

# Oceania's Shifting Tides: Culture, Climate, and Geopolitics in Focus

Oceania Politics · Answer Key · 13 Questions

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**1. In May 2024, tensions in New Caledonia escalated into a civil uprising following France's decision to 'unfreeze' its electoral roll. What was the primary concern raised by pro-independence groups regarding this action?**

- A) The expansion of voting rights to recent settlers, primarily French nationals, was seen as diluting the Kanak vote.**
- B) A lack of transparency in the French government's budget allocation for the territory.
- C) The imposition of stricter environmental regulations on local businesses.
- D) The reduction in the number of polling stations, limiting access for Kanak voters.

**2. The National Cultural Commission (NCC) of Papua New Guinea launched new policies in February 2025. Which of the following was a key focus of these new policies?**

- A) Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Training Development, and Operational Manuals.**
- B) Digital literacy programs for remote communities.
- C) Inter-island trade agreements to boost economic growth.
- D) The repatriation of cultural artifacts from Australia.

**3. In December 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held Climate Hearings. What significant action did Pacific Island states urge the Court to incorporate into the international legal framework?**

- A) Climate justice.**
- B) A global carbon tax.
- C) Mandatory climate refugee status for affected populations.
- D) The establishment of a global climate adaptation fund.

**4. Tonga celebrated the 150th anniversary of its written Constitution in 2025. This constitution, adopted in 1875, made Tonga the first country in the Pacific to do so. What aspect of Tongan governance is highlighted as a balance between tradition and modernity following reforms?**

- A) The preservation of the monarchy's constitutional role alongside increased parliamentary representation.**
- B) The complete abolition of traditional titles in favor of elected officials.
- C) The shift to a presidential system of government.
- D) The integration of customary law into the national legal framework.

**5. Palau has been a global leader in ocean protection. Which of the following initiatives was a key policy enacted by Palau to protect its marine environment?**

**A) The creation of the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009 and a ban on reef-toxic sunscreens in 2018.**

- B) The establishment of a large-scale desalination plant to combat saltwater intrusion.
- C) The implementation of a national fishing quota system for all commercial vessels.
- D) The development of artificial reefs using plastic waste.

**6. The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) aims to strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties. Which of the following is a stated purpose of the MSG?**

**A) To promote and strengthen inter-membership trade, exchange of Melanesian cultures, traditions, values, and sovereign equality.**

- B) To establish a unified Melanesian currency for all member states.
- C) To coordinate a joint military defense force for the region.
- D) To create a common visa policy for all international tourists.

**7. Climate change poses an existential threat to low-lying Pacific Island nations. Kiribati, facing rising sea levels, has a 'Migration with Dignity' policy. What is the primary goal of this policy?**

**A) To preserve citizens' dignity and cultural identity by enabling voluntary migration, rather than forcing them to become climate refugees.**

- B) To encourage the development of floating cities to adapt to rising sea levels.
- C) To facilitate the forced relocation of entire communities to higher ground within Kiribati.
- D) To seek international legal recognition of climate refugees.

**8. In the context of New Caledonia's decolonization process, what was a significant point of contention regarding the 2021 independence referendum?**

**A) The referendum was boycotted by Indigenous Kanak voters and widely criticized due to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Kanaks.**

- B) The referendum's outcome was invalidated due to low international observer participation.
- C) The referendum was criticized for not including sufficient representation from French settlers.
- D) The referendum was postponed due to natural disasters affecting the polling process.

**9. Samoa's economic outlook for 2025 includes a projected GDP growth, but also faces challenges. Which of the following is identified as a contributing factor to a projected drop in growth for 2025?**

**A) An electricity crisis causing power rationing in the capital, Apia.**

- B) A significant decrease in tourism revenue due to a lack of international marketing.
- C) Increased competition from neighboring island nations in the tourism sector.
- D) A decline in remittances from Samoan citizens living abroad.

**10. Australia and New Zealand maintain a close relationship, cooperating on various regional and global issues. Which of the following is a key area of collaboration between the two nations in the Pacific?**

**A) Supporting Pacific priorities and working together to respond to shared challenges, including climate change, through the Pacific Islands Forum.**

- B) Establishing a joint military command structure to patrol the Pacific Ocean.
- C) Implementing a unified economic policy for all Pacific Island nations.
- D) Developing a shared approach to space exploration initiatives.

**11. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has expressed concerns regarding New Caledonia. What was a particular concern related to the 'Bougival Agreement' in early 2025?**

**A) Negotiations for a new political agreement and draft bill to expand the electorate were conducted without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Kanak Indigenous People.**

- B) The agreement failed to address the historical grievances of the Kanak people.
- C) The agreement imposed new trade sanctions on New Caledonia.
- D) The agreement did not include provisions for increased French military presence.

**12. Papua New Guinea is working to preserve its rich cultural heritage. Which of the following is a recommended strategy for safeguarding PNG's cultural identity?**

**A) Modernizing museum facilities, promoting education and youth engagement, decentralizing museums, and repatriating PNG's collections.**

- B) Limiting access to cultural sites to only government officials.
- C) Focusing solely on digital archiving of cultural artifacts.
- D) Establishing a single national museum to centralize all cultural heritage.

**13. In July 2025, the Adaptation Fund mobilized support for the Cook Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. What was a key focus of these projects in response to climate change impacts?**

**A) Strengthening community resilience through projects like expanded water storage, climate-resilient farming, and marine ecosystem restoration.**

- B) Developing large-scale geo-engineering solutions to combat rising sea levels.
- C) Funding the construction of artificial islands to relocate populations.
- D) Implementing advanced weather modification technologies.