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Australia's Foreign Policy

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

M.P.S.E.-13

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Attempt five questions in all, selecting atleast two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss the middle power approach to Australia's foreign policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 10, 'Middle Power Framework'.

Q. 2. Examine how geo-economic factors are core in determining Australia's foreign policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 17, 'Geo-Economies as Case Determinant'.

Q. 3. Describe the role of societal elements in the making of Australia's foreign policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 24, 'Societal Elements'.

Q. 4. Discuss the impact of globalization on the Australian foreign policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 38, Q. No. 4.

Q. 5. Describe the reasons for re-structuring of Australian economy in the post-cold war era.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 41, 'Economic Re-Structuring Initiatives'.

SECTION-II

Q. 6. Examine Australia's role in USA's war against terrorism at the global level.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 53, '9/11 and After: Combating Terrorism'.

Q. 7. Discuss about the changing Australia-China relations in the light of China's assertion in South China Sea.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 60, 'Introduction', 'Australia-China Relations: 1980s-1990s' and Page No. 63, 'Chinese Perceptions of Australia'.

Q. 8. Examine Australia-ASEAN economic relations in the post-cold war era.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 93, 'ASEAN'.

Q. 9. Analyse Australia's role in regional cooperation through APEC.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 103, 'APEC Structure and Australia and Australia and APEC'.

Q. 10. Describe the steps taken by the Australian Government to protect the environment.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 131, Q. No. 3.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

M.P.S.E.-13

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Attempt five questions in all, selecting at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss the dependency approach to the study of Australian foreign policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 10, 'Satellite or Dependency Framework'.

Q. 2. Describe how blending of economic and military security is working as an important determinant of Australia's foreign policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 18, 'Towards Blending Economic and Military Security'.

Q. 3. Examine the role of important institutions in the making of Australian foreign policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 25, 'State Institutions' and Page No. 29, Q. No. 2.

Q. 4. Analyse the pattern of bilateral, regional and global trade of Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 34, 'Bilateral' and Page No. 35, 'Regional Trade and Global Trade'.

Q. 5. In the era of globalization, what kind of challenges in terms of trade and FDI are being faced by Australia?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 46, Q. No. 4 and Page No. 44, 'Challenges Ahead' and 'Needed Policy Initiatives'.

SECTION-II

Q. 6. Examine which factors are responsible for the emergence of Australia-USA alliance.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 55, Q. No. 2.

Q. 7. Discuss the areas of convergences and divergences in Australia-India relations in the post-Cold War era.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'Australia-India Convergence' and Chapter-9, Page No. 80, Q. No. 15.

Q. 8. Describe the areas of misconception between Australia and Indonesia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 88, Q. No. 4 and Q. No. 5.

Q. 9. Analyse Australia's role in Indian Ocean Rim Association.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 105, 'Australia's Interest in the IOR' and Page No. 107, Q. No. 5.

Q. 10. Critically examine about Australia's immigration policy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 118, Q. No. 2.



Sample Preview of The Chapter

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AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Importance of Studying Australia's Foreign Policy



INTRODUCTION

Australia is actively involved in global affair. It has established relations with countries across the globe despite its down under location. The country has mineral as well as agricultural resources and small population compared to its continental size. It is close by connected with Britain and Western civilization in history and evolution. It has close relations with Europe and North America as well. It is also building close ties with the countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Australia has modest natural resources. It has a small population compared to its continental size. However, Australia is located away from the centre of power. These factors had led Australia to seek its insertion in the global system. In this chapter we will discuss Australia's relations with countries across the world.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

AUSTRALIA'S DOMESTIC STRENGTHS

Australian political class has recognized that its security and prosperity depend significantly on the quality and strength of its partnership with the outside world. The business community in the country has also realized the importance of economic ties with countries across the world. Despite international uncertainty and globalization of economics, the country has made great strides in international relations because of its concerted initiatives to develop links with other countries, in-built strength of its socio-political institutions and its professed values. Its trade and foreign policy today is

global. It also shows the country's diverse interests and relationships with other parts of the world. It is also because of its geographical location and contemporary global developments. Its major tie-ups are also shifting in importance and it has maintained its other relationship.

