

## **HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)**

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### **Q.1. Is McMahon Line a natural boundary?**

**Ans.** The McMahon line is not a natural boundary. The boundary was artificially drawn by the British India Government as a border between India and Tibet.

### **Q.2. During Nehru era, why did some political parties and groups in our country believe that India should be more friendly with the bloc led by the U.S.?**

**[CBSE (AI) 2016]**

**Ans.** It was because the US bloc claimed to be pro-democracy and promoted capitalism.

### **Q.3. Why did India get defeated by China in the War of 1962?**

**Ans.** India's defence system was not strong and it was not prepared for any armed conflict in the Himalayan region. India also did not receive support from the global community as the world was occupied with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

### **Q.4. What are objectives of India's foreign policy?**

**Ans.** The objectives of India's foreign policy are given in Article 51 of the constitution. The objectives are to promote international peace and security, maintain just and honourable relations between nations, foster respect for international law and encourage settlement of international disputes.

### **Q.5. Why are Foreign Relations important?**

**Ans.** Foreign Relations are important because they are needed to establish and maintain trade relations, security, protect the citizens abroad. To tell other countries our concerns and to contribute effectively as a member of the global community for world peace and prosperity.

### **Q.6. Why did some countries change their policies to follow the superpowers after the Second World War?**

**Ans.** Some countries followed the superpowers because the superpowers provided an aid in the form of money and technology, provided security through military protection and support in international forums.

### **Q.7. Why did India take the decision to become a nuclear power?**

**Ans.** India took the decision to become a nuclear power to show the world community especially China that it is capable of nuclear retaliation and to position India as an emerging power in Asia and World Politics.

**Q.8. Why did India adopt the policy of non-alignment?**

**Ans.** India adopted the policy non-alignment to maintain an independent foreign, defence and economic policy and not be dominated by the superpowers and their blocs.

**Q.9. Give two principles of Jawaharlal Nehru's foreign policy.**

**Ans.** A principle of Jawaharlal Nehru's foreign policy was Non-alignment, whereby it meant that India will maintain an independent in policy making decisions and will not follow either of the two superpower blocs. Another principle of Jawaharlal Nehru was that India will maintain friendly relations with all the countries. Nehru supported United Nations' policies to help dependent colonies and try for their independence.

**Q.10. What are the objectives of India's disarmament policy?**

**Ans.** India is committed to global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, thereby leading to a world that is free of nuclear weapons.

**Q.11. Why has India refused to sign NPT and CTBT?**

**Ans.** India has refused to sign NPT and CTBT because India considers the treaties as being discriminatory. They allow certain countries such as USA, China, etc. to maintain nuclear weapons while prohibiting other nations. Moreover, these treaties do not conform with India's policies related to (a) nations security (b) Freedom to use nuclear energy for peaceful endeavours.

**Q.12. 'The foreign policy of a nation showcases the internal and external influences' Comment.**

**Ans.** Foreign policy is influenced by the National Interest of a country. National interest is based upon the desire of the people and influence of stakeholders of a country while external influences is based upon prevailing global politics and result of bilateral relationships with other countries.

**Q.13. Why did Jawaharlal Nehru adopt the policy of Non-alignment?**

**Ans.** India gained freedom when the world was going through the period of cold war and it was divided into 2 blocs: US and USSR. During this period, UN was formed. In such scenario, India had to formulate the foreign policy which would cater, to nation's interests and can achieve its goals by maintaining amicable and cordial relations with all the countries. Scientific studies have shown that if we do not control arms and ammunition collection then we might have to face severe consequences like accumulation of poisonous garbage, problems and issues related to the availability of drinking water, gas and energy. Jawaharlal Nehru adopted the policy of non-alignment to assure that the foreign, defence and economic policy of India remains independent of both the superpowers.

**Q.14. How did the War of 1962 with China affect the image of India?**

**Ans.** The image of India was dented after the war. The war led to aura of humiliation yet led to rise of nationalism among Indians. Jawaharlal Nehru was heavily criticized for the government's lack of preparedness and some of the top army commanders and the defense minister had to resign.

**Q.15. Why is disarmament necessary?**

**Ans.** Disarmament is necessary because it leads to sense of security among nations and avoids the risk of misuse of weapons for mass destruction.

**Q.16. Why did India oppose the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty?**

**Ans.** India opposed the NPT because India considers it as discriminatory since the treaty allows selective countries to monopolize nuclear weapons and prohibits other nations.

**Q.17. What was the Tibet issue? How did it cause tension between India and China? Explain.**

**Ans.** China had claimed administrative control over Tibet and in 1950, China invaded Tibet. This was opposed by Tibetans who led an uprising in 1958 but were suppressed by China. Subsequently, the Dalai Lama fled to India and was given asylum. This was opposed by China and created tensions between India and China.

**Q.18. What was the effect of the India-China War on the opposition parties?**

**Ans.** The leaders of the Communist party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) were arrested for being Pro-China. Communist Party of India (CPI) wanted closer ties with the Congress while the CPI-M was against any ties with Congress.

**Q.19. Identify any two aspects of India's foreign policy that you would like to retain and two that you would like to change, if you were to become a decision maker. Give reasons to support your position.**

**Ans.** The two aspects that I would like to retain are:

1. India's nuclear policy because it serves as defensive measure against China and Pakistan and India can also continue to pursue its policy of peaceful use of nuclear energy.
2. The policy of non-alignment has helped India build an independent economic, defence and foreign policies and this needs to be continued in the current changing global politics also.

**Two aspects I would like to change are:**

1. India needs to showcase a tougher diplomatic and defensive posture with Pakistan and China and counter their attempts to undermine India in Kashmir or Arunachal Pradesh.

