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| Key terms: see glossary sheet | **UNIT NAVIGATOR****Area of study 4: Human Systems and Geopolitics Topic 7: Superpowers****Superpowers can be developed by a number of characteristics. The pattern of dominance has changed over time. Superpowers and emerging superpowers have a very significant impact on the global economy, global politics and the environment.** **The spheres of influence between these powers are frequently contested, resulting in geopolitical implications.** Significant links to Globalisation, Carbon and Water and Migration, Identity and Sovereignty topics |
| **EQ1 What are superpowers and how have they changed over time?** |
| **7.1**  **Geopolitical power stems from a range of human and physical of characteristics of superpowers** |
| **THEME** | **Learning goals** | Specification from exam board | **NC= Notes complete****RR= Revision Resources made?** | **😊** | **:-/** | **☹** |
| 1 What is (geopolitical) power?   | LG1 Define power (Superpowers, emerging and regional ) using contrasting characteristics (economic, political, military, cultural, demographic and access to natural resources).LG3 Constructing power indexes using complex data sets, including ranking and scaling  | Explain how superpowers, emerging and regional powers can be defined using contrasting characteristics (economic, political, military, cultural, demographic and access to natural resources) |  |  |  |  |
| 2 How do mechanisms of power change over time?  | LG1 Know mechanisms of power and How change over timeLG2 Apply Mackinder’s geostrategic location theory  | Explain why mechanisms of maintaining power sit on a spectrum from ‘hard’ to economic to ‘soft’ power, which vary in their effectiveness. |  |  |  |  |
| 3How have patterns of power changed in the past?  | LG1 Know how patterns of power change over time (uni / bi / multi)LG2 Detailed investigation British Empire uni polar world  | Explain how the relative importance of these characteristics and mechanisms for maintaining power has changed over time (Mackinder’s geo-strategic location theory) |  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 Patterns of power change over time and can be uni-, bi- or multi-polar. |
| 4How has power changed in the post colonial era? The BI polar world  | LG2 Explain how multi-faceted, indirect control has become more important (Cold War era)   | Explain the maintenance of power during the imperial era by direct colonial control (British Empire unipolar, then multipolar world 1919–1939). |  |  |  |  |
| 5 What is neo-colonialism? What’s China | LG2 Investigate how China emerged as a rival to the USA’s hegemony?  | Explain how multi-faceted, indirect control (political, economic, military, cultural), including neo-colonial mechanisms, has become more important (Cold War era; emergence of China as a potential rival to the USA’s hegemony). |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Explain why different patterns of power bring varying degrees of geopolitical stability and risk |  |  |  |  |
| 7.3 Emerging powers vary in their influence on people and the physical environment, which can change rapidly over time. |
| 6Who are the emerging powers?  | LG2 Assess the hegemonic  potential of  BRIC and other G20 nations  | Explain why a number of emerging countries, including Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) and other G20 members, are considered increasingly important to global economic and political systems, as well as global environment governance (UN Climate Change Conference). |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why each country (BRIC / emerging power) has evolving strengths and weaknesses (economic, political, military, cultural, demographic and environmental) that might inhibit or advance their economic and geopolitical role in the future.  |  |  |  |  |
| 7What are the different theories of power?  | LG2 Examine theories and use to explain changing patterns of power | Explain how Development Theory (World Systems Theory, Dependency Theory, Modernisation Theory) can be used to help explain changing patterns of power. New theories – Pacific geography. |  |  |  |  |
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| EQ1 Exam question (s) completed |  Original Score  | **Strengths & areas to work on AND improvements made?** |
| **Enquiry question 2: What are the impacts of superpowers on the global economy, political systems and the physical environment?** |
| 7.4 Superpowers have a significant influence over the global economic system. |
| 8How do superpowers influence the global economy through IGOs?  | LG1 Explain LG3 Linear and logarithmic scales and plotting | Explain how superpowers influence the global economy (promoting free trade and capitalism) through a variety of IGOs (World Bank, IMF, WTO, World Economic Forum (WEF)). |  |  |  |  |
| 9How powerful are TNCs?  | LG1 Understand the global importance of TNCs and their influence on world culture | Explain why TNCs (public and state-led) are dominant economic forces in the global economy and economic and cultural globalisation in terms of technology (patents) and trade patterns. (Players: the role of TNCs in maintaining power and wealth)  |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why global cultural influence (the arts, food the media) and ‘westernisation’ is an important aspect of power, linked to economic influence and technology. |  |  |  |  |
| 7.5 Superpowers and emerging nations play a key role in international decision making concerning people and the physical environment. |
| 10How does international decision making help to maintain some countries’ power?  | LG1 Understand the roles of superpowers and emerging nations in world governing bodies and global alliances. | Explain how superpowers and emerging nations play a key role in global action (crisis response, conflict, climate change). (Players: the role of powerful countries as ‘global police’) |  |  |  |  |
