International Relations · GS - II

What challenges do divergent national interests pose to the effectiveness of multilateral institutions such as the G20? Suggest measures to strengthen global cooperation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

G20, Multilateralism, Global Governance, Divergent National Interests, Geopolitical Rivalries, Trade Protectionism, Climate Diplomacy, North–South Divide, Consensus-Based Decision-Making, Non-Binding Commitments, Inclusive Global Governance, Institutional Reforms, International Cooperation, Global Economic Stability.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

The G20 is a major forum for international economic cooperation among advanced and emerging economies. However, growing geopolitical rivalries and divergent national interests increasingly complicate consensus-building on global challenges.

2. Main Body

A. Major Challenges to Multilateral Cooperation

1. **Geopolitical rivalries:** Conflicts and strategic competition among major powers weaken mutual trust.
2. **Trade disputes:** Protectionism, tariffs and economic restrictions create differences among member countries.
3. **Climate disagreements:** Countries differ over climate finance, emission reduction responsibilities and development priorities.
4. **Unequal interests:** Developed and developing countries often have different expectations regarding financing, technology transfer and global economic governance.
5. **Weak enforcement:** G20 commitments are generally non-binding, limiting their direct enforcement.

B. Measures to Strengthen Cooperation

1. **Consensus-building:** Promote sustained dialogue and diplomatic negotiations.
2. **Inclusive governance:** Give greater consideration to the concerns of developing countries.
3. **Issue-based cooperation:** Prioritise common interests such as debt sustainability, food security and climate finance.
4. **Accountability:** Improve monitoring of commitments and implementation of agreed policies.
5. **Institutional reform:** Strengthen the representation of developing countries in global governance institutions.

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3. Conclusion

Despite geopolitical divisions, the G20 remains an important platform for international dialogue. Pragmatic diplomacy, inclusive decision-making and cooperation on shared challenges can strengthen multilateralism and global stability.