**A Level Geography**

**Specification and PLC (Personal Learning Checklist)**

**AREA OF STUDY: 4 – Human Systems and Geopolitics Topic 7: Superpowers Autumn Term Y13**

**Overview:** Superpowers can be developed by several 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

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|  | **What do I need to know?** | **☺** | **😐** | **☹** |
| **EQ1: What are superpowers and how have they changed over time?** |
| 7.1 Geopolitical power stems from a range of human and physical characteristics of superpower | I know how to define a superpower using contrasting characteristics (economic, political, military, cultural, demographic and access to resources) |  |  |  |
| I know the hard and soft mechanisms of maintaining power |  |  |  |
| I know how power has changed can change over time (Mackinder’s geo-strategic location theory) |  |  |  |
| 7.2 Patterns of power change over time and can be uni-, bi-, or multi-polar | I know how the British Empire maintained power throughout direct colonial control  |  |  |  |
| I know how neo-colonialism mechanisms have become more important in indirect control e.g. Cold War era, China’s emergency as a rival to USA’s hegemony |  |  |  |
| I know that different patterns bring different geopolitical strength and risk |  |  |  |
| 7.3 Emerging powers vary in their influence on people and the physical environment, which can change rapidly over time | I know that BRIC countries and other G20 members are increasing their influence over global economic and political systems |  |  |  |
| I know that emerging powers have evolving strengths and weaknesses that can inhibit or advance their role in the future |  |  |  |
| I know some development theory including:* World systems theory
* Dependency Theory
* Modernisation Theory

And can use them to explain changing patterns of power |  |  |  |
| **EQ2: 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 | I know how superpowers influence the global economy through a variety of IGOs |  |  |  |
| I know how dominant TNCs can be in the global economy and cultural globalisation though technology (patents) and trade patterns and TNCs maintaining power and wealth |  |  |  |
| I know how cultural influence (arts, food, media) and ‘westernisation’ is an important aspect of power that links to influence and technology |  |  |  |
| 7.5 Superpowers and emerging nations play a key role in international decision making concerning people and the physical environment | I know how superpowers and emerging nations play an important role (global police) in global action (crisis, conflict, and climate change) |  |  |  |
| I know how alliances (military – NATO, ANZUS and economic – EU, NAFTA, ASEAN and environmental – IPCC) increase interdependence and are important for geostrategy and global influence |  |  |  |
| I know how important the UN can be to global geopolitical stability (Security Council, International Court of Justice, peacekeeping and climate change) |  |  |  |
| 7.6 Global concerns about the physical environment are disproportionately influenced by superpower actions | I know that superpowers demand resources and can cause environmental degradation e.g. CO2 emissions |  |  |  |
| I know there are differences to act as attitudes and actions vary from different countries e.g. climate change agreements |  |  |  |
| I know that the growth of the middle classes consumption in emerging powers will have implications on resource availability and cost  |  |  |  |
| **EQ3: What spheres of influence are contests 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 | I know that there are tensions over acquisitions of physical resources (Arctic oil and gas) where ownership is disputed and disagreement sexist over exploitation  |  |  |  |
| I know that counterfeiting undermines intellectual property rights and strains relationships |  |  |  |
| I know that spheres of influence can be contests which leads to tensions over territory and resources e.g. South and East China Sea and Western Russia/Eastern Europe |  |  |  |
| 7.8 Developing nations have changing relationships with superpowers with consequences for people and the physical environment | I know that developing economic ties between emerging countries and developing world e.g China and Africa increases interdependence, environmental threats but also opportunities and challenges |  |  |  |
| I know that the rising importance of Asian countries e.g. China or India can lead to increased economic and political tension in that region |  |  |  |
| I know that cultural, political, economic, and environmental tensions in the Middle East represent ongoing challenges from complex geopolitical relations and limited supplies of vital energy resources |  |  |  |
| 7.9 Existing superpowers face ongoing economic restructuring, which challenges their power | I know that economic problems (debt, unemployment, social costs and restructuring) represent challenges to the USA and EU |  |  |  |
| I know that there are high costs of maintaining global military power (naval, nuclear, air, intelligence) and space exploration in some existing powers |  |  |  |
| I know the future of global power in 2030 and 2050 is uncertain and a range of outcomes (continued USA dominance, bi-p0olar and multi-power structures) |  |  |  |
| **Geographical Skills for Topic 7** |
| 1. Constructing power indexes using complex data sets, including ranking and scaling
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| 1. Mapping past, present and future sphere of influence and alliances using world maps
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| 1. Using graphs of world trade growth using linear and logarithmic scales
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| 1. Mapping emissions and resources consumption using proportional symbols
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| 1. Plotting the changing location of the world’s economic centre of gravity on world maps
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| 1. Analysing future GDP using data from different sources
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**NOTES/CASE STUDY INFORMATION:**