

# Oxford Revise | Edexcel A Level Geography | Answers

## Chapter 9

All exemplar answers given are likely to be in the top mark band.

Questions 1–9 are point-marked.

1 AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one way that geo-strategic location theory links territory to political power, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

**Relevant content may include:**

- Mackinder’s geo-strategic location theory suggested that continental Eurasia was politically important, as whoever controls this territory would become a global superpower.
- This territory is politically important because it contains large amounts of the world’s resources.
- Key trade routes and transportation networks.
- Related to Mackinder’s theory is China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a project that develops modern infrastructure to promote international trade. It consists of the ‘belt’ (overland transport routes such as roads, rail, airports and energy infrastructure) and the ‘road’ (maritime shipping routes and ports).
- Through the BRI, China exerts ‘soft’ rather than ‘hard power’ by offering support and other assistance to partnering countries.
- The BRI allows goods to be traded and aid, political support and other assistance to be provided to partnering countries.
- Some argue that the reliance of partner countries on finance from China to develop projects leaves them open to dependency, obligation and debt to China.
- BRI projects have given China economic and political advantages. Partner countries also benefit but some may experience problems.

Example answer: *Mackinder suggested that continental Eurasia (Heartland) was politically important, as whoever controls this territory would become a global superpower. One reason that this territory is politically important is because it contains large amounts of the world’s resources, including natural resources, trade routes and transportation (1). China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is developing modern infrastructure to develop international trade, which allows China to exert ‘soft’ rather than ‘hard’ power (1). BRI projects have given China economic and political advantages (1). Partner countries may also benefit, but some argue that these countries may be left open to dependency, obligation and debt to China (1).*

2 AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one reason why direct colonial control helped to maintain power during the imperial era, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

**Relevant content may include:**

- Imperial powers used military force to maintain their power within their colonies. The military could be used to suppress local resistance or uprisings, as well as acting as a deterrent to discourage local people from challenging the imperial power. The military could maintain a more stable political environment to exploit resources and to undertake economic activities.

- Imperial powers could enforce their own laws, rules, language, and institutions to enforce their power and suppress local customs and practices.
- Imperial powers controlled access and exploitation of resources, gaining profit from their use and their export, and thus increasing the imperial power's economic strength.
- Imperial powers used local, cheaper, and sometimes forced, labour to exploit resources, reducing the economic income of local people.
- Imperial powers built infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports, and telecommunications, which helped maintain control across the territory.
- Imperial powers exploited ethnic and religious differences within the local population to divide the population and weaken unified resistance against their power.

Example answer: *Imperial powers used military force to maintain their power within their colonies (1). The military could be used to suppress local resistance or uprisings (1), as well as acting as a deterrent to discourage local people from challenging the imperial power (1). The military could maintain a more stable political environment to exploit resources and to undertake economic activities (1).*

**3** AO3 = 4

Award 1 mark for each correct answer.

Weighted rank: China 2; India 2.5

Overall score: Brazil 15.5; South Africa 23.5

**4** AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one way in which powerful nations exert cultural influence, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

**Relevant content may include:**

- TNCs based in powerful nations influence cultures around the world. As many TNCs are based in the USA this often results in 'westernisation' of culture.
- Developments in technology have contributed to the globalisation of ideas and cultures and the culture and ideas from powerful nations spread globally.
- Powerful nations often produce films, television, music, and other forms of culture, which are distributed around the world and influence global culture.
- Food from different countries is available around the world and the food from powerful nations is available globally (often through TNCs) influencing local food habits and culture.

**5** AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one reason why some countries choose to join military alliances, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

**Relevant content may include:**

- Some countries choose to join military alliances to improve their own national security. They enhance their own protection by working with other countries that have similar interests or concerns. This acts as a deterrent to other nations with opposing views or goals. An attack on one member of the alliance is seen as an attack on all (e.g. NATO), increasing one country's protection through a collective response.

- Joining a military alliance enables a country to share intelligence and surveillance, so they can respond to threats more effectively.
- Countries within military alliances may also share military equipment and encourage military personnel to work together, both in training and in conflict zones (e.g. joint military exercises). This allows them to contribute towards their common military goals more effectively and at a lower cost than acting alone.
- Joining a military alliance enables countries to cooperate diplomatically on areas of common interest, increasing a country's influence on the global stage.
- Being a member of a military alliance may show a country's commitment to the shared values and behaviours of member states (e.g. democracy).

