International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of economic sanctions as an instrument of foreign policy. Discuss their effectiveness and limitations in addressing international security challenges.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 07/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Economic coercion, trade restrictions, financial isolation, diplomatic pressure, secondary sanctions, humanitarian impact, enforcement challenges, multilateral cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Economic sanctions are restrictive measures imposed by countries or international organisations to influence the policies or behaviour of another state without direct military intervention.

Role in Foreign Policy

- Restrict access to international financial systems, markets and strategic technologies.
- Target individuals, institutions and sectors associated with specific activities.
- Signal international opposition and create diplomatic pressure.
- Complement negotiations and other foreign-policy instruments.

Effectiveness and Limitations

Sanctions can raise economic costs and constrain access to resources. However, their effectiveness depends on international coordination, enforcement and the target country's economic resilience.

Unilateral measures may be weakened by alternative trading partners and sanctions evasion. Broad restrictions can also adversely affect ordinary citizens by limiting access to essential goods and services.

Way Forward

Sanctions should have clearly defined objectives, proportionate measures, humanitarian exemptions and periodic review. Multilateral coordination can improve legitimacy and implementation.

Conclusion

Economic sanctions remain an important instrument of international diplomacy, but their success depends on strategic clarity, effective enforcement and attention to humanitarian consequences.

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