International Relations · GS - II

“Economic sanctions are an important instrument of foreign policy in international relations, but they also have limitations.” Discuss in the context of US sanctions against Russia.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Economic sanctions, foreign policy, Russia–Ukraine conflict, diplomacy, global economy, national security, effectiveness of sanctions, India's interests.

Model Answer

Introduction

Economic sanctions are measures imposed by a country or a group of countries to influence another country's behaviour by restricting trade, financial transactions or economic activities. The United States has imposed various economic sanctions on Russia in the context of the Russia–Ukraine conflict.

Main Body

Importance of Economic Sanctions

1. Diplomatic pressure: Sanctions seek to influence a country's policies or military actions without direct military intervention.
2. Economic impact: They can restrict financial transactions, investment, trade and access to technology.
3. Diplomatic negotiations: Relaxing or lifting sanctions can provide an incentive for dialogue and negotiations.

Major Limitations

1. Sanctions do not always achieve their intended political objectives.
2. They may adversely affect ordinary citizens and the global economy.
3. Easing sanctions may be viewed by some as a diplomatic opportunity, while critics may consider it a national security risk.

Conclusion

Economic sanctions should be used with clear objectives, international cooperation and effective monitoring. Decisions to impose or ease sanctions must consider diplomacy, regional stability and long-term global security.

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