## 6 AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one reason why superpower resource demands can cause environmental degradation, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

### Relevant content may include:

- Superpowers have a high demand for natural resources to supply their populations and economies. This demand for raw materials, energy, and food sources can lead to high levels of extraction and intensification of land use. Land can be degraded (e.g. through soil erosion, habitat loss) and contaminated through oil spills during extraction (e.g. mining), and in the course of agricultural production (e.g. deforestation).
- Industrial activity within superpowers can cause a range of atmospheric pollutants such as greenhouse and toxic gases, and particulate matter, causing a reduction in local air quality and contributing towards climate change.
- A decline in the water availability (scarcity) and increase in water pollution through agricultural and industrial activities reduces environmental quality. Increases in population size and wealth can also raise demand for water.
- The need for increased energy causes environmental degradation, through the burning of fossil fuels. This contributes to global warming, sea level rise, and extreme weather events, which can have adverse impacts on the environment.
- Resource demands may also lead to conflict (e.g. war), which negatively affects the natural environment (e.g. the planting of minefields).

## 7 AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one reason why the global system of intellectual property rights can be threatened, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

### Relevant content may include:

- The global system of intellectual property rights can be threatened through counterfeiting. Fake products from industries such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, and luxury brands can flood the market, reducing the profits of those owning the intellectual property rights. It also puts the customer at risk as they may buy an unsafe product. Income from counterfeiting is illegal and so will not be declared, decreasing its tax revenue.

- The internet has threatened the global system of intellectual property rights. Cyberspace makes it easier to share files and information, and to pirate material digitally, making it difficult to enforce patents and copyright.
- The intellectual property rights system can increase the cost of products (e.g. high licensing fees and TNC monopolies on patents), creating barriers to access for essential goods and services, particularly for those in poorer economies (e.g. vaccines). Public opinion may challenge the system if it is seen to increase global inequality and reduce the ability to achieve development goals.

**8** AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one reason why tensions in the Middle East present an ongoing challenge to superpowers, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

**Relevant content may include:**

- Superpowers rely on energy to meet the demands of the economy and their populations. The Middle East is home to many of the world's important oil producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Iran, and Kuwait. Conflicts in the region pose a threat to global energy markets. Superpowers that are dependent on oil imports have a geopolitical interest in the region. Tensions in the region could disrupt oil flows and increase prices, negatively affecting superpowers.
- The Middle East is an area of key geo-strategic interest. Located between Europe, Eastern Asia, and North Africa, superpowers compete for influence in the region (e.g. through military bases and shipping routes). Tensions within the region can destabilise access to these interests.
- Armed conflicts, civil wars, and terrorism can cause a threat to regional and international security, both in the region itself and within states in other areas of the world.
- Conflicts and climate change can lead to humanitarian crisis as refugees are displaced from one region to another. Superpowers may be required to provide aid and humanitarian assistance, and to negotiate or mediate in the solution process.
- There are concerns that some states within the region are suspected of increasing their nuclear program, including their nuclear weapon capability. This affects superpowers' efforts to maintain global stability.
- The Middle East is a complex, dynamic political region. Superpowers may form alliances to increase their geopolitical influence, but these may be strained by changes in power between different groups within the region.

**9** AO1 = 4

Award 1 mark for one reason why space exploration is questioned in some existing superpowers, with up to a further 3 marks for an explanation, to a maximum of 4 marks.

**Relevant content may include:**

- Space exploration is questioned in some existing superpowers because of its cost. Funding space projects is extremely expensive. Some within superpowers argue that the money should be redirected to projects that benefit their populations socially, such as health and social services, education, or infrastructure. Benefits from these for populations may be seen in less time than those gained through space exploration.
- Space exploration brings risks (e.g. accidents). Decision-makers and the public may question the justification of these risks.

- Increased space activity brings increased debris (space junk), which is difficult to dispose of and poses danger to other orbiting satellites, as well as the International Space Station. Further landings on the Moon and other planets could increase the number and type of objects left in space.
- Environmental concerns on Earth (e.g. environmental impact around launch sites and end-of-life satellites ditching in the ocean).
- Space exploration is entering a new 'space race'. Tensions could arise between those superpowers, and other states, competing for space dominance or disputing access to space resources.