2. India must not shy away to take decisions on issues of global politics and support the role of United Nations in building a peaceful World.

**Q.20. Assume if the Cold War had not happened and multiple powers would have emerged after the Second World War. In this scenario, how would this have affected the foreign policy of India? Give any three considerations.**

**Ans.** The policy of non-alignment would not have been required as no conflicting superpower blocs would have been formed. India would have continued to maintain independent foreign, defence and economic policies and strived for international peace and prosperity. India due to its size would have emerged as one of the multiple powers in International politics.

**Q.21. In spite of improved economic ties with China in the post-cold war period, much of hostility in Sino-Indian relations revolve around the issues of Tibet conflict and border dispute. In the light of above statement, explain the origin of both the conflicts.**

[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

**Ans. Tibet conflict:**

1. In 1950, China took control over Tibet which was a buffer state for India and China and was very crucial for India's territorial integrity also. There was lot of opposition from the people of Tibet also. India tried to persuade Chinese government but all the attempts failed.
2. When the 'Panchsheel' agreement was signed between India and China in 1954, through one of its clauses about respecting each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, India conceded China's claim over Tibet.
3. In 1958, there was an armed uprising in Tibet against Chinese control. This was suppressed by the Chinese forces. As a result of it Dalai Lama, the Spiritual leader along with many of his followers fled Tibet and came to India. Indian government granted political asylum to Dalai Lama. This act was regarded as an enemy like act by the Chinese government and since then this issue continues to disturb Sino Indian relations.

**The Border Dispute**

1. A boundary dispute had also surfaced between India and China in late 1950s. India claimed that the matter was settled in colonial time, but China said that any colonial decision did not apply.
2. The main dispute was about the western and eastern end of the long border. China claimed two areas within the Indian territory: Aksai Chin area in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir and much of the state of Arunachal Pradesh in what was then called NEFA.
3. From 1957 to 1959, Chinese occupied the Aksai Chin area and built a strategic road there. While the entire world's attention was on the Cuban crisis involving

the two super powers, China launched swift and massive invasion in October 1962 on the disputed regions. The Indian forces could block the Chinese advances on the western front in Ladakh, in the east, the Chinese managed to advance nearly to the entry point of Assam plains. Finally China declared unilateral cease fire and were able to capture some key areas in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Q.22. “The conduct of foreign affairs is an outcome of a two-way interaction between domestic compulsions and prevailing international climate”. Take one example from India’s external relations in the 1960s to substantiate your answer.’**

**Ans.** The statement is justified during the War of 1962 between India and China. India had to approach USA and UK for military assistance while the Soviet Union remained neutral during the conflict. Jawaharlal Nehru was criticised for his handling of the Chinese invasion and lack of military preparedness and a no-confidence motion was moved against his government in the Lok Sabha. The War also led to a split within the largest opposition party, CPI.

**Q.23. How does political leadership of a nation affect its foreign policy? Explain this with the help of examples from India’s foreign policy.**

**Ans.** Political leadership brings change to foreign policy of any country based on its articulation of national interest. Jawaharlal Nehru began the policy of non-alignment by being equidistant between USA and USSR while Indira Gandhi grew closer to USSR and signed a treaty. The Janta government subsequently began a policy of genuine nonalignment and began to balance USA and USSR.

**Q.24. India’s foreign policy was built around the principles of peace and cooperation. But India fought three wars in a span of ten years between 1962 - 1971. Would you say that this was a failure of the foreign policy? Or would you say that this was a result of international situation? Give reasons to support your answer.**

**Ans.** No, this was not the failure of foreign policy but was a result of international situation. India was not the aggressor in the War of 1962, 1965 and 1971 but the conflicts were inflicted on India. India forwarded the Panchsheel agreement with China and Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan as a measure of peace and cooperation yet was attacked by China in 1962 and by Pakistan in 1965 and 1971.

**Q.25. Mention any four significant changes in Indo-China relations that have taken place after the Cold War.**

**[CBSE Delhi 2016]**

**Ans.** Four significant changes that have occurred in Indo-China relations are:

1. The trade between India and China has increased significantly. China has become one of India’s largest trade partners.

2. India and China have jointly cooperated on multiple issues affecting the developing nations such as climate change negotiations, WTO and IMF reforms, BRICS, among others.
3. China's relation with Pakistan and its support for CPEC program, defence program, etc. has been a cause of grave concern and opposed by India.
4. There has been growing incursions by China across India's borders and growing influence in South Asia with the string of pearls bases. This has caused relations between India and China to deteriorate.

**Q.26. Does India's foreign policy reflect her desire to be an important regional power? Argue your case with the Bangladesh war of 1971 as an example.**

**Ans.** India is the largest country within the South Asian region in terms of population, defence and economy and therefore India has the capacity and ability of a regional power. India's capability as a regional power was the reason of Bangladesh asking for India's help against Pakistan. India helped the people of Bangladesh against the oppressive rule of Pakistan and supported their liberation movement.

**Q.27. Analyse the three different views within India about the type of relationship India should have with the United States of America.**

**[CBSE Delhi 2016]**

**Ans.** India too has to decide exactly what type of relationship it wants with the US in this phase of global hegemony. The choices are not exactly easy. Within India, the debate seems to be around three possible strategies.

1. Indian should maintain its aloofness from the U.S and focus upon increasing its own comprehensive national power.
2. The Indian critics who see international politics largely in terms of military power are uneasy at the thought of growing closeness between India and the U.S. India should take advantage of U.S hegemony and mutual convergences to establish best possible options for it self. Opposing the U.S would be a futile exercise and will only hurt India in the long run.
3. India should take the lead in establishing a coalition of countries from the developing world. Critics feel that this coalition. Would become more powerful and may succeed in weaning the hegemony away from its dominating ways.