

Preparation for A-Level Geography (Human)



Key Terms: reef; atoll; territorial integrity; geopolitics; power; maritime law; disputes; international trade, superpowers.

A-Level Topic: 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. Over the next two weeks, you are going to investigate the ongoing geo-politics of the South China Sea. This is a political issue so you will come across different points of view and ultimately you will develop your own view on the issue and its implications.

 What to do	 What to read	 What to watch
<p>Use the resources provided to write notes that answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Where is the South China Sea?2) Why is the South China Sea of strategic importance to China?3) Why is China building islands in the South China Sea?4) What other countries are involved and what do they think about China's actions in the South China Sea?5) What do you think the future holds for the South China Sea and how will this dispute play out?	<p>AcrGIS Story Map of Spratly Islands (scroll down through the resource, you can zoom in / out on the maps) https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4fec4dfef10c46fbbba-d07527d5ccdfb</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>Report on international legal decision over the territorial claims https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-36771749</p> <p>An article from the South China Morning Post – a Hong Kong based English language newspaper that is owned by a Chinese company. https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/article/2186449/explained-south-china-sea-dispute</p>	<p>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=dodbgKn8js</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** that answers 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 key 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 email your completed one page report to Mr Kelly by July 3rd.