

Philippines' Economic Slump, ASEAN Summit Insights, and Tech Ambitions: I

Philippines · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What was the reported GDP growth rate for the Philippines in the first quarter of 2026, marking a five-year low?

- A) 5.4%
- B) 2.8%**
- C) 3.0%
- D) 4.5%

2. Which major corruption scandal was cited as a significant factor contributing to the slowdown in consumer and business confidence in the Philippines during early 2026?

- A) The Pork Barrel Scam
- B) The Flood Control Corruption Controversy**
- C) The Malampaya Fund Scandal
- D) The PCSO Fund Irregularities

3. During the 48th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, what was a key aspiration President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed regarding the South China Sea?

- A) Immediate joint military patrols with China
- B) The finalization of a Code of Conduct (COC) before the year ends**
- C) A complete moratorium on all maritime activities
- D) The establishment of a regional peacekeeping force

4. The Philippines is advancing UAE-backed AI infrastructure. What is the name of the initiative aiming to position the country as a regional hub for AI and advanced manufacturing?

- A) Project Silica
- B) Luzon AI Hub
- C) Pax Silica Initiative**
- D) Philippine AI Gateway

5. Which new national initiative, launched by the DOST and CHED, aims to accelerate the commercialization of Filipino technologies by establishing a unified national framework for testing and certification?

- A) Filipino Innovation Accelerator (FIA)
- B) TechPinoy Program
- C) Philippine Technology Evaluation and Standards for Testing (PHITEST)**
- D) InnovatePH Framework

6. During the Balikatan 2026 exercises, multinational forces integrated land, sea, and air platforms to achieve what specific objective?

- A) Rescue operations for simulated disaster scenarios
- B) Sensing, striking, and destroying two decommissioned ships**
- C) Joint cyber defense drills
- D) Humanitarian aid delivery to remote islands

7. What environmental protection legal mechanism in the Philippines, highlighted in recent court rulings, has proven capable of halting even large mining operations due to non-compliance?

- A) Writ of Habeas Corpus
- B) Writ of Mandamus
- C) Writ of Amparo
- D) Writ of Kalikasan**

8. The Department of Economy, Planning, and Development Secretary Arsenio Balisacan attributed the first quarter 2026 economic slowdown to several factors. Which of these was NOT cited as a primary reason?

- A) Lingering effects of the flood control corruption scandal
- B) Delays in the passage and release of the 2026 national budget
- C) Escalation of the conflict in the Middle East
- D) A significant decline in international tourism**

9. According to the Philippine News Agency, what is the international name for Tropical Storm Caloy, which entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility in May 2026?

- A) Bualoi
- B) Hagupit**
- C) Maliksi
- D) Aghon

10. The government's PHITEST initiative identified six priority sectors for technology commercialization. Which of these is NOT among the initial focus areas for the program's rollout?

- A) Semiconductors and electronics
- B) Agriculture and aquaculture
- C) Transportation and mobility systems**
- D) Health and biomedical technologies

11. During the 48th ASEAN Summit, leaders discussed strengthening regional cooperation. What was the specific theme of the Philippines' Chairmanship for ASEAN in 2026?

- A) Regional Stability and Prosperity
- B) ASEAN: Our Future, Our Responsibility
- C) Navigating Our Future, Together**
- D) Unity in Diversity, Strength in Cooperation

12. The Mayon Volcano experienced a significant eruption on May 2, 2026, causing ashfall and pyroclastic density currents. In which province is Mayon Volcano located?

- A) Batangas
- B) Albay**
- C) Laguna
- D) Quezon

13. Greenpeace activists were taken into police custody during the ASEAN Summit in Cebu for allegedly violating which Philippine law, despite the protest being peaceful?

- A) Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act)
- B) Batas Pambansa Blg. 880 (Public Assembly Act)**
- C) Republic Act No. 9372 (Human Security Act)
- D) Republic Act No. 11479 (Anti-Terrorism Act)

14. Which country's Prime Minister, Lawrence Wong, attended the 48th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines, on May 8, 2026?

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

15. The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI) reported significant growth in 2025 due to the AI boom, despite not manufacturing AI chips directly. What percentage growth did SEIPI project for the Philippines in 2026, notwithstanding existing challenges?

- A) 16.3%
- B) 10%
- C) 5%**
- D) 2.8%