

Preparation for A-Level Geography




A-Level Topic: Superpowers




Key Terms: Territorial integrity; geopolitics; power; maritime law; disputes; international trade; superpowers.

Key Question: Why is the South China Sea so important to China?

China has spent over 4000 years expanding its land mass to secure its borders with natural defences. Now it is one of the most powerful countries on earth, and it wants to guard its interests around the world. Controlling the seas is crucial to protect China's territorial claims, to become a global superpower.

 What to do	 What to read	 What to watch
<p>Use the resources provided to write notes that answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is the South China Sea? • Why is the South China Sea of strategic importance to China and the world? • Why is China building islands in the South China Sea? • Why do countries feel threatened by China's militarisation of the South China Sea? • What do you think the future holds for the South China Sea? 	<p>ArcGIS Story Map of Spratly Islands: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4fec4dfef10c46fbbbad07527d5ccdfb</p> <p>South China Sea sees significant construction (Geographical Magazine) https://geographical.co.uk/geopolitics/geopolitics/item/812-south-china-sea-sees-significant-construction</p> <p>Extract of 'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall (pages 55-57) *Attached on SMH</p>	<p>Why is China building islands in the South China Sea? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luTPMHC7zHY</p> <p>South China Sea: 'Leave immediately and keep far off' BBC News https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dodbaggKn8js</p> <p>Here's why so many nations want to control the South China Sea: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JLeB-qTzRE</p>

 **What to submit:** Using your notes, write a **one-page report** to answer the key question: **'Why is the South China Sea so important to China?'**

Your report should be well presented and informative to show an understanding of the content that you have been investigating. Use the questions above to help you structure your writing and refer to evidence and examples. You can add any maps, images or diagrams to illustrate your points. Try to reach a conclusion to the key question. Please submit your completed one-page report via Google Classroom.