**Geography A Level Learning Journey**

| **Year 13 Checklist: Superpowers** | s  e  t  o  N | ☺ | ☹ | ?  n  o  i  s  i  v  e  R |
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| **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** |  |  |  |  |
| Explain how superpowers, emerging and regional powers can be defined using contrasting characteristics (economic, political, military, cultural, demographic and access to natural resources) |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why mechanisms of maintaining power sit on a spectrum from ‘hard’ to ‘soft’ power, which vary in their effectiveness. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain 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** |  |  |  |  |
| Explain the maintenance of power during the imperial era by direct colonial control (British Empire, multipolar world 1919–1939). |  |  |  |  |
| 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.** |  |  |  |  |
| 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 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. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain how Development Theory (World Systems Theory, Dependency Theory, Modernisation Theory) can be used to help explain changing patterns of power |  |  |  |  |
| **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.** |  |  |  |  |
| 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)). |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| 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** |  |  |  |  |
| Explain how superpowers and emerging nations play a key role in global action (crisis response, conflict, climate change).. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain how different types of alliances (military, economic and environmental) increase interdependence and are an 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. |  |  |  |  |
| **7.6 Global concerns about the physical environment are disproportionately influenced by superpower actions** |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |  |  |
| **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** |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why tensions can arise over the acquisition of physical resources (Arctic oil and gas) where ownership is disputed and disagreement exists over exploitation. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why the global system of intellectual property rights can be undermined by counterfeiting, which strains trade relations and TNC investment. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why political spheres of influence can be contested leading to tensions over territory and physical resources (South and East China Seas) and in some cases resulting in open conflict (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** |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why developing economic ties between emerging powers and the developing world (China and African nations) increase interdependence, generate environmental impacts and bring opportunities and challenges. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why the rising economic importance of certain Asian countries (China or India) on the global stage increases the geopolitical influence of the region but also creates economic and political tensions within the region. |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why 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. |  |  |  |  |
| **7.9 Existing superpowers face ongoing economic restructuring, which challenges their power.** |  |  |  |  |
| Explain why 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). |  |  |  |  |