| Explain how different types of alliances (military- NATO / ANZUS), ( economic – EU NAFTA, ASEAN) (environmental- IPCC) increase interdependence and are important in geostrategy and global influence. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why the UN (Security Council, International Court of Justice, and peacekeeping missions and climate change conferences) are important to global geopolitical stability. (Actions and attitudes- of global IGO)  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.6 Global concerns about the physical environment are disproportionately influenced by superpower actions |
| 11What are the links between global environmental concerns and power?  | LG1 Understand the disparity in resource usage between superpowers and emerging powers.Understand the roles of different nations to climate change.  | Explain why superpower resource demands (food, fossil fuels, and minerals) can cause environmental degradation and their carbon emissions contribute disproportionately to global warming.  |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why there are differences in the willingness to act (USA, EU, China, and Russia) to reduce carbon emissions and reach global agreements on environmental issues. (Attitudes and actions of different countries) |  |  |  |  |
| 12What is happening to middle class consumption?  | LG2 Explain links between consumer lifestyles and resource consumption in emerging countries and superpowers. | Explain why future growth in middle-class consumption in emerging superpowers has implications for the availability and cost of key resources (rare earths, oil, staple grains and water), as well as for the physical environment. |  |  |  |  |
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| EQ2 Exam question (s) completed |  Original Score  | **Strengths & areas to work on AND improvements made?** |
| **Enquiry question 3: What spheres of influence are contested by superpowers and what are the implications of this?** |
| 7.7 Global influence is contested in a number of different economic, environmental and political spheres. |
| 13How is global influence contested? | LG1 Investigate tensions arising over intellectual property rights and contested spheres of influence | Explain why / how the global system of intellectual property rights can be undermined by counterfeiting, which strains trade relations and TNC investment. |  |  |  |  |
| 14What are key places experiencing tensions over territory and physical resources?  | LG2 Case studies  (**South and East China Seas / Western Russia/Eastern Europe/ Arctic oil and gas)**  | Explain why tensions can arise over the acquisition of physical resources (Arctic oil and gas) where ownership is disputed and disagreement exists over exploitation. (Attitudes and actions in relation to resources) |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why / how political spheres of influence can be contested leading to tensions over territory and physical resources (**DETAILED CASE STUDY= South and East China Seas**) and in some cases resulting in open conflict ( **DETAILED CASE STUDY=Western Russia/Eastern Europe**) with implications for people and physical environments. |  |  |  |  |
| 7.8 Developing nations have changing relationships with superpowers with consequences for people and the physical environment. |
| 15 What ties do (super) powers have with developing nations? | LG2 Understand ties between China and Africa and assess the potential implications. | Explain how developing economic ties between emerging powers and the developing world (China and African nations) increase interdependence, generate environmental impacts and bring opportunities and challenges. (Players- the role of emerging powers) |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why the rising economic importance of certain Asian countries ( **DETAILED CASE STUDY=**China or India) on the global stage increases the geopolitical influence of the region but also creates economic and political tensions within the region. |  |  |  |  |
| 16How are tensions developing in Asia and the Middle East?  | L2 Explain the cultural, political economic and environmental tensions in this region | Explain why/ how cultural, political, economic and environmental tensions in the Middle East represent an ongoing challenge to superpowers and emerging powers due to complex geopolitical relations combined with the supply of vital energy resources. (Attitudes and actions- contrasting cultural ideologies)  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.9 Existing superpowers face ongoing economic restructuring, which challenges their power. |
| L17Superpower challenges and futures  | LG1 Understand the issues achieving and maintaining superpower statusLG2 Use KSU to Predict the future!  | Explain why / how economic problems (debt, unemployment, economic restructuring, social costs) represent an ongoing challenge to the USA and EU. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why the economic costs of maintaining global military power (naval, nuclear, air power, intelligence services) and space exploration are questioned in some existing powers. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why the future balance of global power in 2030 and 2050 is uncertain and there are a range of possible outcomes (continued USA dominance, bi-polar and multi-polar structures). (Futures- uncertainties over future power structures)  |  |  |  |  |
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| EQ3 Exam question (s) completed |  Original Score  | **Strengths & areas to work on AND improvements made?** |
| Skills Integrated into Topic 7(1) Constructing power indexes using complex data sets, including ranking and scaling. (2) Mapping past, present and future sphere of influence and alliances using world maps. (3) Using graphs of world trade growth using linear and logarithmic scales. (4) Mapping emissions and resource consumption using proportional symbols. (5) Plotting the changing location of the world’s economic centre of gravity on world maps. (6) Analysing future Gross Domestic Product (GDP) using data from different sources. |