

NEXT IAS

GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST 2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : M25GAT01**TEST NO. : 01**Name of Candidate: PARSHAL SECRETLYRoll No.: MT6 25 FLTRA046 Start Time 9:00 End Time 10:30Date of Examination: 08/07/25 Mobile No.

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10		6	15	
2	10		7	15	
3	10		8	15	
4	10		9	15	
5	10		10	15	
Total Marks : 50			Total Marks : 75		

GRAND TOTAL -/ 125

EVAL CODE: GRADED DATE:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.
8. Only those copies that are submitted on the date of exam till 5 pm will be graded.

REMARKS:

.....

.....

MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 2.50	3.00 - 3.50	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.00	4.00 - 5.50	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.'

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

1. The rise of inward-looking economic strategies in developed countries, such as the Reciprocal Tariff Plan of the USA, reflects a shift in global trade patterns. Analyse their geopolitical and economic implications for developing economies like India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Recently, America imposed 26% tariff on all goods from India, and higher tariffs on other developing countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam etc

Shift in global trade pattern

- Deglobalisation of trade
- Rise of Economic nationalism
eg America first, Brexit
- Rise of Bilateral Agreement
inst & fall of WTO
- New concept eg Friendshoring, Onshoring

Geopolitical Implication

① Fall of Multilateralism -

eg Decline role of WTO -

② Spaghetti Bowl problem due to

* rise of bilateral negotiation

⑧ Strengthening of China's position
As a pole

Positive impact

→ China + I opportunity for India

→ India can emerge as 'Voice of global south'

Economic Implication

① Global Trade War and deglobalisation
→ Negative impact on export

② Incompetitiveness of Indian products abroad → steel industry

③ Job loss and global slowdown
UNCTAD Recent Analysis

* ④ Weaponisation of supply chain
→ Chinese REE restriction

Positive

↓

New trade deals

→ positive tariff differential for India (~20% more tariff on China)

→ FTA with UK

There's no alternative to rules based global trade order and all should thus follow WTO rules

Examine Indian diaspora's role in enhancing India's global profile and contributing to its socio-economic development. Discuss the major challenges related to their welfare and engagement.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Indian diaspora is ³⁵ 32.1 million strong, given its spread & size it is aptly said, "Sun never sets in Indian diaspora". *

Role of Diaspora

(A) Global Profile

(i) Creates pro-India content in foreign country

(ii) Soft power → BRICON, Ayurveda, Bollywood.

(iii) Acts as a pressure group in respective country

→ Role of Diaspora in Nuclear Deal with USA

(B) Socio - Economic Development

(i) Economic Remittance - \$ 120 bn
(highest in world)

Candidate write on
Intro
Body
Conc.
Total

* (ii) Social Remittances (Agent of social change)

eg Yita Yopinceth (IMF)

* (iii) "Becum gain" instead of becum drain eg Haresh Jain (Ducum II) moved to India to start venture.

Prasid demand

Challenges

Way forward

① Diaspora Apartheid

* → Blue collar and Small NRIs overlooked by MEA.

② No Double Citizenship

③ Engagement stuck only to Puroviri Bharat Diwas

④ Stricter Visa norms for Diaspora

LM Singhvi Committee

① give dual citizenship

② Parliamentary Standing Committee for diaspora engage ment

③ A MEA cell, for diaspora problem

④ Special Incentive for FDI investment by NRIs

India's engagement must be characterised 4Cs: Care, Connect, Celebrate and collaborate

The suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) reflects deepening strategic mistrust between India and Pakistan. Examine the diplomatic and security implications of this move and analyse the structural limitations of the IWT that have hindered bilateral cooperation.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

After Pahalgam Attack, India has held Indus - Water treaty in abeyance following series of diplomatic and kinetic action against Pakistan.

