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**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & RESEARCH**

**9239/11**

Paper 1 Written Examination

**October/November 2019**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

INSERT (RESOURCE BOOKLET)

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This Resource Booklet contains Documents 1 and 2 which you should use to answer the questions.

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the documents before attempting to answer the questions.  
This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.



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This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

The following documents consider issues related to quality of life/cultural heritage. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

**Document 1:** adapted from *Celebratory firing kills more, but there is no noise over these gunshots*, an article by Radhika Iyengar, published in 2016 in The Indian Express. The author is a Senior Sub Editor with the indianexpress.com. She has a PhD in Economics of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, USA.

Universally, masculinity is linked to gun ownership. Psychologists say that the desire to own guns comes from men's lack of confidence. Carrying a gun is a 'masculine duty' and possessing a gun symbolizes power; so it makes men feel in authority, in control.

Gun culture is part of our tradition – we learn to like guns in childhood, particularly during celebrations. Consider Indian festivals: Holi is celebrated with children running about with pichcaris (plastic water pistols), while during Diwali, children play with toy pellet guns.

In parts of India, men shoot into the air during weddings. Firing guns is attention-seeking – trying to be noticed in a noisy, chaotic crowd which is celebrating by beating drums loudly, stamping feet rhythmically and dancing wildly and drunkenly. In small towns it's upper caste men (the economically privileged) who own guns and wave them around. Firing guns at weddings, therefore, also displays their position in society.

In July, a waiter was killed in celebratory gun-fire at a wedding. Last week, a 25-year-old dancer, Kulwinder Kaur, three-months pregnant, was shot dead, while performing at a wedding. Last Friday, Kamal Chauhan, accidentally killed a 20-year-old student in a celebratory firing at the student's sister's wedding. Yesterday, Chauhan committed suicide.

How easy is it to get a gun license? India has strict gun-ownership laws in place. The government issues licenses under three sections: crop protection, self-defence and sports. Under new rules, before a gun is sold, the buyer must show evidence of gun-training. You must complete a gun-license application form and submit it to the District Police office with a 5-rupee (\$0.08) fee. A copy of a ration card, a 3-year statement of Income Tax Returns and two character certificates from "responsible citizens from your locality", are some of the documents required. Owning guns legally takes weeks, even months.

In 2014, India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) stated that 3,655 gun-related deaths had occurred. However, only 14% of these people were killed with licensed guns. The rest were killed with guns which were illegally owned. According to NCRB in 2015, 85% of reported firearm crimes occurred with unlicensed weapons. In the same year, Economic Times reported that 25,000 illegally-owned guns were seized across 12 districts in western Uttar Pradesh.

According to Economic Times, illegal guns such as AK 47s and AK 56s are readily available in New Delhi. In Punjab, Rajasthan, Nagaland, and Bihar, locally-made firearms are sold illegally in the market. Across the country there are many illicit gun manufacturers, where hand-made pistols can be bought as cheaply as 1,500 Rupees (\$24).

While owning guns legally is complicated; buying firearms illegally, involving no paperwork at all, is reasonably easy. The problem of gun violence is rampant and a growing concern. The idea of having guns fired at weddings seems deeply distressing, when they are meant to be celebratory. Unfortunately, in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, gun firing at weddings is culturally accepted and reckless shooting leads to injuries or deaths. We must end the social acceptability of gun use and support the government's efforts in gun control.

**Document 2:** adapted from *Weapon-free Pakistan*, an article written by Kamal Siddiqi in The Express Tribune in 2015. The author is an Australian journalist of Pakistani origin. He is currently the Director of the Center for Excellence in Journalism at the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi, Pakistan.

We need a system in Pakistan under which purchase and display of weapons is restricted. Who can forget the recent case where two children in Karachi committed suicide with their parent's gun? Those two might still be alive if access to a gun had been more difficult. The government says that nothing can be done. This is admitting defeat without making an effort. It can be done and what better time than the present?

To start with, the ineffective and outdated gun licensing system has to go. We can only guess how many licensed guns there are in Karachi, let alone unlicensed guns. The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), must take over the country's gun register.

We also need a crackdown on the public display of weapons by people who do not belong to law enforcement agencies. Even if private guards are allowed to carry weapons, at least these should not be on public display. The rich and powerful are accompanied all over town by bodyguards who threaten, with weapons, anyone in their way. This should not happen. Bodyguards do not need machine guns and should not be allowed to carry them at all. No private citizen in a bustling city should be allowed to possess guns suitable for a warfront. Road checks by law enforcement agencies would be an easy approach to this crackdown.

On the issue of illegal weapons, detecting and seizing them is a much larger task. But where there is a will, there is a way. Many households in Karachi own illegal weapons. Even guards of security agencies and some government departments have unlicensed weapons. There can be public action to expose such weapons and seize them. A name and shame campaign can be started.

Owning guns without a licence will become less attractive if the licensing system is more efficient and taken away from bureaucrats and politicians. This is where NADRA can come in, encouraging people to get licences for their guns.

The increase of gun-ownership in Karachi, as in the rest of Pakistan, has led to violence and unnecessary deaths. Who can forget the long list of young men, killed by bodyguards who fired first and asked questions later? Such incidents continue to take place.

Guns are not only a problem in Karachi. One of our correspondents who travelled to rural areas, reported that boys as young as 11 were carrying automatic weapons and were involved in feuds. Parts of Sindh have become lawless because the police are inactive, so people need guns to protect themselves from criminal elements. This is also true of other parts of the country.

Some defend gun-carrying as a traditional part of our culture. This is like saying that the terrible practice of honour killing should continue as it is part of our culture. In the past, we have seen that when a government is decisive, outdated traditions can end. In a country like Afghanistan, for example, some years back de-weaponisation (surrender of illegal weapons) was done within weeks. So it's time to be brave and determined and work towards a safer Pakistan through gun-control.

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