1. Describe the determinants of Australia's foreign policy.

**Ans:** Among the determining factors central to foreign policy are the nation-state's decision-makers and their political orientations. Less permanent but no less important determinants of a country's foreign policy is its economic and military strength. The cumulative impact of these factors, as we discussed in the Unit, is already reflected in Australia's foreign policy as it evolved over the decades. Perceptibly, Australia's foreign policy has shifted from its past abject alliance with the West and towards a more co-operative I model in recent years, allowing for a regional approach paving the way for regional empowerment. However, given that Australia's defence policy had relied on Western alliance for regional stability throughout the 20th Century, the shift towards a regional approach is less than complete. While this is beginning to change, yet it reveals a certain tension between the defence strategy and the foreign policy of Australia. Admittedly, the defence strategy factored on unilateral or alliance system is in conflict with the foreign policy approach based broadly on regional engagement seeking to support organisations like the ASEAN Regional Forum. Alongside, a number of externalities and domestic imperatives in the region in which Australia is placed have impacted on the culture of the country's foreign policy in recent decades. First, is the changing Australian perception towards countries in the region such as China, Japan, Russia and Southeast Asia. Since 1990s the 'Ascent of Asia' thesis has provided the main impetus for the reorientation of Australia's foreign policy. Together, it has encouraged a certain decoupling of Australia's foreign policy from the policy of the West, especially that of the United States. Towards this objective, Australia has taken several initiatives in respect of its foreign policy. Australia not only recognised China, North Vietnam, East Germany and North Korea but also withdrew its military from South Vietnam and its aid to Cambodia. Among others, in 1974 Australia also attended as an observer at the Non-aligned Movement Conference. These changes in the foreign policy architecture did not come by easily. By the late 1980s with the White Paper tabled by the then Minister of Defence, Kim Beazley in March 1987, Australia gradually moved towards evolving a policy largely determined by the "Asia factor". The 1087 White Paper also established a region of primary national defence interests. This trend was further reinforced in later defence policies with an even stronger emphasis on regional affairs and regional involvement. There was also an attempt during this period to correlate more closely the country's foreign policy and defence policy. Yet as we noted that Australia's engagement with Asia has not been risk-free. It is for this reason Australia has retracted on its foreign policy approach. At least two paramount factors account for Australia's renewed shift towards the US. Already regional instability has put Australia's immigration policy at peril and in the long run is likely to ruin its advantageous trade and economic relationships. Here, Australia's own economic agenda for the region, it is quite keen to evolve a benign security environment devoid of any regional disturbances. No wonder, defence affinities between Australia and the US are exceptionally close. Admittedly, US perception of China's rise as a possible threat to global security affects Australia's place in the new US-China power relationship, encompassing Southeast Asia and Oceania. To sum up, the key determinants in Australia's foreign policy today are primarily two. One is the perception and posture of the US towards the developments in Asia. The other is the potential that the Asia-Pacific region could offer to Australia in terms of trade and investment.

2. Explain the orientation of trade and investment of Australia since the 1990s.

**Ans:** Australia took several other initiatives in respect of its foreign policy. Before very long, Australia recognised China, North Vietnam, East Germany and North Korea; withdrew its military from South Vietnam and its aid to Cambodia. Besides it stopped wheat sales to Southern Rhodesia; provided some indirect aid to South African liberation movements; and arraigned France in the International Court of Justice for its nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Australia also took steps during this period in contracting cultural agreements with the countries of Asia and the Pacific; removing racial discrimination from immigration procedures (non-European immigration had begun in 1966). Among others, Australia attended as an observer, the Non-aligned Movement Conference in 1974. These changes in the foreign policy architecture did not come by easily. Certain elements of this shift in policy were slow and hard to establish. In the early 1990s, for example, Australia still had import tariffs averaging approximately 20 per cent, making it a still rather protectionist economy, though the government aimed to reduce this to an overall level of 5 per cent by the year 2000. Yet throughout this period the United States remained Australia's dominant defence ally, and efforts were made by Australia to sustain the Aust,ralia, New Zealand United States (ANZUS) treaty arrangement in spite of New Zealand's objection to nucleararmed vessels visiting its ports. In this sense, the fundamental determinant remained anchored in Australia's traditional defence policy. By the late 1980s with the White Paper tabled by the then Minister of Defence, Kim Beazley in March 1987, Australia gradually moved towards evolving a policy largely determined by the "Asia factor". Still relying on the regional presence of the US, and on US communications and intelligence networks, Australia's policy moved to a much stronger self-reliance, focusing on the ability to fight a short war in the region, and to use long range air and sea strike abilities. The policy advanced four major objectives: independent defence of Australian territory; promotion of regional security and stabilisation; capacity to meet alliance obligations; and contributions to global strategic