

**1 BIPOLARITY**

- USA (Capitalist Bloc) vs USSR (Socialist Bloc)
- Two superpowers after World War II
- Global influence and Cold War rivalry

VS

**2 THE SOVIET SYSTEM**

- Socialist and Communist ideology
- One-party rule
- State ownership of industries
- Free education, healthcare and employment
- Equality and social justice

**3 PROBLEMS IN THE SOVIET SYSTEM**

- Economic inefficiency
- Consumer goods shortages
- Lack of political freedom
- Corruption and bureaucracy
- Arms race burden
- Technological backwardness

**10 SUMMARY**

- ★ USSR collapsed in 1991
- ★ Cold War ended
- ★ Bipolarity ended
- ★ Unipolar world emerged
- ★ Market reforms transformed former Soviet states

**THE END OF BIPOLARITY**

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought an end to Bipolarity and the Cold War.

**4 GORBACHEV AND REFORMS**

**GLASNOST (Openness)**

- Freedom of speech and media
- Public criticism of government

**PERESTROIKA (Restructuring)**

- Economic reforms
- Private sector participation
- Foreign investment and technology

**9 INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS**

- Defence cooperation
- Economic collaboration
- Scientific and technological cooperation
- Continued friendly relations after USSR collapse

**5 DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOVIET UNION (1991)**

- Economic crisis
- Rise of nationalism
- Political instability
- Failed reforms
- Military expenditure
- Emergence of 15 independent states

**8 COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)**

- Formed in 1991
- Cooperation in economic, political and security matters

**7 SHOCK THERAPY**

Privatization | Market economy reforms | Liberalization of prices and trade

**NEGATIVE IMPACTS**

- Unemployment
- Poverty increased
- Inflation and price rise
- Social insecurity

**POSITIVE IMPACTS**

- Growth of private business
- Foreign investment increased
- Development of services and technology

**6 CONSEQUENCES**

- ✓ End of Cold War
- ✓ End of Bipolarity
- ✓ Beginning of Unipolar World
- ✓ USA as sole superpower
- ✓ Transition to market economies

**IMPORTANT TERMS**

- Bipolarity** – Division of world into two power blocs.
- Glasnost** – Policy of openness and freedom.
- Perestroika** – Policy of restructuring and reforms.
- Shock Therapy** – Rapid shift from socialism to capitalism.
- Unipolar World** – World with one superpower.



# MCQs - THE END OF BIPOLARITY



★ Class 12 Political Science ★

**1** The term 'Bipolarity' refers to the world order dominated by:

- A. One superpower
- B. **Two superpowers**
- C. Three superpowers
- D. No superpower



**2** After the Second World War, the two superpowers were:

- A. USA and China
- B. **USA and USSR**
- C. UK and France
- D. Germany and Japan



**3** Which ideology was supported by the Soviet Union?

- A. Capitalism
- B. Democracy
- C. **Socialism/Communism**
- D. Liberalism



**4** Which of the following was a feature of the Soviet system?

- A. Multi-party system
- B. Private ownership of industries
- C. **One-party rule**
- D. Free market economy



**5** The policy of 'Glasnost' introduced by Gorbachev means:

- A. **Openness**
- B. Restructuring
- C. Privatization
- D. Globalization



Mikhail Gorbachev

**6** The policy of 'Perestroika' introduced by Gorbachev means:

- A. Openness
- B. **Restructuring**
- C. Democracy
- D. Isolation



**7** In which year did Mikhail Gorbachev become the leader of the Soviet Union?

- A. 1982
- B. 1984
- C. **1985**
- D. 1987



**8** The Soviet Union officially dissolved in:

- A. 1989
- B. 1990
- C. **1991**
- D. 1992



**9** Which of the following was NOT a cause of the disintegration of the Soviet Union?

- A. Economic crisis
- B. Rise of nationalism
- C. **Successful reforms**
- D. Heavy military spending

**10** How many independent countries emerged after the disintegration of the Soviet Union?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. **15**
- D. 20



**11** Which of the following is an example of a country that emerged after the disintegration of the USSR?

- A. Poland
- B. Hungary
- C. **Ukraine**
- D. France



**12** The end of the Cold War took place mainly due to:

- A. Formation of NATO
- B. **Disintegration of USSR**
- C. Start of World War II
- D. Nuclear attacks



**13** After the end of Bipolarity, the world became:

- A. Bipolar
- B. Multipolar
- C. **Unipolar**
- D. Anarchical



**14** What is 'Shock Therapy'?

- A. Military strategy
- B. **Rapid shift from socialism to capitalism**
- C. Policy of transparency
- D. Nuclear disarmament



**16** Which of the following is a negative effect of Shock Therapy?

- A. Growth of private business
- B. Foreign investment
- C. **Unemployment**
- D. Development of services



**17** Which of the following is a positive effect of Shock Therapy?

- A. Inflation
- B. Poverty
- C. Social insecurity
- D. **Growth of private business**



**18** India continued its friendly relations after the disintegration of the Soviet Union with:

- A. USA
- B. **Russia**
- C. China
- D. Germany



**19** Which of the following is true about India-USSR relations?

- A. They were based on rivalry
- B. **USSR supported India in defence, industry and science**
- C. India opposed USSR in all matters
- D. They had no relations



**20** Which of the following best describes the post-1991 world order?

- A. Two superpowers in control
- B. **One superpower in control**
- C. No country in control
- D. Many equal superpowers



## ANSWER KEY

1-B	2-B	3-C	4-C	5-A
6-B	7-C	8-C	9-C	10-C
11-C	12-B	13-C	14-B	15-C
16-C	17-D	18-B	19-B	20-B

## IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Bipolarity** – World order dominated by two superpowers – USA and USSR.
- **Glasnost** – Policy of openness and freedom of expression.
- **Perestroika** – Policy of restructuring and economic reforms.
- **Unipolar World** – Rapid shift from socialist economy to capitalist economy.