**Questions 10–18 are level-marked.**

**10** AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

Level	Marks	Description
	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No rewardable material.</li> </ul>
1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates isolated elements of geographical knowledge and understanding, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas, making limited logical connections/relationships. (AO2)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas to produce an interpretation with limited relevance and/or support. (AO2)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas to make unsupported or generic judgements about the significance of few factors, leading to an argument that is unbalanced or lacks coherence. (AO2)</li> </ul>
2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates geographical knowledge and understanding, which is mostly relevant and may include some inaccuracies. (AO1)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas logically, making some relevant connections/relationships. (AO2)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas to produce a partial but coherent interpretation that is mostly relevant and supported by evidence. (AO2)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas to make judgements about the significance of some factors, to produce an argument that may be unbalanced or partially coherent. (AO2)</li> </ul>
3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates accurate and relevant geographical knowledge and understanding throughout. (AO1)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas logically, making relevant connections/relationships. (AO2)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas to produce a full and coherent interpretation that is relevant and supported by evidence. (AO2)</li> <li>• Applies knowledge and understanding of geographical information/ideas to make supported judgements about the significance of factors throughout the response, leading to a balanced and coherent argument. (AO2)</li> </ul>

**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- Soft power, including the role of trade, TNCs, aid, media, and culture, plays an important role in developing superpower status.
- Hard power, such as military force and intervention, has also played an important role in achieving and maintaining superpower status.
- The role of soft and hard power in maintaining the status of superpowers can vary between nations and change overtime.

AO2

- Trade links can increase a country's superpower status.
- Superpowers may have favourable terms of trade and are able to export higher-value products, while importing lower-value goods.
- China had a trade surplus of \$857 billion in 2022, giving them more economic power.
- TNCs are also important for maintaining soft power status as they operate in more than one country, bringing in FDI. This can lead to LICs being dependent on HICs to stimulate investment and employment.
- Governments of LICs may change laws and tax regulations to bring in investment from TNCs.
- TNCs may also bring in working practices and methods of organisation to increase their efficiency.
- TNCs may have a large share of the global market for the products they produce as well as powerful brands, increasing their global influence.
- Many of the largest TNCs are American, helping to maintain the USA's position as a superpower.
- Superpowers can also give aid, which increases the dependency of other nations on them.
- Superpowers may also have more influence in global decision-making (e.g. permanent positions on the UN Security Council), enhancing their global power and status.
- Superpowers may also be prominent members of trade blocs and alliances, which also helps to maintain their superpower status.
- Many influential technology companies are American (e.g. Microsoft and Apple) and the use of their products is global.
- Advances in the internet and smartphones increase the spread of these companies' products, which contributes to the USA's superpower status. They can help other countries to assimilate American ideas and beliefs.
- Culturally, the USA exports music, films, television, and fashion. This helps to export and maintain the influence of American/western ideas and values. US film companies like the Big Five studios (Universal, Paramount, Warner Bros, Disney, and Sony) produce many films each year which are distributed to international markets.
- Streaming services such as Netflix distribute American series as part of their global output and US music artists (e.g. Taylor Swift) generate global income from music sales and tour tickets.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Some argue that soft power has played a very important role in maintaining superpower status.
- While hard power, such as military force and intervention, has played an important role in achieving superpower status, soft power, including the role of trade, TNCs, aid, media, and culture, has enabled superpowers, particularly the USA to continue to exert power and influence over other countries.
- It can be argued that soft power is very important for maintaining the status of superpowers, although it may need more time to take effect than hard power activities such as military interventions.

*Example answer: Some argue that soft power has played a very important role in maintaining superpower status. While hard power, such as military force and intervention, has played an important role in achieving superpower status, the role of trade, TNCs, aid, media, and culture has enabled superpowers, particularly the USA, to continue to exert power and influence over other countries.*

*Trade links can increase a country's superpower status. Superpowers may have favourable terms of trade and are able to export higher-value products, while importing lower-value goods. China had a trade surplus of \$857 billion in 2022, giving them more economic power. TNCs are also important for maintaining soft power status as they operate in more than one country, bringing in FDI. This can lead to LICs being dependent on HICs to stimulate investment and employment. Governments of LICs may change laws and tax regulations to bring in investment from TNCs. TNCs may also bring in working practices and methods of organisation to increase their efficiency. They may have a large share of the global market for the products they produce as well as powerful brands, increasing their global influence. Many of the largest TNCs are American, helping to maintain the USA's position as a superpower. Superpowers can also give aid, which increases the dependency of other nations on them.*

