

PAKISTAN STUDIES

First Semester - Study Notes & Practice Questions

The Origin of the Name 'PAKISTAN'

Complete Study Notes

1. Introduction to the Name PAKISTAN

The name 'PAKISTAN' is one of the most unique national names in the world. It serves a dual purpose: it is both an acronym representing the major regions that form the country and a meaningful word in the Urdu and Persian languages.

2. Historical Background

Who Proposed the Name?

Choudhry Rahmat Ali was a Pakistani nationalist and the person who coined the name 'PAKISTAN'. He was a visionary who understood the need for Muslims in the Indian subcontinent to have their own homeland.

When Was It Proposed?

The name was first proposed in **1933**, when Choudhry Rahmat Ali published a pamphlet titled *"Now or Never; Are We to Live or Perish Forever?"* This historic document was distributed among Indian Muslim students and leaders.

3. The PAKISTAN Acronym - What Each Letter Represents

Each letter in the word PAKISTAN represents a region or province that was envisioned to be part of the new Muslim homeland:

- **P = Punjab** - The most populous province, known for its agricultural richness and cultural diversity.
- **A = Afghania** - Referring to the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), now called Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This region borders Afghanistan.
- **K = Kashmir** - The disputed mountainous region in the north, known for its natural beauty and strategic importance.
- **I = Indus** - Sometimes interpreted as representing the Indus Valley region, though some scholars note the 'I' serves to connect the acronym phonetically.
- **S = Sindh** - The province in the southeast, home to the port city of Karachi and the ancient Indus Valley Civilization.
- **TAN = BaluchisTAN** - The largest province by area, rich in natural resources and located in the southwest.

4. The Literal Meaning of PAKISTAN

Beyond being an acronym, PAKISTAN has a beautiful literal meaning in Urdu and Persian:

- **PAK** = Pure (in Urdu/Persian)

- **STAN** = Land or Country (in Urdu/Persian)
- **Therefore: PAKISTAN = Land of the Pure**

This dual meaning made the name particularly powerful and meaningful for the Pakistan Movement. It represented both the geographic unity of Muslim-majority regions and the spiritual and moral aspirations of a new nation.

5. Significance of the Name

The name PAKISTAN was significant for several reasons:

- **Unity:** It brought together diverse regions under one identity.
- **Vision:** It represented a clear vision for a separate Muslim homeland.
- **Identity:** It gave Muslims in British India a distinct national identity to rally around.
- **Aspiration:** The meaning 'Land of the Pure' reflected the moral and spiritual goals of the new nation.

6. Connection to the Lahore Resolution

While Choudhry Rahmat Ali proposed the name PAKISTAN in 1933, the formal demand for a separate Muslim state came later. The **Lahore Resolution** (also called the Pakistan Resolution) was passed on **March 23, 1940**, at the annual session of the All-India Muslim League in Lahore. This resolution officially demanded independent states for Muslims in the northwestern and eastern zones of India, which eventually led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

Practice Questions - Fill in the Blanks

Section A: Historical Background

1. The name PAKISTAN was proposed by _____.
2. Choudhry Rahmat Ali was a Pakistani _____.
3. The name PAKISTAN was first proposed in the year _____.
4. The pamphlet in which the name was proposed was titled _____.
5. The pamphlet 'Now or Never' was distributed among Indian _____ students and leaders.

Section B: The PAKISTAN Acronym

6. In the acronym PAKISTAN, the letter 'P' stands for _____.
7. The letter 'A' in PAKISTAN represents _____, which is now called Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
8. The letter 'K' stands for _____, the disputed region in the north.
9. In PAKISTAN, the letter 'S' represents _____.
10. The last part 'TAN' in PAKISTAN stands for _____.
11. Baluchistan is the _____ province by area in Pakistan.
12. The most populous province of Pakistan is _____.

Section C: Literal Meaning

13. In Urdu and Persian, the word 'PAK' means _____.
14. The word 'STAN' in Urdu and Persian means _____.
15. Therefore, PAKISTAN literally means '_____ of the _____'.

Section D: Significance and Context

16. The name PAKISTAN served a _____ purpose: it was both an acronym and a meaningful word.
17. The Lahore Resolution was passed on _____, 1940.
18. The Lahore Resolution is also called the _____ Resolution.
19. The Lahore Resolution was passed by the All-India _____ League.
20. Pakistan was eventually created in the year _____.
21. The port city of _____ is located in Sindh province.
22. The ancient _____ Valley Civilization was located in the Sindh region.

Section E: Additional Questions

23. Afghanistan borders the country of _____.
24. Punjab is known for its agricultural _____ and cultural diversity.
25. The letter 'I' in PAKISTAN sometimes represents the _____ Valley region.
26. Baluchistan is rich in natural _____.

27. The name gave Muslims in British India a distinct _____ identity.

Answer Key

Check your answers with the correct responses below:

Section A: Historical Background

1. Choudhry Rahmat Ali
2. nationalist
3. 1933
4. Now or Never; Are We to Live or Perish Forever?
5. Muslim

Section B: The PAKISTAN Acronym

6. Punjab
7. Afghania / North-West Frontier Province / NWFP
8. Kashmir
9. Sindh
10. Baluchistan
11. largest
12. Punjab

Section C: Literal Meaning

13. Pure
14. Land / Country
15. Land, Pure

Section D: Significance and Context

16. dual
17. March 23
18. Pakistan
19. Muslim
20. 1947
21. Karachi
22. Indus

Section E: Additional Questions

23. Afghanistan
24. richness
25. Indus
26. resources
27. national

Good luck with your studies!