

D 124936**(Pages : 3)****Name.....****Reg. No.....****FOURTH SEMESTER MBA (2016 SCHEME) DEGREE EXAMINATION
JULY 2025****(CUCSS)****MBA****BUS4C23—INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS****(2016 Scheme)****Time : Three Hours****Maximum : 36 Weightage****Part A**

*Answer **all** the questions.
Each question carries 1 weightage.*

- 1 What you mean by regional business ?
- 2 What is tariff trade barrier ?
- 3 What is risk analysis ?
- 4 What is multilateral trade agreement ?
- 5 Write a short note on BRICS.
- 6 Name the various types of organization structures.

(6 × 1 = 6 weightage)**Part B**

*Answer any **four** questions.
Each question carries 3 weightage.*

7. Discuss about common market in international trade.
8. Write a note on strategic alliance in international business.
9. Explain new trade theory of international trade.
10. What are the various opportunities for Indian companies in international market.
11. Explain Decentralized organizational structure of international business.
12. Explain the problems of foreign companies in Indian market.

(4 × 3 = 12 weightage)**Turn over**

Part C

*Answer any **three** questions.
Each question carries 4 weightage.*

13. What are the causes of globalization ? Explain
14. Explain poly centric theory of international trade.
15. Explain international product life cycle theory.
16. Discuss giving reasons some successful international businesses. Why do some international businesses fail ?
17. Briefly discuss about international finance strategies.

(3 × 4 = 12 weightage)

Part D

Compulsory question carries 6 weightage.

18. Case Study :

As it entered the twenty-first century, Gillette faced a difficult choice. Should it continue targeting emerging markets or not ? Its strategy to move aggressively into markets in the developing world and the former Soviet bloc had been hailed as a success only a few years before. Recent poor earnings, however, had management considering whether this choice had been a wise one.

The Boston-based firm was founded in 1895 and is still best known for its original products, razors and razor blades. By the end of the twentieth century, Gillette had grown into a global corporation that marketed its products in 200 countries and employed 44,000 people worldwide. About 1.2 billion people use Gillette products every day. Its sales are about equally distributed among the United States (30 per cent), Western Europe (35 per cent), and the rest of the world (35 per cent).

As markets matured in developing countries, Gillette sought growth through product diversification, moving into lines such as home permanents, disposable lighters, ballpoint pens, and batteries. In the mid-1990s, Gillette targeted several key emerging markets for growth. Among them were Russia, China, India and Poland.

Russia was already a success story. Gillette had formed a Russian joint venture in St.Petersburg and within 3 years Russia had become Gillette's third-largest blade market.

Gillette's move into the Czech Republic had prospered as well and in 1995 Gillette bought Astra, a 10cal; privately-owned razor blade company. Astra gave Gillette expanded brand presence in the Czech market. Astra's relatively strong position in export markets ~n East Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia proved a boon to Gillette in those markets as well. Just as in other markets in the developing world, 70 per cent of East European blade consumers used the older, lower-tech double-edge blade. In more developed markets, consumers appreciated product innovation and the shaving market had moved to more high-tech systems such as Gillette's Sensor).

Then disaster struck. A financial crisis that began in Thailand quickly spread across Asia. Many wary investors responded by pulling money out of other emerging markets as well as depressing economies across the globe. Bad economies meant slower sales for Gillette, especially in Asia, Russia and Latin America. In Russia, wholesalers could not afford to buy Gillette products. Consequently, these products disappeared from retail stores and Gillette's Russian sales plummeted 80 per cent in a single month.

Gillette found it could not meet its projected annual profit growth of 15-20 per cent. The price of Gillette shares tumbled 36 per cent in 6 months. To save money, Gillette planned to close 14 factories and layoff 10 per cent of its workforce.

Despite its recent bad experience in developing countries and in the former Soviet bloc, Gillette was still moving ahead with plant expansion plans in Russia and Argentina that would total \$64 million. Some even suggested that this was a good time to expand in the emerging markets by buying up smaller competitors that had been hurt even worse by the crises. Meanwhile, back in the developed world, another large global consumer products firm, Unilever, announced that it would be entering the razor market.

Questions :

1. Why do companies such as Gillette target emerging markets? Do you agree with this strategy ?
2. Why would local, privately-owned companies like Astra want to sell out to companies like Gillette. Why are such companies attractive acquisitions to multinational firms ?
3. What global strategy would you suggest for a company such as Gillette ? Explain your choice.

(1 × 6 = 6 weightage)