*Superpowers may also have more influence in global decision-making—for example, permanent positions on the UN Security Council—enhancing their global power and status. They may also be prominent members of trade blocs and alliances, which also helps to maintain their superpower status.*

*Also, many influential technology companies are American, such as Microsoft and Apple, and the use of their products is global. Advances in the internet and smartphones increase the spread of these companies' products, which contributes to the USA's superpower status. They can help other countries to assimilate American ideas and beliefs.*

*In terms of culture, the USA exports music, films, television, and fashion. This helps to export and maintain the influence of American/western ideas and values. US film companies like the Big Five studios (Universal, Paramount, Warner Bros, Disney, and Sony) produce many films each year, which are distributed to international markets. Streaming services such as Netflix distribute American series as part of their global output and US music artists (e.g. Taylor Swift) generate global income from music sales and tour tickets.*

*It can be argued that soft power is very important for maintaining the status of superpowers, although it may need more time to take effect than hard power activities such as military interventions.*

*The USA (through westernisation) has used soft power to maintain its superpower status, although its military capability shows that hard power is still important. China, as a developing superpower, uses trade (soft power) to further its influence but it also is developing its military power (hard power), which may help to maintain its future superpower status.*

11 AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No rewardable material.</li> </ul>
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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- There are different viewpoints as to whether unipolar, bipolar, or multipolar patterns of power offer more geopolitical stability and pose less risks.
- Unipolar (one dominant nation), bipolar (two nations that share dominance), and multipolar (many nations that share global influence and may have dominance in particular regions) models have varying strengths and weaknesses.

AO2

- Unipolar world: a single power dominates, giving stability by acting as a global leader.
- They can keep order and help to prevent major conflicts.



- The dominant power may have large economic resources so are able to spend money on their military to maintain their superpower status.
- Other countries are unlikely to challenge this status and they avoid wars.
- The dominant power may overextend themselves or become too confident.
- They may try or spread ideas or policies which may cause tensions with other countries, leading to opposition and conflict.
- Bipolar world: the two nations have relatively equal power, and this creates stability.
- In the Cold War period, both the USA and the USSR recognised the power and potential of the other, and there was a joint fear of mutual attack.
- This acted as a deterrent for direct conflict.
- However, critics argue that conflicts can still take place in a bipolar war through proxy conflicts, often in other regions of the world. Instability can occur if there is a breakdown in diplomacy between the two powers.
- Multipolar world: at least two powers have superpower status, distributing the power between countries and/or regions.
- This may balance power more evenly.
- There may be changing alliances between countries, preventing conflicts as not one power dominates.
- However, some argue that multipolar systems may be more unpredictable because of these shifts in alliances, leading to more complex relationships which could increase conflicts.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Different positions of power bring their own strengths and limitations in terms of geopolitical stability and risk.
- The influence of international institutions as well as external factors such as pandemics and the impacts of climate change, may also influence the balance of power between countries.

**12** AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- Different development theories may be useful when explaining the change of a country's power over time, but they also have limitations.
- Rostow's model of economic growth shows how a country modernises over time.
- Dependency theory examines spatial inequality through differences between core (developed) and periphery (developing) countries.
- Wallerstein's World Systems theory model does include semi-peripheral regions to the dependency model.

AO2

- The Rostow model shows five distinct stages of economic growth, linking development to the progression of economic activity from primary through services.
- It integrates the importance of investment, trade, infrastructure, and technology to the development process.
- It is clear and straightforward to understand, and can be applied to different countries.
- It was developed with a focus on the economic growth of developed countries, so developing countries may not go through the stages in this linear way.
- The development process may be oversimplified and does not include other factors linked to progress, such as environmental sustainability and improvements in human rights.
- The Rostow model does not consider external factors that influence economic growth, such as availability of natural resources, globalisation, and trade policies.

