International Relations · GS - II

Examine how domestic political developments and public opinion influence the foreign policy and military decisions of major powers. Illustrate your answer with reference to the United States and Iran.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Domestic political constraints, public opinion, electoral accountability, war and peace decisions, economic pressures, leadership priorities, US foreign policy, Iran's political system, diplomatic negotiations, regional stability

Model Answer

Introduction

Foreign policy is influenced not only by external threats but also by domestic political institutions, economic conditions and public opinion. Military engagements can have significant political and electoral consequences.

Influence of Domestic Politics on Foreign Policy

Electoral Accountability: In democratic systems such as the United States, public dissatisfaction with military interventions or rising living costs can influence electoral outcomes and policy priorities.

Economic Pressures: Inflation, defence expenditure and the economic consequences of conflict can shape public support for military operations.

Institutional Constraints: Legislatures, political parties and public debate influence decisions concerning military engagement and diplomatic negotiations.

Iranian Context: Iran's foreign policy reflects the interaction of institutions such as the Supreme Leader, President and Parliament, alongside regional security considerations.

Way Forward

Diplomatic engagement, multilateral dialogue and confidence-building measures can reduce tensions. Governments should consider humanitarian and economic consequences while making security decisions.

Conclusion

Domestic legitimacy and international stability are interconnected. Responsible foreign policy requires balancing national security interests with public accountability and diplomatic engagement.

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