## IMPORTANT DATES

- 1945 – End of Second World War
- 1985 – Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of USSR
- 1989 – Fall of Berlin Wall
- 1991 – Disintegration of USSR; End of Cold War





VS



# ★ THE END OF BIPOLARITY ★



USA

USSR

## PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS (PYQs)

### CLASS 12 POLITICAL SCIENCE

#### 1 MARK QUESTIONS

**Q1.** What is meant by Bipolarity?

**Ans.** A world order dominated by two superpowers – the USA and the USSR.

**Q2.** Name the last leader of the Soviet Union.

**Ans.** Mikhail Gorbachev.



**Q3.** In which year did the Soviet Union disintegrate?

**Ans.** 1991



**Q4.** What does 'Glasnost' mean?

**Ans.** Openness and freedom of expression.



**Q5.** What does 'Perestroika' mean?

**Ans.** Restructuring of the Soviet economy and political system.



**Q6.** What is Shock Therapy?

**Ans.** The rapid shift from a socialist economy to a capitalist economy.



**Q7.** Name any one country that emerged after the disintegration of the USSR.

**Ans.** Ukraine.



**Q8.** Which organization was formed by former Soviet republics after 1991?

**Ans.** CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)



#### 2 MARKS QUESTIONS

**1** Mention any two features of the Soviet System.

**Ans.**

- One-party rule under the Communist Party
- State control over industries and resources



**2** State any two causes of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

**Ans.**

- Economic crisis and inefficiency
- Rise of nationalism in different republics



**3** Write any two consequences of the end of Bipolarity.

**Ans.**

- End of the Cold War
- USA emerged as the only superpower



**4** Mention any two negative effects of Shock Therapy.

**Ans.**

- Unemployment increased
- Poverty and inflation increased



#### 3 MARKS QUESTIONS

**1** Explain the reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev.

**Ans.**

- Gorbachev introduced two major reforms:
  - Glasnost – It provided freedom of speech and openness.
  - Perestroika – It focused on economic restructuring and limited private ownership.
- These reforms aimed to improve the Soviet system but instead increased instability.



**2** Explain any three consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

**Ans.**

- The Cold War ended.
- Bipolarity came to an end and the USA became the sole superpower.
- Fifteen new independent countries emerged.



**3** Explain any three features of Shock Therapy.

**Ans.**

- Privatization of state-owned industries
- Introduction of free market economy
- Liberalization of trade and prices



#### 5 MARKS QUESTIONS

**1** Explain the major causes of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

**Ans.**

- **Economic Weakness** – The Soviet economy became slow and inefficient.
- **Arms Race** – Huge military spending in competition with the USA weakened the economy.
- **Lack of Political Freedom** – People were not allowed to criticize the government openly.
- **Rise of Nationalism** – Many republics wanted independence from the USSR.
- **Failure of Reforms** – Gorbachev's reforms could not solve the problems.



**2** Explain the consequences of the end of Bipolarity.

**Ans.**

- **End of the Cold War** – The rivalry between the USA and USSR ended.
- **Unipolar World** – The USA became the most powerful country.
- **Emergence of New Nations** – Fifteen independent countries were formed.
- **Economic Changes** – Former socialist countries adopted capitalism and market economies.
- **Global Political Change** – International politics changed significantly after 1991.



**3** Describe India's relations with the Soviet Union.

**Ans.** Relations between India and the Soviet Union were strong and friendly.

- **Areas of Cooperation**
  - ✓ Defence support
  - ✓ Industrial development
  - ✓ Scientific and technical cooperation
  - ✓ Support in international matters
- **After** the collapse of the USSR, India continued friendly relations with Russia.



#### CASE-BASED QUESTIONS

"The Soviet Union faced economic and political problems during the 1980s."

Based on the above statement, answer the following:

**1** Name the leader who introduced reforms in the USSR.

**Ans.** Mikhail Gorbachev

**2** What was Glasnost?

**Ans.** Openness and freedom of expression

**3** What was the final result of these problems?

**Ans.** Disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991

**4** Mention any two causes of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

**Ans.** Economic crisis and inefficiency; Rise of nationalism in different republics.



#### ASSERTION AND REASON

**Q.** Assertion (A): The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Reason (R): Economic crisis and political instability weakened the Soviet system.

- A** Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B** Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C** A is true, but R is false.
- D** A is false, but R is true.

**Ans.** A



#### IMPORTANT PYQ TOPICS

- Soviet System
- Gorbachev Reforms
- Causes of USSR Disintegration
- Shock Therapy
- Consequences of End of Bipolarity
- India–USSR Relations



#### IMPORTANT TERMS

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