- National governments may also have particular priorities, which may stimulate economic growth by focusing on certain sectors.
- Dependency theory may be more useful for explaining past patterns of power, especially during the imperial era.
- Critics argue that countries that have industrialised in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century (e.g. China and South Korea) do not easily fit into this model as it is oversimplified.
- The view the model offers is polarised, making it difficult for countries to move from the periphery to the core.
- Wallerstein’s World systems theory model includes NICs and suggests that countries can transition between the core, semi-periphery and periphery over time.
- Some argue that, although it shows the spatial change of power over time, it oversimplifies the relationship between countries.
- By focusing on economic factors, it ignores environmental, social, and political factors, which also affect changes in patterns of power.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Development theories may offer some explanation of changing patterns of power, but they can be oversimplified.
- Examination of the strengths and limitations of Rostow, Dependency Theory, and Wallerstein in explaining different patterns of power.
- Rostow, Dependency Theory, and Wallerstein’s model developed during the Cold War era, and factors such as technological advances may need to be considered when explaining changes in more current patterns of power.
- By focusing on economic factors, they can also ignore other factors (e.g. social, environmental, and political), which influence a country’s global status.

**13** AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- Superpowers may influence IGOs in a number of ways, in particular, through decision-making and financially.
- Other factors may influence IGOS such as the role of other member states and those within trade blocs and other alliances, influence from other organisations such as NGOs, ability to deal with global challenges such as poverty and climate change, and public opinion.

AO2

- Superpowers can influence decision-making in IGOs.
- This allows them to help make policies and rules that impact global systems, including the economy.
- They may push for trade agreements, monetary policies, and development projects that support their interests.
- Superpowers also make financial contributions to IGOs.
- They may influence allocations of funds so that projects are supported in regions that may link with their interests.
- Superpowers may provide financial aid in times of humanitarian or financial crisis through IGOs.
- Through membership of the World Trade Organization, superpowers advocate free trade and capitalism.
- They will be involved in trade agreements and negotiations. They may dispute agreements that are not aligned to their interests.
- Superpowers give money to the International Monetary Fund via a quota system.
- They help to give short to mid-term financial assistance to countries via loans, helping to maintain economic stability.

- Superpowers fund contributions to the World Bank, contributing towards long-term development projects (e.g. health, education, and infrastructure).
- This can improve economic development, particularly for LICs.
- Superpowers also influence the global economy through the World Economic Forum, where leaders from public and private organisations discuss solutions to key global issues.
- Superpowers may also be members of trade blocs (e.g. the USA and NAFTA), which can influence the type and volume of products sold through trade agreements and the reduction of barriers to trade.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Members of key IGOs that influence the global economy including the WTO, IMF, and World Bank.
- Have key decision-making powers or can influence policies within these organisations (e.g. the WTO).
- Superpowers are wealthy countries, so make key financial contributions.
- Membership of trade blocs also gives them influence in the global economy.
- Member states of other alliances (e.g. military: NATO) cooperate to achieve the goals of IGOs.
- NGOs can also play an important role influencing IGOs by highlighting issues that need to be tackled and providing action in addition to that of IGOs.
- IGOs own ability to deal with global challenges such as poverty and climate change may determine the direction of their policies.
- Public opinion may influence the actions of IGOs (e.g. the UN), particularly in times of crisis.

14 AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- The United Nations (UN), established in 1945, is the world’s most important IGO.
- The UN is an important global player as its members cooperate on numerous global challenges such as peace, security, human rights, aid, and sustainable development.
- The UN’s success has been limited by how it makes decisions, its limitations in enforcing its decisions, and the time it takes for them to be implemented.

AO2

- The UN Security Council is the main body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- UN member states have to follow decisions made by the Council.
- Five permanent members on the UN Security Council (USA, UK, Russia, France, and China) have the power to veto resolutions.
- Critics argue that this system gives more influence to the world’s most powerful nations and it can be difficult to reach agreements on issues, delaying its actions and weakening its effectiveness.
- The International Court of Justice is the main legal body of the UN. Its role is to use international law to settle legal disputes on behalf of countries and to offer legal advice to other UN bodies.
- It provides a framework for addressing disputes and managing international relations, helping geopolitical stability.
- Critics argue that it takes a long time for issues to be resolved and lacks the ability to enforce its decisions.
- The UN has the capacity to be directly involved in regions that are politically unstable through its Peacekeeping Missions.
- These help countries work towards long-term peace by providing a neutral force, therefore improving geopolitical stability.
- Critics argue that UN Peacekeeping forces have brought other problems to some areas they are protecting.
- The UN has been involved in tackling climate change through COPs, where member states review progress on climate issues.
- This helps geopolitical stability in the long-term through agreements to reduce the rise in global temperatures. This would lessen the impact of climate change, a threat to global stability.
- While it provides a global forum for countries to discuss, some argue that COPs are slow, complex, and lack effectiveness on some issues.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- The UN plays an important role in maintaining geopolitical stability, although some argue that certain countries within it have more influence (UN Security Council).
- Decision-making can be slow.
- It lacks the ability to enforce its rulings.

