

East Asia's 2026 Economic Crossroads: Geopolitics, Chip Dominance, and Trade

East Asian Economy · Answer Key · 5 Questions

1. What percentage of the world's most advanced chips (7nm and below) are produced by TSMC in Taiwan, positioning it as a critical geopolitical asset?

- A) 50%
- B) 70%
- C) 90%**
- D) 30%

2. Which global event has notably contributed to South Korea's consumer price index rising by 3.2% year-over-year in June 2026, primarily due to a surge in petroleum product prices?

- A) Global semiconductor shortage
- B) Middle East conflict**
- C) US-China trade war
- D) European debt crisis

3. In May 2026, Japan's Finance Minister Katayama warned that the country's extensive supply chains across Asia are increasingly vulnerable to disruptions due to which primary factors?

- A) Climate change and labor shortages
- B) Geopolitical strains and pandemic-era vulnerabilities**
- C) Currency fluctuations and domestic demand slump
- D) Technological obsolescence and aging infrastructure

4. In the first half of 2026, Vietnam's exports faced increasing scrutiny and trade remedy investigations from which major trading partner?

- A) European Union
- B) China
- C) United States**
- D) Japan

5. Despite global geopolitical tensions, China's economy in the first four months of 2026 has shown resilient export growth, particularly in which high-tech sectors?

- A) Traditional manufacturing and textiles
- B) Agricultural products and raw materials
- C) AI-related equipment and new energy products**
- D) Heavy industry and mining