International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges involved in balancing national security, counter-terrorism and human rights in the prosecution of terrorism-related offences.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

National security, counter-terrorism, due process, fair trial, plea bargaining, death penalty, detention, human rights, judicial oversight, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Terrorism poses serious threats to national security and civilian life. However, counter-terrorism measures must operate within a legal framework that safeguards justice and fundamental rights.

Major Challenges

1. **Security versus liberty:** Authorities require effective investigative powers, but unchecked powers may lead to arbitrary detention.
2. **Fair trial:** Terrorism cases may involve classified evidence, complex investigations and prolonged proceedings.
3. **Punishment and accountability:** Decisions concerning plea agreements and capital punishment raise questions of proportionality, transparency and legal consistency.
4. **Detention conditions:** Long-term detention and access to legal representation remain important human-rights concerns.

Way Forward

- Ensure independent judicial scrutiny of detention and prosecution.
- Provide meaningful access to legal counsel and a fair hearing.
- Establish transparent rules for plea agreements and sentencing.
- Investigate credible allegations of mistreatment and ensure accountability.
- Strengthen international cooperation while respecting applicable domestic and international law.

Conclusion

Effective counter-terrorism requires both security and legitimacy. Protecting society from terrorism and safeguarding due process are complementary objectives of a credible justice system.