Diplomatic implication of moves

Positive → ① clear message to Pakistan
 → ② validates India's stand against cross-border terrorism
 → ③ Terrorism will no longer be a low-cost option for Pakistan

Negative → ① lowers India's global profile → violation of a signed treaty → Against international law
 → ② Pakistan Might portray itself as victim

Security implication of move

Positive → ① Reduction in cross border
Crime activities

Negative → ① Pakistan's message:
Stopping water as act of
war
② Might fuel more radicalism
in Pakistan.
③ Security
Issue of
diverting water.

Structural Limitation of IWT

- ① Violation of India's Right as
"upper riparian state"
- ② Unjust → 80% of water to Pakistan
- ③ Pakistan's frequent opposition to
Indian project → Rattle, Kubangom
- ④ Pakistan's constant cross-border
terrorism

Way forward → Scrap the treaty (Beohra, Chellaney)
→ Renegotiate new treaty
on Indian terms

"Blood and water can't flow together"
- PM Modi

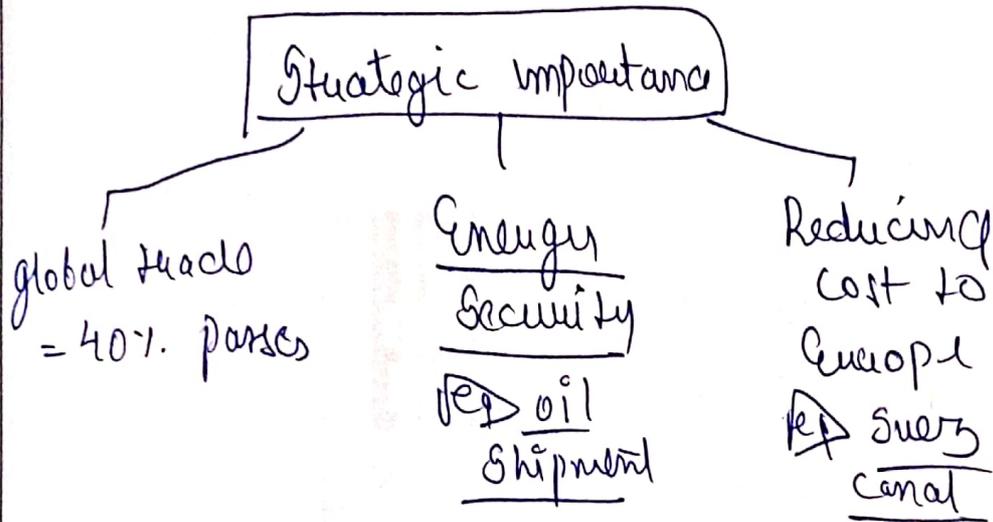
"The Indian Ocean is evolving as a critical geostrategic theatre, yet regional maritime security cooperation remains fragmented." In this context, evaluate the potential of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in fostering a collective maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean region. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

"Indian Ocean is emerging a new hotspot of great game, where India asserts, China eyes and US intervenes"



The Red Sea holds strategic importance in global maritime trade and geopolitics. Analyse the impact of the ongoing Red Sea crisis on regional stability and the global supply chain. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Post Israel - Hamas war and recent Israel - Sudan war, Red Sea has remained a constant hot bed of conflict



Map of Red-Sea

Impact of Crisis

① Regional Stability

① Made the region quite volatile and unstable

② Rise of Heteropolan Actors in region eg Hezbollah, Hamas

③ Constant proxy and attacks in the region

② Global Supply chain

① Disruption of supply chain
 eg Attack on MV-Ruem.

② Rise of shipping cost.

eg 40% premium charged for shipping due to conflict.

③ Rising vulnerability of import dependent country eg India.

