

East Asia Tensions Flare: North Korea Missile Tests, Taiwan Strait Activity, and More

East Asia News · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. North Korea conducted multiple short-range ballistic missile tests in early April 2026. Which body of water were these missiles primarily fired towards?

- A) Yellow Sea
- B) East China Sea
- C) East Sea (Sea of Japan)**
- D) Philippine Sea

2. In late April 2026, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported tracking multiple Chinese naval ships and military aircraft around the island. Which Chinese aircraft carrier was specifically mentioned as transiting the Taiwan Strait?

- A) Liaoning**
- B) Shandong
- C) Fujian
- D) Nanning

3. South Korea's economy experienced a significant rebound in the first quarter of 2026, driven by a particular industry. Which industry was the primary driver of this growth?

- A) Automotive
- B) Semiconductors**
- C) Shipbuilding
- D) Textiles

4. Japan recently revised its post-war pacifist policy by lifting a ban on lethal weapons exports. This change is attributed to growing security challenges in the region. Which two countries were specifically mentioned as drivers of these security concerns?

- A) North Korea and Russia
- B) China and North Korea**
- C) China and Russia
- D) South Korea and China

5. In mid-April 2026, the Balikatan 2026 exercise, involving the Philippines and the United States, saw increased participation from other nations. Which East Asian country, besides the Philippines and US, deployed combat troops to the Philippines for this exercise for the first time since World War II?

- A) South Korea
- B) Japan**
- C) Taiwan
- D) China

6. China and Cambodia recently held their first "2+2" strategic dialogue meeting between their foreign and defense ministers. In which city did this meeting take place?

- A) Beijing
- B) Phnom Penh**
- C) Siem Reap
- D) Sihanoukville

7. In late April 2026, a Chinese military formation under the Eastern Theater Command returned from Western Pacific training. Which waterway did they pass through between Japanese-administered islands?

- A) Tsugaru Strait
- B) Yonaguni-Iriomote Waterway**
- C) La Perouse Strait
- D) Kii Channel

8. South Korea's GDP saw its fastest quarterly growth in over five years in Q1 2026. What was the quarterly growth rate?

- A) 0.9%
- B) 1.7%**
- C) 3.6%
- D) 5.1%

9. Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's administration made a significant shift by allowing lethal weapons exports. This was seen as a response to the perceived security environment. Which of the following is NOT a reason cited for this shift?

- A) Growing Chinese aggression
- B) North Korean aggression
- C) US withdrawal from regional alliances
- D) Increased tensions in Southeast Asia**

10. North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, was reported to have supervised recent tests of multiple short-range ballistic missiles in late April 2026. These missiles were launched towards a target area about 136 km away and reportedly struck an area with "very high density." What type of warhead was specifically mentioned as being evaluated in these tests?

A) Nuclear warhead

B) Cluster bomb warhead

C) Chemical warhead

D) Incendiary warhead