

East Asian Diplomacy Under Strain: Cross-Border Relations, Security Alliances

East Asia · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. South Korea's 'Strategy for a Free, Peaceful and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region,' released in late 2022, represents a significant policy shift. Which of the following core principles is emphasized in this strategy?

- A) Prioritizing economic ties with China above all else.
- B) Unilateral withdrawal from existing security alliances.
- C) Upholding a rules-based order and promoting freedom, democracy, and human rights.**
- D) Excluding all non-democratic nations from regional cooperation.

2. Negotiations for a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea between ASEAN and China have been ongoing for over two decades. What is a primary reason for the slow progress in finalizing this legally binding agreement?

- A) Complete agreement on all territorial claims by all parties.
- B) China's refusal to participate in any negotiations.
- C) Unresolved key issues such as geographic scope, legal status, and enforcement mechanisms.**
- D) A lack of interest from ASEAN member states in a binding agreement.

3. The Fourth Taiwan Strait Crisis, ongoing since August 2022, was significantly escalated by China's large-scale military exercises in response to a specific event. What was this event?

- A) The signing of a new defense treaty between Taiwan and Japan.
- B) The visit of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan.**
- C) Taiwan's successful launch of a new satellite.
- D) An economic sanctions agreement imposed by the US on China.

4. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which came into force in 2022, is the world's largest free trade agreement. Which group of countries forms the core of this agreement, with other nations joining around them?

- A) The G7 nations
- B) The BRICS nations
- C) The ASEAN member states**
- D) The OECD countries

5. South Korea's Ambassador to Japan, Lee Hyuk, recently emphasized the need for stable security cooperation between the two nations due to an increasingly uncertain international situation. Which specific regional threat was NOT explicitly mentioned as a driver for this call to action?

- A) North Korea's nuclear program
- B) China's growing military power
- C) The strategic rivalry between the United States and China
- D) The ongoing conflict in Ukraine**

6. In the context of cross-strait relations, China has recently intensified its 'lawfare' campaign against Taiwan. What does this 'lawfare' campaign primarily involve?

- A) Direct military invasion and occupation of Taiwanese territory.
- B) Using legal instruments and judicial guidelines as tools of coercion.**
- C) Offering significant economic incentives for political unification.
- D) Launching cyberattacks to disrupt Taiwan's critical infrastructure.

7. The 'Strategy for a Free, Peaceful and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region' adopted by South Korea emphasizes its aspiration to become a 'Global Pivotal State'. What does this 'Global Pivotal State' vision signify for South Korea's foreign policy?

- A) A return to a foreign policy focused solely on inter-Korean affairs.
- B) A shift towards a policy embracing regional and global responsibilities beyond economic partnerships.**
- C) An isolationist stance, reducing engagement with international partners.
- D) A primary focus on bilateral economic agreements with major powers only.

8. The territorial disputes in the South China Sea involve multiple claimant states. Which of the following is NOT a claimant state with overlapping territorial or maritime claims in the South China Sea?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Indonesia
- C) Singapore**
- D) Malaysia

9. Japan's revised national security strategy in December 2022 explicitly states that Taiwan's stability is inseparable from Japan's own security. What is a key geographical reason for this interconnectedness?

- A) Taiwan's strategic location on the first island chain and its proximity to Japanese territory.**
- B) Taiwan's role as a major supplier of rare earth minerals to Japan.
- C) The historical alliance between Taiwan and Japan against external threats.
- D) Taiwan's shared cultural heritage with Japan leading to mutual defense obligations.

10. Kim Jong Un declared in December 2023 that peaceful reunification with South Korea was impossible, stating that the two Koreas had become separate ethnic nations. This declaration marked a significant shift in North Korea's stance on inter-Korean relations.

A) This signifies North Korea's willingness to immediately denuclearize.

B) This suggests a potential for increased diplomatic engagement with the US.

C) This indicates a hardening of North Korea's position towards South Korea, viewing it as a distinct entity.

D) This reflects North Korea's desire to join international economic institutions.