

South Korean Political Upheaval: Martial Law, K-Pop Protests, and Celebrity S

South Korean Politics · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. During the political crisis in December 2024, which K-pop cultural element, typically associated with fan events, became a prominent symbol of protest in South Korea, replacing traditional protest methods like candlelight rallies?

- A) Official merchandise stalls
- B) Fan-made light sticks**
- C) Behind-the-scenes documentary screenings
- D) Choreographed fan chants

2. Following President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law in December 2024, which social media platform was frequently used by both progressive and right-wing influencers to spread political narratives, leading to increased polarization?

- A) TikTok
- B) Instagram
- C) YouTube**
- D) Clubhouse

3. The impeachment protests in South Korea during late 2024, which blended K-pop culture and digital platforms, were notably characterized by the prominent participation of which demographic, frustrated by the president's policies?

- A) Elderly conservative men
- B) Young women**
- C) Unionized factory workers
- D) Rural farmers

4. What legislative act governs entertainment agencies and performers in South Korea and has seen recent revisions aimed at improving contract transparency and worker protections, particularly for minors?

- A) The K-Pop Fairness Act
- B) The Popular Culture and Arts Industry Development Act**
- C) The Idol Labor Standards Act
- D) The Hallyu Harmonization Law

5. In the context of South Korean political campaigns, what strategy have major parties like the Democratic Party and the People Power Party employed, involving popular Korean pop songs and choreography to energize voters?

- A) Direct endorsements from top K-pop idols
- B) Exclusive concert ticket giveaways
- C) Blended use of K-pop hits and choreography in rallies**
- D) Mandatory K-pop dance lessons for party members

6. Which prominent South Korean film, released in 2019, addressed social inequality and wealth disparity, sparking widespread discussion and, along with other films and series, highlighting legislative deficiencies?

- A) Train to Busan
- B) Oldboy
- C) Parasite**
- D) The Host

7. In late 2024, President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law, citing threats from 'anti-state forces.' Which legislative body ultimately voted to nullify his decision, forcing him to revoke the order?

- A) The Constitutional Court
- B) The National Assembly**
- C) The Ministry of Justice
- D) The Supreme Court

8. The 'Injection Aunt' controversy in 2025 implicated several celebrities, including a comedian and a mukbang YouTuber, for alleged involvement in what type of illicit practice?

- A) Copyright infringement of music
- B) Distributing unlicensed medical treatments and controlled substances**
- C) Falsifying attendance records for public events
- D) Unauthorized use of AI-generated content

9. Which former South Korean president was impeached in 2016 due to a major political scandal involving a close confidante who had access to confidential documents and pressured national companies?

- A) Lee Myung-bak
- B) Park Geun-hye**
- C) Moon Jae-in
- D) Roh Moo-hyun

10. What is the primary reason cited by South Korean lawmakers for the recent legal reforms aimed at curbing unfair labor practices within the K-pop industry, concerning long training periods and restrictive contracts?

- A) To increase the global market share of K-pop
- B) To ensure fair profit distribution and protect performers from exploitation**
- C) To standardize K-pop music production techniques
- D) To promote K-pop artists' participation in political campaigns

11. The Seoul appellate court's decision in March 2025 to clear opposition leader Lee Jae-myung of election fraud charges has significant implications for the political landscape, potentially paving the way for what?

- A) His immediate deportation from South Korea
- B) His potential candidacy in a snap presidential election**
- C) His appointment as a Constitutional Court judge
- D) A complete overhaul of the judicial system

12. What is a common concern raised regarding the significant increase in South Koreans consuming news on YouTube, as indicated by survey data showing a much higher percentage compared to the global average?

- A) The decrease in traditional media revenue
- B) The potential for algorithmic manipulation and spread of misinformation**
- C) The decline in critical thinking skills among viewers
- D) The lack of diverse political viewpoints presented