

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q6(c)

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) performs an important role in India's strategic balancing act to withstand the dominance of China in Asia. Discuss

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · PSIR GS 2 · 15 marks · India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement

India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement: Different phases; current role.

Core demand of the question

- Examine how far the Quad can counter China in Asia
- Write at 15-mark length

Revision summary

The Quad is Australia, India, Japan, and the United States in a non-treaty Indo-Pacific format.

It can help at sea, in technology, and in public goods such as vaccines.

It cannot run a land war on the India-China border or replace ASEAN.

Members' other ties, including India's Russia file, cap militarisation.

It is a balancing layer, not a complete counter to China in Asia.

Introduction

The Quad is a consultative grouping of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. It aims at a free and open Indo-Pacific. It can constrain Chinese power in some maritime and technology fields. It is not a NATO for Asia and cannot "counter" China in every domain.

Body

What the Quad is

- It began in the 2004 tsunami core and 2007 security talk, lapsed, and returned in the late 2010s as China's South China Sea, Belt and Road, and border behaviour hardened.
- Leaders' summits, working groups on vaccines, climate, critical minerals, and maritime domain awareness are the method.
- **Malabar** exercises overlap in membership but are not identical to the Quad as a legal organ. There is no **Article 5**.

Where it can counter

- Naval presence, information sharing, and quality infrastructure offers can raise the cost of Chinese maritime coercion in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.
- Technology and supply-chain work can reduce exclusive dependence on Chinese manufacturing in some sectors.
- For Mearsheimer, this is balancing against a potential Asian hegemon. For Waltz, it is a loose coalition whose cohesion is not guaranteed.

- India's participation signals that Asia's balancing is not only a US-Japan-Australia line.

Where it cannot

- It does not fight a land war for India on the Himalaya. The 2020 Ladakh crisis was an India-China military problem first.
- ASEAN States reject a NATO copy. Several depend on China for trade.
- **Members differ:** India will not become a treaty ally; it still buys Russian energy and speaks NAM language.
- **Keohane's point applies:** without a dense alliance contract, cooperation is issue-based and reversible.

How far

- The Quad is a partial maritime and techno-political counter, not a full-spectrum counter to China in Asia.
- It works best as one layer with bilateral US alliances, **AUKUS**, European presence, and each member's national military.

Flow diagram

Quad consultative -> Maritime tech vaccines
Maritime tech vaccines -> Partial constraint on China
No Article 5 no Himalaya war -.limits. -> Partial constraint on China

Conclusion

The Quad can complicate Chinese maritime and technology dominance and can reassure some partners. It cannot substitute for Indian land power, ASEAN consent, or a treaty army. Countering China in Asia remains a set of overlapping tools, of which the Quad is one.

Facts & figures

Quad members

Australia, India, Japan, United States.

2004-2007 origin

Tsunami core group and an early security dialogue that later paused.

Malabar

Naval exercise series that has included all four Quad navies at times, distinct from a Quad treaty.

AUKUS

Australia-UK-US nuclear-submarine and technology pact; India is not a member.

ASEAN centrality

South-East Asian diplomatic claim that regional architecture should not be replaced by a Quad directorate.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/psir-gs-2/2023/quadrilateral-security-dialogue-quad-performs-an-important-role-in-indias-strategic-balancing-act-to-withstand-the-dominance-of-china-in-asia-discuss/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com

WRAP Exams