

Asia's Shifting Sands: North Korea's Missile Advances, Taiwan Strait Tension

Asian Politics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In April 2026, North Korea conducted test-launches of upgraded surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missiles, notably observed by which prominent figure alongside leader Kim Jong Un?

- A) Premier Kim Yo Jong
- B) His daughter, Kim Ju Ae**
- C) Defense Minister Kang Sun Nam
- D) Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui

2. Which international tribunal ruled in July 2016 that China's 'nine-dash line' claim in the South China Sea was inconsistent with international law, a ruling China subsequently rejected?

- A) The International Court of Justice
- B) The Permanent Court of Arbitration
- C) The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea**
- D) The International Criminal Court

3. In January 2024, Bangladesh held general elections where the ruling Awami League, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, secured a fourth consecutive term. What was the approximate voter turnout, which was disputed by opposition parties?

- A) 75.2%
- B) 58.9%
- C) 41.8%**
- D) 30.1%

4. As of early 2026, Laos's 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan targets an average annual economic growth of at least what percentage between 2026 and 2030?

- A) 4.5%
- B) 6.0%**
- C) 7.1%
- D) 5.5%

5. In late 2025, China conducted military exercises named 'Justice Mission 2025' that simulated a blockade around Taiwan. This was the second exercise of its kind in that year, following an increase in such drills after which event?

- A) The 2022 ASEAN Summit
- B) Taiwanese President William Lai Ching-te's inauguration in May 2024**
- C) The signing of a new trade deal between China and Taiwan
- D) The relocation of Taiwan's capital

6. Malaysia's foreign policy has seen shifts, with recent years showing a trend of increased favorability towards which major global power, according to recent opinion polls?

- A) The United States
- B) Russia
- C) China**
- D) Japan

7. The 2024 ASEAN Summit, held in Vientiane, Laos, discussed various economic integration plans. Which of these agreements saw progress, including standardization of digital regulations and cross-border data flows?

- A) ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)**
- B) ASEAN Green Finance Initiative
- C) ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) Update
- D) ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation Update

8. As of early 2026, Myanmar's military-controlled elections, which concluded in January 2026, were criticized by UN officials for doing what?

- A) Excluding ethnic minority participation
- B) Being a credible pathway back to civilian rule
- C) Entrenching repression rather than restoring civilian rule**
- D) Failing to address economic inequality

9. In April 2026, Pakistan declared 'open war' with Afghanistan after striking Taliban military facilities. What event preceded this escalation?

- A) A major peace summit brokered by China
- B) A surge in deadly militant violence in Pakistan attributed to TTP fighters operating from Afghan territory**
- C) The signing of a new border security agreement
- D) An international sanctions regime imposed on Afghanistan

10. Singapore's 'Total Defence' strategy, initially conceived in 1984, expanded to include a sixth pillar in 2019. What is this sixth pillar?

- A) Environmental Defence
- B) Digital Defence**
- C) Cyber Defence
- D) Information Defence

11. In April 2026, North Korea launched multiple short-range ballistic missiles from the Sinpo area. Which international body had recently warned that North Korea was making 'very serious' advances in its efforts to build nuclear weapons?

- A) The United Nations Security Council
- B) The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**
- C) The International Court of Justice
- D) The World Trade Organization

12. During the 'Justice Mission 2025' exercises simulating a blockade of Taiwan, China deployed which of the following agencies, indicating its likely role in a blockade or quarantine operation?

- A) China Maritime Safety Administration
- B) China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels**
- C) People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels
- D) China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO)

13. In January 2026, Myanmar's military-controlled elections concluded. The military's proxy, the Union Solidarity and Development Party, dominated the polls. Who was inaugurated as president following these elections on April 10, 2026?

- A) Aung San Suu Kyi
- B) Min Aung Hlaing**
- C) U Win Myint
- D) Aung Kyi Nyunt

14. The Philippines, under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., has strengthened partnerships with other Indo-Pacific neighbors to counter China's assertiveness. Which of these countries has stepped up its presence by selling military equipment to the Philippines and Vietnam to improve maritime security capacity?

- A) South Korea
- B) Australia
- C) Japan**
- D) India

15. As of May 2026, Pakistan's political situation is characterized by instability, with the military establishment playing a significant role. The February 2024 general elections were widely perceived as unfair, with independent candidates aligned with which party securing the highest number of parliamentary seats?

- A) Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)
- B) Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)
- C) Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)**
- D) Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F)