International Relations · GS - II

Examine how domestic public opinion and legislative institutions influence a country's foreign policy, particularly in matters of war and international trade.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 10/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Domestic accountability, public opinion, legislative oversight, war powers, trade policy, economic costs, diplomacy, democratic institutions.

Model Answer

Introduction

Foreign policy is shaped not only by strategic interests but also by domestic political institutions, public opinion and economic considerations. In democratic systems, governments face pressure to justify military and trade decisions to citizens.

Role of Public Opinion and Legislatures

- **Democratic accountability:** Public opposition to military escalation can encourage governments to pursue diplomatic alternatives.
- **Legislative oversight:** Legislatures exercise constitutional powers over budgets, trade regulation and, in some systems, authorisation of military action.

- **Economic considerations:** Tariffs can raise import costs, affect consumers and disrupt businesses and agricultural exports.
- **Political pressure:** Elections and public surveys can influence the priorities of elected representatives.
- **Checks and balances:** Legislative scrutiny can limit executive discretion and encourage debate on national commitments.

Limitations

Public opinion may be influenced by misinformation, short-term economic concerns or partisan divisions. Moreover, foreign policy often requires continuity and expert assessment.

Conclusion

Effective foreign policy requires a balance between national security, economic interests and democratic accountability. Legislative oversight and informed public debate can strengthen diplomatic decision-making and prevent avoidable conflicts.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP