**Superpowers research**

What is geopolitics?

What is a superpower, emerging power, regional power?

How can you measure the power of a country?

What is ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ power?

What is Mackinder’s Heartland Theory?

What is meant by uni-polar, bi-polar and multi-polar world?

What was the British Empire and how did it control?

What is neo-colonialism?

What is direct and indirect control?

Who are the BRICs? G20? UN?

What are the Development Theories? World Systems Theory, Dependency Theory, Modernisation Theory?

What is the global economic system? What are IGOs?

What is the role of TNCs in maintaining power and wealth? (Economic, cultural, technology, trade)

What is global cultural influence and ‘westernisation’? Why is this important?

What role do superpowers and emerging powers play in global action? (Global police?)

What examples are there of economic, military and environmental alliances? How does this link to global decision making and increased interdependence?

What role does the UN play? Why is the UN important to global geopolitical stability?

How can superpowers contribute disproportionately to environmental issues? (Resource demand, emissions etc.)

Differences in the willingness to act on environmental issues – global agreements

Growth of middle-class consumption in emerging superpowers – what are the implications?

How is global influence contested economically, environmentally and politically?

How do tensions arise over physical resources and territory? What are the implications?

What are intellectual property rights and how do these cause strains in trade and TNC investment?

What are the relationships between developing nations and superpowers/emerging powers? What are the opportunities and challenges? How does this increase interdependence and environmental impacts?

How does the rising economic importance of China and India increase their geopolitical influence and create economic and political tensions?

What are the tensions in the Middle East and how do they represent an ongoing challenge to super/emerging powers?

Existing superpower problems – USA and EU – what are the economic problems?

What is the economic cost of maintaining global power (military, space etc.)?

What is the future power balance likely to be for 2030 and 2050? What are the possibilities? Future power structures?