

East Asia's Shifting Sands: Navigating Cross-Border Diplomacy, Tensions, and

East Asian Diplomacy · Answer Key · 16 Questions

1. In the context of increasing maritime tensions, which of the following actions did the Philippines take in 2024 to bolster its alliances in the Indo-Pacific?

A) Signed defense deals to increase U.S. base access, joint exercise training, and weapons transfers.

B) Initiated bilateral talks with China to de-escalate South China Sea disputes.

C) Requested direct military intervention from the United Nations Security Council.

D) Withdrew from all regional maritime security forums.

2. The 'Justice Mission 2025' exercise conducted by the PRC around Taiwan simulated which of the following military operations?

A) A full-scale amphibious invasion and occupation of Taiwan.

B) A blockade of Taiwan's major port cities and interdiction of energy imports.

C) Naval patrols solely in the East China Sea to deter foreign interference.

D) Joint air defense drills with North Korea to repel external threats.

3. As of early 2025, which agreement under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) had entered into force and established new bodies for supply chain cooperation?

A) IPEF Fair Economy Agreement

B) IPEF Trade Agreement

C) IPEF Clean Economy Agreement

D) IPEF Supply Chain Agreement

4. Which of the following countries has, as of 2024, been described as the only country with which China has a formal alliance?

A) Russia

B) North Korea

C) Vietnam

D) Mongolia

5. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) aims for zero tariffs on what percentage of goods traded within the region?

A) Approximately 70%

B) Over 90%

C) Exactly 50%

D) Over 60%

6. In its 2024 East Asia Summit (EAS) Plan of Action, what are the stated focus areas for cooperation?

- A) Nuclear non-proliferation, space exploration, and cyber defense.
- B) Climate, health, disaster management, and maritime cooperation.**
- C) Financial regulation, agricultural subsidies, and tourism promotion.
- D) Cultural exchange programs, linguistic standardization, and athletic competitions.

7. What is a significant demographic trend observed across Japan, South Korea, and China in recent years, impacting their societal and economic structures?

- A) Rapid population growth and a surge in birth rates.
- B) A significant increase in immigration leading to a younger workforce.
- C) Declining birth rates and a rapidly aging population.**
- D) A sustained rise in the marriage rate and family formation.

8. In the South China Sea disputes, Vietnam has expressed concerns over Chinese naval patrols in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and claims these actions violate what?

- A) Bilateral trade agreements with China.
- B) The principles of the World Trade Organization.
- C) International law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).**
- D) The East Asian Free Trade Agreement (EAFTA).

9. What key initiative was announced at the 2024 Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware?

- A) The establishment of a joint Quad space exploration program.
- B) A new Quad Cancer Moonshot initiative and expansion of Quad Fellowships.**
- C) A mutual defense treaty among all Quad members.
- D) The creation of a regional common currency.

10. As of early 2025, which of the following countries has taken steps to strengthen its economic ties with Vietnam and Malaysia, diversifying its supply chains away from China, as indicated by trade performance data?

- A) South Korea
- B) Japan**
- C) The United States
- D) Australia

11. China's 'lawfare' campaign against Taiwan primarily utilizes which of the following methods to exert pressure?

- A) Direct military invasion without prior warning.
- B) Economic sanctions and trade embargoes.
- C) Legal instruments and judicial guidelines as tools of coercion.**
- D) Cyber warfare targeting critical infrastructure exclusively.

12. The 'Peace and Friendship-2025' joint military drills, involving China and Malaysia, are designed to enhance cooperation in which areas?

- A) Offensive cyber operations and electronic warfare.
- B) Humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and maritime security.**
- C) Ballistic missile development and deployment.
- D) Joint counter-insurgency operations in landlocked regions.

13. What was a significant outcome of the 2024 ASEAN Summit concerning the maritime security of the South China Sea?

- A) A binding Code of Conduct was finalized and signed by all claimants.
- B) Leaders emphasized regional cooperation and adherence to international law, including UNCLOS.**
- C) A joint patrol force comprised of all claimant nations was established.
- D) ASEAN brokered a comprehensive resource-sharing agreement for disputed areas.

14. The designation of 2024 as the 'China-North Korea Friendship Year' was marked by which significant high-level Chinese official visit to North Korea in April 2024?

- A) President Xi Jinping
- B) Foreign Minister Wang Yi
- C) NPCSC Chair Zhao Leji**
- D) Premier Li Qiang

15. Which of the following countries is projected to have over 30% of its population aged 65 or older, leading global rankings in aging rates as of early 2025?

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

16. The 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Tribunal ruling invalidated China's 'Nine-Dash Line' claim, based on which legal framework?

- A) The Geneva Conventions
- B) The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
- C) The Paris Agreement
- D) The Bretton Woods Agreement