④ Threat to global security and maritime voyage

Way forward

① Using military power to thwart attack
 eg operation Prosperity Guardian

② Diplomatic negotiation to stop the crisis eg Agreement of ceasefire with Hezbollah

③ Alternative Routes eg IMEC corridor

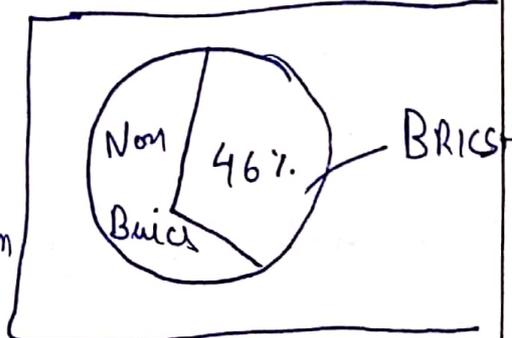
6. The expansion of BRICS has been projected as a step towards greater representation for the Global South. Critically examine this claim in the context of growing concerns about China's strategic dominance within the grouping. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently in the Kazan Summit of BRICS, 5 new members: Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE and Indonesia joined the ~~BR~~ BRICS grouping. Saudi??

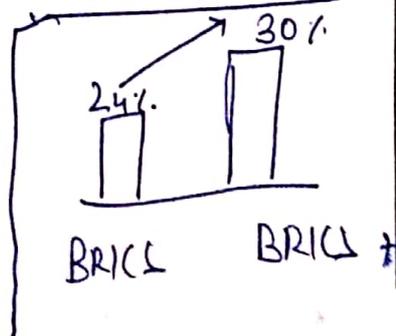
Expansion of BRICS → greater representation of Global South

- ① All the new members are from Global South → Egypt, Ethiopia
- ② Rise in Total Representation

(i) population share rose to 46% of world's population



(ii) Share of BRICS in total GDP of world (to 30%)



- ③ Two of the Biggest nations of Global South leaders are its members
 key → India, China
- ④ Observer States → ensures more comprehensive representation of global south.
- ⑤ Initiatives for Global South
- i) NDB → provides finance to global south
 - ii) BRICS Bridge Platform → To improve infrastructure in global south
 - iii) Call for more representation of global south in multilateral institutions

Limitation of BRICS

- ① Overshadowing by China
- i) China share in BRICS GDP = 63% of Total.
 - ii) China has 40% of Total BRICS population.

Candidates must not
write on this margin

Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

- ② Dominance of China in decision
eg CNN Report → Expansion was
initially opposed by India but
China dominated
- ③ financing of NDB → China major
contributor
- ④ BRICS is seen as anti-west
organisation
- ⑤ RC vs BIS Divide in BRICS
(Two Axis)
- ⑥ Self-serving nature of Russia
& China eg Didn't come to help
Global South in pandemic.

Way forward

- ① Diversifying cooperation areas
- ② Separate platform for engaging with
Global South within BRICS
- ③ Trade in local currency

"Expansion of BRICS is reminder to
all Multilateral body to evolve with
changing times" - PM Modi

7. 'India's recent diplomatic outreach to the Taliban government in Afghanistan marks a significant shift in its regional geopolitical strategy'. Examine the rationale behind this shift and the strategic risks and opportunities it presents for India.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently India's Foreign Secretary held official talks with Taliban's External minister, highlighting Indian principle of "engagement does not mean endorsement"

Recent
outreach
of
India

- diplomatic talks restarted
- Sending of wheat and humanitarian aid
- Indian Camp (eg) By doctors of Tajikistan to do surgery
- conveying Indian message post Palgam Attack

Rationale Behind Talks

- ① Rajiv Ganeshi → Kautilya's Mandala Theory → Neighbour's Neighbour's our friend
- ② Countering Chinese influence in Afghanistan

- ③ Pincering Pakistan → Dual front threat from India and Afganistan
- ④ Presence of mutual respect and goodwill for India in Afganistan
eg → Delhi is Home ground to ACB
- ⑤ Securing \$3 billion worth Indian developmental projects

Opportunities

- ① Trade opportunity — free Taliban takeover, Afgan's 40% of imports from India.
- ② INSTC and central asia connectivity opportunity for India.
- ③ Boxing up opportunity against Pakistan
- ④ Countering terrorism on the Indian soil.

Challenges

- ① Playing with fire → No predictability

of Taliban's policy.

