

# East Asia's Shifting Economic Landscape: AI, Trade Tensions, and Market Trends

Global Finance · Answer Key · 31 Questions

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**1. As of May 2026, what is the approximate annual inflation rate in Japan?**

- A) 1.4%**
- B) 2.8%
- C) 0.9%
- D) 1.8%

**2. In Q1 2026, China's GDP grew by what percentage year-on-year, exceeding forecasts?**

- A) 5.0%**
- B) 4.5%
- C) 4.2%
- D) 4.8%

**3. The Bank of Korea (BoK) maintained its policy rate at what percentage in its May 2026 meeting, marking its eighth consecutive hold?**

- A) 2.50%**
- B) 2.75%
- C) 3.00%
- D) 2.25%

**4. Which sector is projected to be a key driver for Taiwan's semiconductor market growth, with its market size expected to reach approximately \$93.95 billion by 2035?**

- A) Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- B) 5G Infrastructure
- C) Electric Vehicles (EVs)
- D) Internet of Things (IoT)

**5. In early 2026, the Hong Kong IPO market showed a significant surge, with Q1 fundraising increasing by approximately what percentage compared to Q1 2025, reaching HK\$109.9 billion?**

- A) 489%**
- B) 200%
- C) 300%
- D) 550%

**6. According to the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook (AREO) January 2026 update, what is the projected GDP growth for the ASEAN+3 region in 2026?**

- A) 4.0%**
- B) 4.3%
- C) 3.8%
- D) 4.1%

**7. As of May 2026, what is the current USD/CNY exchange rate?**

- A) 6.7791**
- B) 6.9500
- C) 6.8500
- D) 7.1000

**8. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is earmarking a significant amount for capital spending in 2026, projecting expenditures between \$52 billion to \$56 billion, signaling confidence in the longevity of which global trend?**

- A) Global AI Boom**
- B) Renewable Energy Transition
- C) Space Exploration
- D) Quantum Computing

**9. In April 2026, Japan's core consumer inflation rate, excluding one-off factors, reached what percentage according to the Bank of Japan's new gauge?**

- A) 2.8%**
- B) 1.4%
- C) 2.5%
- D) 2.2%

**10. The Bank of Korea (BoK) upgraded its 2026 GDP growth outlook for South Korea to what percentage in its May 2026 meeting?**

- A) 2.6%**
- B) 2.0%
- C) 2.1%
- D) 2.7%

**11. As of May 2026, what is the approximate year-on-year increase for the Hong Kong 50 (Hang Seng) index, trading at \$26,615 HKD on May 7, 2026?**

- A) 32.8%**
- B) 28.0%
- C) 18.0%
- D) 4.5%

**12. In Q1 2026, China's industrial output increased by what percentage year-on-year?**

- A) 6.1%**
- B) 5.2%
- C) 2.4%
- D) 1.3%

**13. Southeast Asian economies are projected to grow between 4.0 and 5.2 percent in 2026, outperforming the global forecast. What is the primary driver mentioned for this solid performance?**

- A) Rapid digitalization and expanding green investment**
- B) Increased tourism and foreign direct investment
- C) Growth in the manufacturing sector and exports
- D) Infrastructure development and commodity exports

**14. In May 2026, Taiwan Semiconductor (TSM) is reportedly planning to raise the price of its advanced 3-nanometer manufacturing node by what percentage in the second half of 2026?**

- A) 15%**
- B) 10%
- C) 20%
- D) 5%

**15. What is the projected growth rate for developing Southeast Asia in 2026, according to the Asian Development Bank?**

- A) 4.6%**
- B) 4.0%
- C) 5.1%
- D) 4.2%

**16. As of May 2026, the Chinese Yuan has strengthened by approximately what percentage over the last 12 months against the USD/CNY exchange rate?**

- A) 5.74%**
- B) 0.89%
- C) 10.2%
- D) 16.0%

**17. Which of the following East Asian economies is projected to have the highest GDP growth rate in 2025, around 7 to 8 percent?**

- A) Vietnam**
- B) Indonesia
- C) Philippines
- D) Thailand

**18. In April 2026, Japan's annual inflation rate eased to what percentage from 1.5% in March 2026?**

- A) 1.4%
- B) 1.3%**
- C) 1.8%
- D) 1.5%

**19. The World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS) predicts the global semiconductor market will reach USD 760.7 billion in 2026, with an annual growth rate of what percentage?**

- A) 8.5%**
- B) 7.6%
- C) 5.0%
- D) 4.0%

**20. In Q1 2026, Hong Kong's IPO market saw a significant increase in deal volume by approximately what percentage compared to Q1 2025?**

- A) 167%**
- B) 100%
- C) 200%
- D) 50%

**21. As of May 2026, the Bank of Korea (BoK) has revised up its 2026 inflation forecast to what percentage?**

- A) 2.7%**
- B) 2.2%
- C) 2.5%
- D) 2.0%

**22. In early 2026, which major Asian financial hub reported orderly trading conditions and stability in its currency against a weakening US dollar?**

- A) Tokyo**
- B) Shanghai
- C) Seoul
- D) Jakarta

**23. As of May 2026, the USD/CNY exchange rate has strengthened by approximately what percentage over the past month?**

- A) 0.89%**
- B) 5.74%
- C) 10.2%
- D) 16.0%

**24. According to a January 2026 report, Taiwan is expected to remain one of the world's largest semiconductor-equipment markets by which year?**

- A) 2026**
- B) 2025
- C) 2027
- D) 2030

**25. In April 2026, China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a year-on-year increase of what percentage?**

- A) 0.9%**
- B) 1.2%
- C) 2.4%
- D) 1.8%

**26. What was the estimated surge in Hong Kong's IPO funds raised in Q1 2026 compared to Q1 2025?**

- A) Nearly six times (489% increase)**
- B) About three times (167% increase)
- C) Double (100% increase)
- D) Slightly more than double (150% increase)

**27. As of May 2026, Japan's Inflation Rate is expected to be around what percentage by the end of the year, according to Trading Economics global macro models?**

- A) 1.70%**
- B) 1.40%
- C) 2.80%
- D) 2.10%

**28. Which of the following factors is cited as a key driver for the Hong Kong 50 index's performance in 2026?**

- A) US-China trade relations
- B) Federal Reserve and HKMA rate policy
- C) China's domestic stimulus measures
- D) All of the above**

**29. In April 2026, consumer prices in Hong Kong accelerated to an annual increase of what percentage?**

- A) 1.8%**
- B) 1.7%
- C) 1.5%
- D) 2.0%

**30. According to the IMF's April 2026 World Economic Outlook, what is the projected annual GDP growth for Southeast Asia in 2026?**

**A) 4.5%**

B) 4.0%

C) 5.1%

D) 4.2%

**31. In Q1 2026, China's GDP growth rate was 5% year-on-year. What was the growth rate in the previous quarter (Q4 2025)?**

**A) 4.5%**

B) 4.2%

C) 4.8%

D) 5.2%