



Y13 Superpowers



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Learning about this topic is important because: 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.

This builds on: Changing Economic World – development, Nigeria and UK (Y10). Resource Management – global (Y11). China and Development topics (Y8)

This leads to: Unit 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention (Y13), Paper 3 – synoptic understanding of human geography and the physical world

We will learn:

EQ1 - What are superpowers and how have they changed over time?

- Geopolitical power stems from a range of human and physical characteristics of superpowers.
- Patterns of power change over time and can be uni-, bi- or multi-polar.
- Emerging powers vary in their influence on people and the physical environment, which can change rapidly over time.

EQ2 - What are the impacts of superpowers on the global economy, political systems and the physical environment?

- Superpowers have a significant influence over the global economic system.
- Superpowers and emerging nations play a key role in international decision-making concerning people and the physical environment.
- Global concerns about the physical environment are disproportionately influenced by superpower actions.

EQ3 - What spheres of influence are contested by superpowers and what are the implications of this?

- Global influence is contested in a number of different economic, environmental and political spheres.
- Developing nations have changing relationships with superpowers with consequences for people and the physical environment.
- Existing superpowers face ongoing economic restructuring, which challenges their power.

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Ranking and scaling of complex data set to construct power indexes.
- Mapping past, present and future sphere of influence and alliances
- Using graphs of world trade growth using linear and logarithmic scales.
- Proportional symbols to map emissions and resource consumption
- Plotting the changing location of the world's economic centre of gravity on world maps.
- Analysing future Gross Domestic Product (GDP) using data from different sources.

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Geopolitics, hard and soft power, Belt and Road Initiative, imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, Cold War, Eastern Bloc, Warsaw Pact, Iron Curtain, hegemony, uni- bi- multi-polar, emerging power, G7, G20, development theories, World Systems Theory, Dependency Theory, Modernisation Theory, capitalism, Westernisation, economic and military alliances, NATO, AUKUS, EU, ASEAN, IPCC, UN Security Council, ICJ, global middle class, UNCLOS, EEZ, IP, sphere of influence, world economic centre of gravity

Learn more about this topic:

Video (8 mins): How America became a superpower

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BShvYeyMm_Y

Tim Marshall – Prisoners of Geography

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60hFeFXV4mY>



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways.

The key pieces of work in this topic are: Short and long-answer questions, end of topic tests including multiple choice questions and 12-mark essay question.



Paper 1 A Level (Y13) – Water cycle and water insecurity

Learning about this topic is important because: The Water Cycle governs the availability of fresh water for all living organisms, it regulates weather patterns and is fundamental for a range of domestic and economic activities, including agriculture, industrial and the production of energy. The sustainable management of water resources is essential to ensure sustainable supplies in the future and reduce the potential for conflict – especially as climate change is already having profound impacts on inputs, stores, transfers and outputs to the hydrological cycle.

This builds on: Earth's resources studied in Y7. Water resources GCSE. There are various synoptic links to your other A Level Geography topics.

Enquiry question 1: What are the processes operating within the hydrological cycle?

5.1 The global hydrological cycle is of enormous importance to life on earth

5.2 The drainage basin is an open system within the global hydrological cycle.

5.3 The hydrological cycle influences water budgets and river systems at a local scale.

Enquiry Question 2: What factors influence the hydrological system over short- and long-term timescales?

5.4 Deficits within the hydrological cycle result from physical processes but can have significant impacts.

5.5 Surpluses within the hydrological cycle can lead to flooding, with significant impacts for people.

5.6 Climate change may have significant impacts on the hydrological cycle globally and locally.

Enquiry Question 3: How does water insecurity occur, and why is it becoming such a global issue for the 21st century?

5.7 There are physical causes and human causes of water insecurity.

5.8 There are consequences and risks associated with water insecurity.

5.9 There are different approaches to managing water supply, some more sustainable than others.

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Use of diagrams showing proportional flows within systems.
- Comparative analysis of river regime annual discharges.
- Analysis and construction of Water Budget graphs.
- Using comparative data, labelling of features of storm hydrographs.
- Use of large database to study the pattern and trends in floods and droughts worldwide.
- Interpretation of synoptic charts and weather patterns, leading to droughts and floods.
- Use of a global map to analyse world water stress and scarcity.
- Interpretation of water poverty indexes using diamond diagrams for countries at different levels of development.
- Identify seasonal variations in the regime of international rivers, such as the Nile and the Mekong and assess impact of existing and potential dams

Key vocabulary: Anticyclone, aquifer, channel flow, convectional precipitation, cryosphere, depression, desalination, drainage basin, drainage density, drought, economic water scarcity, El Nino Southern Oscillation Cycles, evapotranspiration, frontal precipitation, groundwater flow, hydrological drought, infiltration, integrated drainage basin management, interception, meteorological drought, monsoon, open system, percolation, physical water scarcity, relief precipitation, river regime, runoff, salinisation, saltwater encroachment, smart irrigation, storm hydrograph, sublimation, throughflow, transpiration, water budget, water conservation, water recycling, water scarcity, water security, water sharing treaty, water transfer, watershed.

You could learn more about this topic by:

Watch:

Sacred Rivers – Simon Reeve.

World's Water Crisis Explained – Netflix.

Read:

Various Geofiles and Geography Review magazine articles available on the Resource Library.

Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways.

The key pieces of work in this topic are: Multiple choice knowledge recall test; exam-based questions, mock exam.



Y13 Health, Human Rights and Intervention



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Learning about this topic is important because: Traditionally, development is based on economic measures but increasingly challenged by definitions based on environmental, social and political quality of life with new measures recording progress in human rights and human welfare. Variations in laws of national and global institutions impact on decisions leading to a wide range of geopolitical interventions from development aid through to military campaigns. Geopolitical interventions on human health and wellbeing, and human rights have variable impacts leading to increasing inequalities and injustice.