In foreign policy, Australia has many similarities with that of India. Its objectives with regard to its foreign policy are also similar to India. It may be because of its liberal democratic polity and political and economic freedom. Its democratic values, legal practices and political institutions, enshrined in its constitution which was promulgated in 1901, are the foundations of its foreign policy. Australia's policy initiatives also promote and protect these institutions and values.

Like in India, Australia's political institutions and traditions are decentralised, strong and responsive. It has also a free and active media. Its parliamentary system of government offers an effective forum of debate for its policies. The policies are also shaped by the values cherished and advocated by the political class. The rule of law and equality of opportunity, it attempts to improve human rights and human security have also shaped its foreign and trade policy.

Located in the Asia-Pacific region, Australia is a Western country. It has close relations with North America and Europe. It also has a history of active engagement with countries in Asia. In recent years, the country has given priority to its ties with Asian countries.

Asian countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, China, Korea, Japan and India—are Australia's ten largest export markets. India is the sixth in the

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ranking in Australia's export destinations. China, Japan and India are important sources of capital and investments, a growing source of skilled migrants and major security partners. Thus, weaknesses and strengths of Asian countries are very important to Australia. However, the United States has remained as crucial to Australia security ties. In the Western alliance system, Australia plays a significant role.

The parameters of Australia's foreign policy have been to maintain a productive interplay between the two spheres of international affairs— (i) the basic Western make-up of its society and its institutions and wider international associations and (ii) close engagement with Asian countries. In recent decades, Australia is trying to adopt an independent posturing in international affairs without the Western alliance system. It has been a major theme in its external policy. Thus, Australia's relations with countries in Asia and other parts of the world are mutually reinforcing. The rationale is a stronger and diverse links outside Asia such as its defence and intelligence alliance with the other countries would give Australia to have greater influence in Asia.

Australia's geographic location, its focus on its ties with Asian countries and its Asian-oriented economies are positive assets in its links with the United States and Europe. The US and European countries have relations with Asian countries, yet they value Australia's role and its unique perspective in Asia. Because of Australia's close ties with Asia, many companies from the northern hemisphere have located their Asian headquarters in Australia.

Australia's engagement with Asian countries seems to improve in the coming years. Australia is also likely to focus on the substantial shared security and economic interests on the basis of its present engagement with Asia.

BUILDING COALITIONS THROUGH FUNCTIONAL AFFINITIES

In Australia's foreign relations, geography is not only the factor. It aims to develop functional affinities with countries globally with which it shares particular interests. Australia has been taking initiatives to build coalitions both regionally with other parts of the world with these interests in view.

For instance, Australia has developed close intelligence relations with a small group of countries which have different regional focuses. It has maintained its ties with the United States, the UK, Canada and New Zealand in the collection and sharing of intelligence

since the Second World War. This relationship is based on strategic affinities and a common interest to defend individual national interests. It is also based on trust in each other. This is also important because of the war against terrorism.

Australia is also quite actively working to promote multilateral free trade in global forums like General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC).

Working towards these policy measures, which Australia spearheaded in the 1980s, it has initiated and assumed leadership of the Cairns Group of Fair Agricultural Trading Nations set up in 1986. The members of the Cairns Group include thirteen other countries from five continents. The countries include Canada, Hungary, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. The objective of the Cairns Group was to include agriculture on GATT's agenda and reform of agricultural policies in export subsidies, import access and internal support. The group is a creative and effective multilateral diplomacy. It brings into fold a disparate group of members and holds them together for negotiation in global trade.