- ② Legitimisation of Human Rights violation \Rightarrow Taliban not allowing girls to study
- ③ Rise of Himalayan Quad —
* China - Pak - Bangl - Afgan Axis
- ④ Challenges in diplomatic balancing of ties with Afghanistan.
- ⑤ only one way offering \rightarrow Afgan has limited to offer to India

Way forward

- ① Project our soft power (C Raja Mohan) by leveraging people to people ties.
- ② Advocate an "Afgan led, Afgan only and Afgan first" peace process \downarrow original

8. The ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel present a foreign policy dilemma for India, given its strategic ties with both. Analyse the challenges this conflict poses and suggest how India can balance its interests amid rising instability in the region?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Israel recently attacked nuclear installation of Iran, provoking a regional war among two major powers of Gulf

India's Strategic Ties

Iran → People to people : Shia ties
 → Oil import from IRAN.
 → connectivity to Central Asia
 Port

Israel → Defense ties → Joint Research Production
 → Technology → water partnership
Economic Ties - \$15 bn trade

Challenges posed by conflict

① Geopolitical Challenges

② Problems of Diplomatic balancing

→ Both are our friends

(ii) Problem of Balancing lies between Iran and West (USA, EU)

(3) Economic Challenges

(i) Rising price of crude → \$1 increase in crude → ↑ India's import bill by Rs 10,700 crore

(ii) Food and Fertiliser security → Prices might rise due to conflict

(3) Security challenges

(i) Blockage of Red Sea shipping routes

(ii) Rise of Non-State actors (eg) Hezbollah, Houthi.

(iii) Might fuel radicalism and Islamification of Gulf region

(4) Diaspora related challenges

(i) Ensuring safety of diaspora.

(ii) Might engulf into a regional war like 1991 Gulf Crisis

Candidates must not write on this margin

Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

Balancing Our Interest

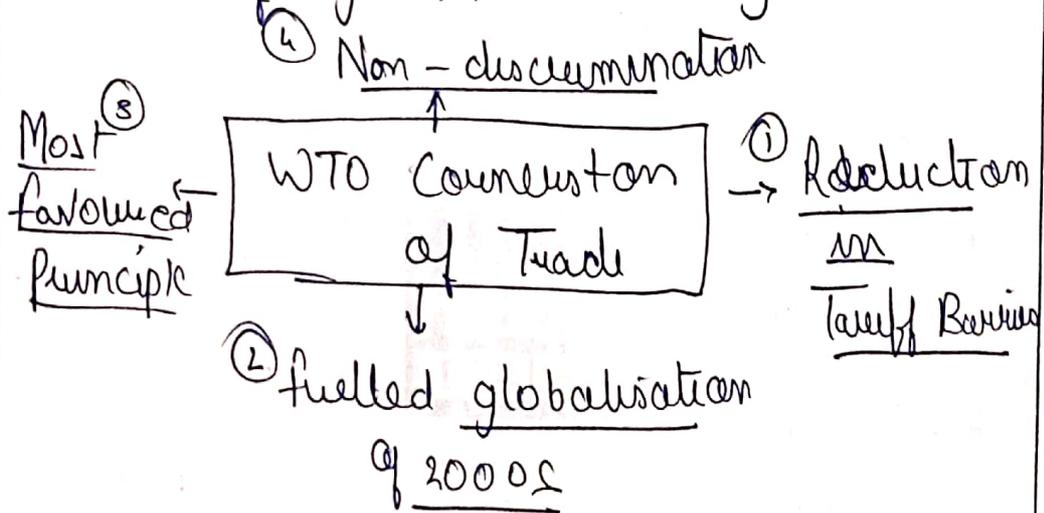
- ① ~~1~~ Bilateral de-hyphenation * of the ties with Israel and Iran
- ② * Diplomatic Activism → Bringing all the diaspora back.
- ③ Prioritise National Interest
eg Buying oil from Iran.
- ④ Advocacy for early cessation of the violence
- ⑤ Bringing the two fighting sides on table - dialogue as way forward.
- ⑥ Leveraging India's position to solve any crisis faced by global South due to crisis