15 AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- The future growth in middle-class consumption in emerging superpowers raises a range of environmental impacts.

- By 2030, it is predicted that over 50% of the world's population will be middle class (over 4.2 billion people).
- The middle classes have over two thirds of the world's spending power, putting pressure on the resources to produce the goods and services that they will need.
- Populations in HICs will also continue to need resources to maintain the standard of living they have been used to.

## AO2

- There will be an increased need for energy supplies.
- Oil will be in demand to fuel petrol-based vehicles in the short- to medium-term, until the infrastructure and affordability of electric vehicles improves.
- This could increase pollution levels (e.g. oil spills, and carbon and particle emissions from combustion).
- This reduces environmental quality and contributes to climate change.
- Deforestation could be another consequence of growing numbers of middle-class populations.
- Higher numbers of people will need more food, including staple grains such as rice, maize, and wheat. Diets may change, increasing the demand for meat.
- As a result, natural habitats, including tropical rainforests, will be threatened to make way for agricultural land and urban development.
- Loss of forests reduces biodiversity and carbon sequestration potential.
- Demand for food will also affect oceans if unsustainable fishing practices lead to a decline in stocks.
- As consumption increases, the amount of waste also rises. There are environmental impacts with disposing of this waste.
- There is a need to find more space for landfill sites.
- Finite resources such as rare earth minerals will be extracted, causing land degradation.
- Fresh water sources will be put under pressure as agriculture, households, and industry compete for limited supplies.
- Increased demand may encourage companies to seek alternative solutions or to invest in technology to minimise impacts on the environment.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Negative impacts on the environment of future middle-class growth include energy, pollution, habitat loss, deforestation, waste, finite resources, and fresh water.
- Positive impacts on the environment of future middle-class growth include innovation and awareness on the environment of a growth in middle class-led consumption.
- Technological solutions are developing (e.g. increase in renewable energy), but more will need to be found and implemented to reduce the threats to the environment.
- Pressures from rising population in other regions of the world, particularly in parts of Africa.



16 AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- Tensions arise over the acquisition of physical resources such as oil and gas, rare earths, and fish.
- These tensions may arise from economic factors as well as political factors.
- Countries require resources to meet the demand from populations in their own countries, to provide income from the trade of these resources and to increase their economic status and sometimes their political control in the world.
- Tensions arise over claims over, or the right to extract resources from, land or sea areas, particularly those that are disputed or under international jurisdictions.

AO2

- Using the Arctic as an example, there are many reasons why tensions occur when countries compete for resources.
- Access to the Arctic region is increasing due to climate change and improvements in technology.
- While much of the Arctic lies in international waters, there are competing claims for ownership by different countries.
- The Arctic has significant oil and gas reserves, and countries with existing interests in the region, as well as those beyond it, may want to exploit these resources to meet demand.
- Rare earth metals are also present, so extraction of these would help the development of high-tech industries.
- Changing patterns of fishing may occur with increased ocean temperatures.
- There may be conflicts over exploiting fisheries as demand for fish as a food source will increase as the global population rises.
- Territory is an important physical resource.
- There are already contested claims within the Arctic region between some Arctic nations, not only for resources, but for geostrategic reasons.
- Tensions can also arise over resources because of gaps in existing frameworks.
- Although the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea governs part of the Arctic Ocean, disputes may arise over the application of international laws, leading to tension between countries.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Economic factors are key as resources are fundamental to economic growth and development, as well as meeting the demands of the population.
- Political factors are important as these govern the right to access resources, particularly in areas that are not already defined within countries. Territorial claims and how these are managed are becoming increasingly important, especially when technological advances make exploitation in more extreme environments such as the Arctic more viable.

17 AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- Many opportunities and challenges are created when emerging powers (e.g. China) and the developing world (e.g. parts of Africa) increase their economic ties.
- Opportunities can arise for both the emerging power and the developing world.
- Challenges can occur for both the emerging power and the developing world.
- Opportunities include FDI, infrastructure development, and aid.
- Challenges may include neocolonialism, dependency, employment rights, and environmental concerns.