FROM MULTI-LATERALISM TO BI-LATERALISM

Even as multi-lateralism has the greatest impact on the security and economic environment globally, Australia gives importance to bilateral relations to advance its national interests. A major part of Australia's foreign and trade policy is bilateral advocacy. It works to influence governments and others to take decisions that favour and suit Australia's interests.

Australia deals with global and regional issues through bilateral advocacy and co-operation. For example, a series of bilateral agreements led to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Similarly, in the fight against terrorism, one of Australia's main objectives is to encourage other countries to implement the laws and develop the capabilities to deter and deal with terrorism. Australia's regional, bilateral and multilateral policies are not alternatives to each other. They are mutually supportive to fulfil the objective to advance the national interest.

For Australia, all its bilateral ties are not equally significant. Also, not all regional and multilateral activities will improve its prosperity and security. In the United Nations, Australia operates selectively and focuses its effort on the issues most directly relevant to

its interests. It gives importance to relationships, issues and multilateral activities which are most likely to advance the national interest.

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LINKS

Australia has been effectively dealing with the challenges of globalization and various international issues because of its domestic strength and vitality of its political and economic institutions. Its national economic performance and internal strengths have a major influence on its international standing.

International economic relations have greater role in Australia's development. A major portion of its wealth is based on international investment and trade. Its mining and agricultural industries have developed because of their access to global markets. It industrialization also has happened because of foreign investment and the trade.

Extensive economic reforms have improved Australia's trade and investment links. It has lowered barriers. Its productivity has enhanced due to reforms. Its growth in productivity was the second highest in the 1990s among developed economies after Finland. Deregulation, a more flexible labour market, tax reforms, more efficient provision of infrastructure, the strengthening of competition policies and low inflation have strengthened investments in the country.

Australia's international standing has improved because of its strong economic performance due to these reforms. Today, Australia is one of the best-performing developed economies in the world. Its average annual GDP growth is around 4 per cent which is among the highest in developed countries.

The country's capital market improved because of privatisation, tax reforms and corporate governance. In the global equity markets, Australia has been ranked ninth. International investment funds have invested in its capital markets. It has enhanced liquidity and reduced borrowing costs for business.

Its stable and open rules and arrangements protect and promote trade flows and finance. It has been working towards this interest through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bilateral and regional arrangements.

SECURITY LINKS OF AUSTRALIA

Australia has strong security capabilities. This is because of its strategic alliances and defence, intelligence and police partnerships. It also has technologically advanced armed forces. Australia is a

recognised military power in Asia and the South Pacific. Australia has received international attention and regional support because of its effective leadership and its contributions to the war against terrorism.

Its support to war against terrorism has also underlined the importance of Australia's other defence and law enforcement relationships. For example, Australia's joint investigation with the Indonesia on the terrorist attacks in Bali showed the value of such links. Australia has been strengthening its relationships by facilitating co-operation on security issues including terrorism and international crime. It is also participating in joint training exercises, bilateral dialogues and intelligence exchanges.

AUSTRALIA-INDIA CONVERGENCE

Australia and India have an evolving geopolitical convergence. They have similar strategic security interests and greater willingness to engage in direct bilateral and regional security forums. In 2001 the countries started a series of strategic dialogue covering a wide range of issues like regional and maritime matters and defence planning.

The reasons are: (i) The Malacca and Lombok Straits are crucial for world maritime trade. Today, half of the world's maritime trade passes through these straits. The volume of trade of Australia and India is not less significant. (ii) Australia and India aim protect the sea-lanes for the safe passage for commercial vessels and patrolling the high seas for drug and human cargo traffickers.

India's economic reforms in the 1990s also provided impetus to the growth in bilateral ties. Trade flows between the two countries have improved. Australia exports to India coal, copper ores, wool and non-monetary gold. India is Australia's fifth largest wool export market and third largest market for cooking coal. Australian also exports to India mining equipment and electrical machinery. Australia imports from India pearls and gems and textiles. India's economic growth is also likely to have major implications for Australian international economic policy. India's important role in the Doha Round has a major implication in India-Australia relationship.