This builds on: Superpowers (Y13). Changing Economic World – development, Nigeria and UK (Y10). China and Development topics (Y8)

This leads to: Paper 2 – Human Geography. Paper 3 – synoptic understanding of human geography and the physical world

We will learn:

EQ1 - What is human development and why do levels vary from place to place?

- Concepts of human development are complex and contested.
- There are notable variations in human health and life expectancy.
- Governments and IGOs play a significant role in defining development targets and policies.

EQ2 - Why do human rights vary from place to place?

- Human rights have become important aspects of both international law and international agreements.
- There are significant differences between countries in both their definitions and protection of human rights.
- Significant variations in human rights within countries, reflected in different levels of social development.

EQ3 - How are human rights used as arguments for political and military intervention?

- There are different forms of geopolitical intervention in defence of human rights.
- Some development is focused on improving both human rights and human welfare, but other development has very negative environmental and cultural impacts.
- Military aid and both direct and indirect military intervention are frequently justified in terms of human rights.

EQ4 - What are the outcomes of geopolitical interventions in terms of human development and human rights?

- There are several ways of measuring the success of geopolitical interventions.
- Development aid has a mixed record of success.
- Military interventions, both direct and indirect, have a mixed record of success.

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Comparing measures of development using ranked data.
- Scatter graphs and correlation techniques to describe relationships
- Use of proportional circles
- Use qualitative and quantitative indicators to derive an index of corruption & show on global maps
- Use of flow-lines on global maps
- Interpreting images to evaluate the impact of economic development.
- Critical analysis and evaluation of source materials.
- Using Gini Coefficient to analyse income or wealth proportion

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Human development, GDP, Happy Planet Index, Sharia Law, human rights, infant- maternal-mortality, social progress, IGO, World Bank, IMF, WTO, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UDHR, ECHR, Geneva Convention, authoritarian-democratic-system, political corruption, First Nations, geopolitical intervention, development aid, trade embargo, military aid, indirect- direct-military action

Learn more about this topic:

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

<https://learn.academy4sc.org/video/the-responsibility-to-protect-with-great-power-comes-great-responsibility/>





Y13 Health, Human Rights and Intervention



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Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways.

The key pieces of work in this topic are: Short and long-answer questions, end of topic tests including multiple choice questions and 20-mark essay question.



Paper 1 A Level (Y13) – Carbon cycle and energy security



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Learning about this topic is important because: the carbon cycle is fundamental to maintain a stable climate and carbon earth on Earth. Some carbon stores, e.g. fossil fuels stored in the lithosphere have been locked away for millions of years, however numerous human activities are rapidly releasing it into the atmosphere – the smallest and most sensitive store. This is leading to an enhanced greenhouse effect which is causing profound impacts on the planet – affecting the global population. Mitigation and adaptation strategies are fundamental to manage and limit the impacts of climate change.

This builds on: Earth's resources studied in Y7. Water resources GCSE. There are various synoptic links to your other A Level Geography topics.

Enquiry question 1: How does the carbon cycle operate to maintain planetary health?

- 6.1 Most global carbon is locked in terrestrial stores as part of the long-term geological cycle.
- 6.2 Biological processes sequester carbon on land and in the oceans on shorter timescales.
- 6.3 A balanced carbon cycle is important in sustaining other earth systems but is increasingly altered by human activities.

Enquiry Question 2: What are the consequences for people and the environment of our increasing demand for energy?

- 6.4 Energy security is a key goal for countries, with most relying on fossil fuels.
- 6.5 Reliance on fossil fuels to drive economic development is still the global norm.
- 6.6 There are alternatives to fossil fuels but each has costs and benefits.

Enquiry Question 3: How are the carbon and water cycles linked to the global climate system?

- 6.7 Biological carbon cycles and the water cycle are threatened by human activity.
- 6.8 There are implications for human wellbeing from the degradation of the water and carbon cycles.
- 6.9 Future planetary warming risks large-scale release of stored carbon, requiring responses from different players at different scales.

We will develop/practise skills including:

- Use of proportional flow diagrams showing carbon fluxes.
- Use of maps showing global temperature and precipitation distribution.
- Graphical analysis of the energy mix of different countries, including change over time.
- Analysis of maps showing global energy trade and flows.
- Comparisons of emissions from different energy source.
- Using GIS to map land-use changes such as deforestation over time.
- Analysis of climate model maps to identify areas at most risk from water shortages, floods in the future.
- Plotting graphs of carbon dioxide levels, calculating means and rates of change

Key vocabulary: Acidification, adaptation, afforestation, biofuel, carbon capture and storage (CCS), carbon flux, carbon neutral, carbon sink, carbon stores, carbon taxation, choke points, combustion, coral bleaching, cryosphere, decomposition, deforestation, emission scenario, energy efficiency, energy mix, energy security, energy pathway, energy players, enhanced greenhouse effect, feedback mechanisms, hydrogen fuel cells, inorganic carbon, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Kuznet's Curve, Kyoto Protocol, mitigation, non-renewable, nuclear fusion, Oil and Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), organic carbon, outgassing, parts per million (ppm), petagrams, photosynthesis, phytoplankton, primary energy, radical technologies, renewable, respiration, river regime, secondary energy, sequestration, solar radiation management, thermohaline circulation, threshold, tipping point, unconventional fossil fuels, urbanisation.

You could learn more about this topic by:

Watch:

An inconvenient Truth
Cowspiracy
Before the Flood.
Paris to Pittsburgh
Climate change – the facts – David Attenborough

Read:

Various Geofiles and Geography Review magazine articles available on the Resource Library.

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