

South Korea's Shifting Sands: From Inter-Korean Policy to Youth Conservatism

South Korea Politics · Answer Key · 17 Questions

1. The South Korean government under President Lee Jae Myung has shifted its focus towards North Korea. What is the primary emphasis of this new policy?

- A) Pressure and confrontation
- B) Peaceful coexistence and trust-building**
- C) Unification by absorption
- D) Diplomatic isolation

2. Recent trends indicate a shift in the political leanings of younger South Koreans (20s and 30s). What is this observed shift?

- A) Increased support for far-left ideologies
- B) A move towards greater conservatism**
- C) General political apathy and disengagement
- D) Stronger alignment with the '86 Generation's views

3. South Korea's foreign policy under the Lee Jae Myung administration, characterized by 'pragmatic diplomacy,' aims to prioritize what amidst US-China rivalry?

- A) Strict alignment with the US
- B) Complete neutrality
- C) National interest and economic stability**
- D) Increased military cooperation with China

4. The 'Korean Wave' (Hallyu) is increasingly recognized as a significant factor in South Korea's economy and foreign strategy. What role does it now play?

- A) A minor cultural export
- B) Primarily for domestic entertainment
- C) A central pillar of economic and foreign strategy**
- D) A historical artifact with little current impact

5. South Korea is facing significant demographic changes. Which of the following is a primary demographic challenge?

- A) Rapid population growth and a young workforce
- B) A declining birth rate and an aging population**
- C) A surplus of young workers and a shortage of elderly care
- D) Increasing immigration leading to an overpopulation crisis

6. The Lee administration's approach to inter-Korean relations emphasizes 'peaceful coexistence.' What specific measures has this policy included?

- A) Increased military exercises near the border
- B) Halting anti-Pyongyang leaflet campaigns and loudspeaker broadcasts**
- C) Demanding immediate denuclearization without dialogue
- D) Cutting off all communication lines

7. Recent political events in South Korea, including the declaration of martial law and subsequent impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol, have had what effect on public trust in institutions?

- A) Significantly decreased trust in all government institutions
- B) Increased trust in the military and national government, despite political polarization**
- C) Minimal impact on public trust
- D) Led to widespread distrust in elections only

8. South Korea's policy towards China under President Lee Jae Myung involves recalibrating relations. What is a key consideration in this recalibration?

- A) Ignoring public anti-China sentiment
- B) Prioritizing trade with China above all else
- C) Managing domestic anti-China sentiment while seeking stable relations**
- D) Completely severing economic ties with China

9. Despite efforts to galvanize young voters, youth participation in South Korean elections has historically faced challenges. What has been a contributing factor to this?

- A) Overrepresentation of young politicians in the National Assembly
- B) Political parties prioritizing incumbent lawmakers over younger candidates**
- C) A strong tradition of youth-led political movements
- D) Lowering of the voting age to 16

10. The increasing heterogeneity of South Korean society, due to immigration, presents a challenge to the traditional basis of national identity. What is this traditional basis often referred to as?

- A) Civic-territorial model
- B) Multiculturalism
- C) Pure bloodline**
- D) Economic prosperity

11. The 'pragmatic diplomacy' of the Lee administration seeks to rebalance South Korea's relationships. Which two major powers are central to this recalibration amidst growing rivalry?

- A) North Korea and Japan
- B) United States and Russia
- C) China and Japan

D) United States and China

12. South Korea's cultural policy has evolved significantly. It is now seen not just as a supporting role, but as what for economic and foreign strategy?

- A) A potential risk
- B) A residual industry

C) A central pillar

- D) An experimental initiative

13. In the context of demographic changes, South Korea is transitioning from what model of national identity to another?

- A) Civic-territorial to ethnic-genealogical

B) Ethnic-genealogical to civic-territorial

- C) Traditional to modern
- D) Homogeneous to multicultural

14. The political landscape in South Korea is experiencing polarization. A survey indicated that younger South Koreans in their 20s and 30s expressed skepticism about what aspect of the country?

- A) The effectiveness of its cultural exports

B) The democratic nature of its political system

- C) The strength of its alliance with the US
- D) The economic growth potential

15. President Lee Jae Myung has emphasized 'pragmatic diplomacy prioritizing national interests.' This approach contrasts with the previous administration's focus on what?

- A) Economic diversification

B) Values-based diplomacy and alignment with the liberal order

- C) Strengthening ties with China
- D) Inter-Korean dialogue at all costs

16. The 'Northern Sea Route' is mentioned as an area of potential economic and logistical cooperation for South Korea. Which country is it seeking to improve relations with, while still aligning with sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine?

- A) North Korea
- B) China
- C) Japan
- D) Russia**

17. A significant trend among younger South Koreans is their increasing divergence from their parents' political views. This has led to a growing number of young people shifting towards what political leaning?

- A) Liberalism
- B) Progressivism
- C) Conservatism**
- D) Socialism