"This is not an era of war"
and thus as Pm Modi advocated
path to peace is only solution

9. Despite being a cornerstone of the global trade architecture, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is facing a crisis of relevance. Examine the major challenges undermining the WTO's effectiveness and suggest measures for its revival in a multipolar world.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

World Trade ¹⁹⁹⁵ Organisation was formed in (1996) post the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiation



facing crisis of Relevance

- ① Crisis of legitimacy → Violation of provisions of WTO by major powers → USA's reciprocal tariff
- ② Crisis of Confidence → Not able to take decision and be reform itself

- ③ Crisis of Credibility → Non acceptance
of orders eg USA violated aluminum
Tariff order of WTO
- ④ Disfunctional dispute resolution
System - USA blocking
appointment
- ⑤ Not able to represent ideas
of global south
→ No consensus of Public stockholding
issue.
→ Discriminatory Agreement on
Agriculture against developing
countries
- ⑥ Not evolving (Anachronistic) in
nature → does not counter present
day Non Tariff Barriers eg CBAM
by EU.

Measures for Revival

- ① Reforming WTO decision making
System
- ② More powers to developing countries

Appellate
body

- ③ Re-negotiation of conflicting agreement.
- ④ Sticking to "Doha Development Agency" - for developing countries
- ⑤ Power to Punish → non-compliance country.
- ⑥ Reforms in dispute resolution system
- ⑦ Allowing adjustment to subsidy limit

Pascal Lamy (Ex WTO DG) says, WTO needs to evolve and reform itself to stay relevant in changing times

Candidate
write on
Intro
Body
Conc
Total

10. India-China relations are evolving from confrontation to cautious diplomacy. In this context, discuss the recent efforts made to stabilise the relationship and identify the structural challenges that continue to impede complete normalisation.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recently, ~~the~~ EAM S Jaishankar held that, "Ties with China are stable, but not normal and remain sensitive"

- Recent Efforts to stabilise the ties
- ① Meeting between Indian PM and Chinese President (on sidelines of SCO)
 - ② Disengagement on border by both.
 - ③ Startling of patrolling based on pre-2020 situation
 - ④ collaboration in various platforms - BRICS to SCO
 - ⑤ Rise in Trade - \$117 bn of bilateral trade
 - ⑥ Talk on future de-escalation between NSA Doval and Chinese EM Wang Yi.

Structural challenges in Ties

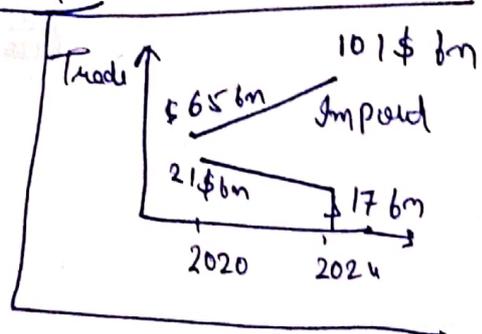
① Security challenge

- ① stuck in "no war, no peace"
hybrid war situation
- ② Chinese 'salami slicing' policies
in ladakh
- ③ Cantognophic warfare → in
Arunachal region

② Economic Challenge

→ Running Trade
deficit.

(~ \$ 85 bn - see
fig)



③ Chinese 3 warfare.

- Media warfare against India
- psychological warfare
- legal warfare by claiming Arunachal

④ Strategic Challenge

- ① Chinese BRI → string of pearls
against India

Candidates must not
write on this margin

Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

(ii) Boxing up India in South - Asian Region.

(5) Developmental Challenge:

(i) Building dual use - Xiangqin Villages

(ii) Major Dam on Brahmaputra -
Against India's water security.

Way forward

(1) C Raja Mohan → Active decoupling from China

(2) Economic Survey (2022-23) → Attract FDI from China to balance current account.

(3) Follow Reagan Doctrine → Trust but verify principle *

(4) Military Modernisation to continue despite de-escalation

As President Xi said, "Dragon - Elephant Tango" is only way forward