in these circumstances might well have led to direct clash as it almost did over Tibet in 1950. But in her present position of weakness, India determined not to become embroiled in dangerous conflicts switched by her neighbour, unless its vital interests were openly threatened.
- iii. When China attacked India in October 1962, Nehru's efforts were to establish friendly and peaceful relations with her. Nehru deliberately did not concentrate on the development of defence of India before the Chinese attack on India in 1962.
- iv. The Sino-Indian border as it stands today, however, was very much the product of Manchu and Chinese Republican policy on the one hand and of British policy on the other.
- v. Since 2005, the bilateral relationship between China and India is seen as developing. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit in India during the year in question a joint statement was signed by the Premiers of both countries that laid down the blueprint for the future development of India-China relations. India China boundary question was also discussed by special representatives of both countries. Both countries celebrated the year 2006 as the Indo-China Friendship Year.