After the terror attack in the United States, Australia has realized the threat posed by terrorism. It also took part in the Gulf war. The series of terrorist attacks beginning with the Bali bombing, Australia has revised its stance on India's concern on cross-border terrorism as a real threat to its national security. In 2003, Australia signed a MoU with India for monitoring and sharing

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intelligence on terrorist activities. In 2006, both the countries signed a number of agreements including defence co-operation, training, maritime co-operation, defence industries, defence research and development.

TERMINAL EXERCISES

Q. 1. Write a short note on Australia's domestic strength.

Ans. Australia is a stable, democratic nation in the fastest growing region of the world. Australia has a sound liberal democratic political system. It has political and economic freedom. It has strong democratic values, legal practices and political institutions. Its political institutions and traditions are decentralized, strong and responsive. It has also a free and active media. Its parliamentary system of government offers an effective forum of debate for its policies. The policies are also shaped by the values cherished and advocated by the political class. The rule of law and equality of opportunity, it attempts to improve human rights and human security also shaped its foreign and trade policy. Australia is a great trading nation with an open, diverse and resilient economy. Australia is a major exporter of minerals and fuels, including iron ore and coal. Imports provide Australians with access to a wide range of competitively-priced products and services from around the world. Imports are also used by Australian business as inputs for the production of new goods and services. Australia has a strong financial system, low unemployment and low public debt. It has a highly-skilled workforce. Australia has an export-oriented economy, with a strong focus on minerals and energy, premium quality agricultural and services products, innovation and creativity.

Q. 2. Assess Australia's standing in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years.

Ans. Australia, which is located in the Asia-Pacific region, has close relations with countries in the region. China, Japan and India are important sources of capital and investments, a growing source of skilled migrants and major security partners. India is the sixth in the ranking in Australia's export destinations.

Australia is committed to strengthening relations with Japan, not only by intensifying high level relations, but by building on its respective Alliances with the United States through the Trilateral Security Dialogue. It is working to enhance defence and security cooperation in maritime security and combating organized crime.

Australia has been successfully building a balanced and productive relationship with China, commencing with its early recognition and an early focus on trade links, particularly minerals and petroleum resources from its own state of Western Australia.

The Government is strongly committed to strengthening it even further. China was Australia's second largest trading partner in 2008.

The country is expanding a long standing close relationship, forged in the aftermath of the Korean War, with South Korea. Australia and South Korea are firm friends and close regional partners. South Korea is Australia's third-largest export market and our sixth-largest trading partner. Australia supports international efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of Korean peninsula security issues.

Australia is committed to taking its relationship with India to the front rank of its bilateral partnerships. The Government has seized upon this historic opportunity to take our relationship with India to a new economic and strategic level. Recognizing the implications of India's rise for Australia's national interests, the Government has taken the overdue step of making India a policy priority in Australia's foreign relations. In 2008-09, India was Australia's fourth-largest merchandise export market and seventh largest merchandise trading partner.

Australia's relationship with Indonesia forms a vital part of its international engagement. Indonesia is a key bilateral partner, an important player in our region and a driving force behind ASEAN and the East Asia Summit. For Australia, Indonesia is a major partner for our future in the region and in global terms.

Q. 3. Sketch the Australia-India economic and security relations since 1990s.

Ans. Since the beginning of the 1990s, economic relations between India and Australia have shown a dramatic increase, particularly in areas of Trade and Investment. The gradual restructuring and liberalization of India's economy has provided much of the impetus for the expanding bilateral trade relationship. Despite its status as a developing country, India has huge potential as a market for trade in goods and services. In 1994 it was rated the fifth largest economy in the world in purchasing power parity terms. This is of immense commercial significance to Australia. India-Australia trade has grown almost 200 per cent since 1991 and had touched US \$1.8 billion in 1997-98. India's exports to Australia are mainly cotton textiles and clothing, engineering goods, chemicals and related products,