AO2

- Opportunities include a rise in FDI. FDI can help Chinese companies to develop their business and increase their profits.
- It can also help African countries to increase levels of development through flows of capital, technology, and expertise.
- FDI can develop industries which create employment for local people, so income flows to local businesses due to the multiplier effect.
- Infrastructure is important for economic development and investment in ports, roads, and railways helps to connect countries to the global market, particularly landlocked countries (e.g. China's Belt Road Initiative).
- Secure ports can also be used for military bases, improving national security.
- Emerging economies may also be in position to give aid in the form of grants or loans, which may help communities progress towards SDGs.
- Challenges include discontent amongst the local population, leading to protests over projects.

- Some argue that countries may experience ‘Sinoisation’, where resources are exploited for Chinese gain, a type of neo-colonialism.
- Where loans have been given instead of grants, debt repayment and debt servicing issues may arise.
- Projects may be subject to cancellation or delays, causing tensions between the two countries involved.
- Development of some industries may lead to issues over employment rights and concerns over health and safety.
- Increased economic ties may lead to environmental challenges such as resource exploitation, habitat loss, and increased pollution.
- In addition, some argue that increasing economic ties increases dependency, whereas others argue that it reduces dependency.

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Opportunities and challenges exist when emerging powers and the developing world create economic ties.
- Some argue that the opportunities for the emerging power in some cases outweigh those for the developing countries.
- Challenges may be more significant for developing countries (e.g. economic dependency and environmental challenges).
- Important to balance long-term economic interests with sustainable development so that both countries achieve long-term benefits.

18 AO1 = 3 / AO2 = 9

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**Relevant content may include:**

AO1

- Power structures, the ability for one or more countries to influence the global political system, are affected by many factors.
- Demographic, economic, social, political, and environmental factors have important influence over future power structures in the twenty-first century.
- Different factors may have varying influences on the power structure of particular countries, and at different points of time.
- While economic factors are highly important, other factors may have varying influences on the power structure of particular countries, and at different points of time.

AO2

- Many factors affect future power structures in 2030 and 2050.
- By 2050, the UN predicts that the world’s population will be 9.8 billion.
- Although overall population growth is slowing down, there will still be competition for the resources available, unless technology can provide alternatives.
- The ability to obtain resources for populations will be important to maintain superpower status.
- The USA and China will both have ageing populations as life expectancy increases and the proportion of workers declines.
- This will cause challenges in the healthcare sector, the labour market, and the need to meet pension costs.
- These economic challenges may put superpower status at risk. India, a potential superpower, on the other hand, will experience a demographic dividend.
- Their economy will benefit from an increase in the proportion of the working population.
- In regional terms, Asia is likely to contribute more than 50% of global GDP and account for 40% of global consumption.
- China and India are part of this growth and are likely to economically benefit from increased trade within the region.
- The future balance of superpowers may be influenced by existing or new conflicts and terrorist threats.
- Recent conflicts in the Ukraine and the Middle East threaten international relationships and therefore global stability.
- Technology will be very important for future superpowers.
- Developments in computing (e.g. AI and quantum computing), sustainable technology (e.g. renewable energy), and biotechnology will give superpowers an advantage over competing countries.

- The way in which the digital environment is governed (e.g. cybersecurity and data privacy) will be crucial in maintaining superpower status.
- The ability to cope with environmental challenges will be very important for future superpowers.
- They will have to show resilience to lessen and manage impacts from climate change, resource scarcity, pandemics, biodiversity loss, natural disasters, and extreme weather.
- The increase in power of organisations outside of governments (e.g. military groups, TNCs) may threaten the influence of superpowers.
- Economic factors will also influence achieving and/or maintaining superpower status.
- Investment in military personnel and equipment will be essential for future superpowers.
- Increased globalisation and changing trade relations (e.g. trade blocs) will influence the economy of superpowers.
- Future superpowers may also continue to have influence in IGOs which are linked to global governance (e.g. the UN).

Possible lines of assessment might be:

- Many complex factors will influence future power structures.
- Some would argue that those affecting economic power are the most important, as a large and growing economy allows superpowers to spend money in key areas that help to maintain their status (e.g. military funding and trade in resources).
- Demographics (e.g. population structure and migration) will also be significant factors in future.