

91598R



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

Level 3 Social Studies, 2018

91598 Demonstrate understanding of how ideologies shape society

2.00 p.m. Thursday 8 November 2018
Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for Social Studies 91598.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–10 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

MILITARISM AND NORTH KOREA

INTRODUCTION

North Korea, officially called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPK), borders China, Russia, and South Korea. Its capital city is Pyongyang and it has a population estimated at around 25 million (as at July 2017).

Map of
North Korea

However, a summit meeting planned between Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in (the South Korean President) in April 2018, and the first-ever meeting between Kim Jong-un and a US President (Donald Trump) planned for June 2018, are both hoped to result in long-awaited first steps towards peace and denuclearisation on the peninsula.

Citizens and soldiers bowing to bronze statues of Kim Il-sung (left) and Kim Jong-il (right) on Mansu Hill during the "Day of the Sun", i.e., the anniversary of Kim Il-sung's birth

Kim Jong-un

RESOURCE A: MILITARISM IDEOLOGY

Followers of this ideology have a tendency to glorify and exalt military virtues and ideals. They regard military efficiency as the supreme ideal of the state, prioritising this over all other interests. There is a belief that it is necessary to have strong armed forces in aggressive preparedness for war, and that these should be used in order to win political or economic advantages.

RESOURCE B: SHAPING NORTH KOREAN SOCIETY

Songun is the “military first” policy of North Korea, prioritising the Korean People’s Army in the affairs of state and allocation of resources.

The “military first” policy has several purposes, including:

- It serves to deter aggression from other nations.
- [REDACTED]
- It allows the government in Pyongyang to use threats and bravado to maintain power through the large military. Suggestions of international sanctions, or military pressure, are countered by the North with threats that such actions are “an act of war”, or that it could “turn Seoul [the capital of South Korea] into a sea of fire”.

“Military virtues have become the dominant values of North Korean society.

Leaders are invariably ‘generals’, although never having served visibly in the military.”

Ra Yong-yil (Gachon University professor and author of multiple books on North Korea, who previously served as the South Korean Ambassador to Japan and the UK).



A North Korean military parade



North Korean soldiers march across Kim Il-sung Square during a military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea



First sighting at a military parade in North Korea of what is thought to be the new KN-14 intercontinental ballistic missile

RESOURCE C: NORTH KOREANS ALWAYS READY FOR WAR

Pyongyang's angry rhetoric sparked fears abroad, but its people are taught at an early age that they live in the shadow of conflict.

(By Tania Branigan in Seoul for *The Guardian*, 22 May 2013.)

The idea of an impending clash is nothing new to the North, a society structured around the belief that it is still at war.

“I think the big change was from 1997, with the institutionalisation of the military-first policy”, Hazel Smith, an expert on North Korea at Cranfield University said. “With the military being in control, the tendency is to adopt military solutions to political problems as the first thing you do.”

“Here is the danger to everyone in the region, not only to South Korea: leading it to resort to unreasonable acts of violence or the threat of violence.”

Ra Yong-yil (Gachon University professor and author of multiple books on North Korea, who previously served as the South Korean Ambassador to Japan and the UK).

RESOURCE D: LIFE UNDER KIM JUNG-UN



Photography of anti-American protests is welcomed. These students are marching against South Korea and the US.



Painful reminders of North Korea's poor living conditions. This little boy begs for money at a train station in Hamhung.

For decades, North Korea has been one of the world's most secretive societies. It is one of the few countries still under nominally communist rule.



Aid agencies have estimated that up to two million people have died since the mid-1990s because of acute food shortages caused by natural disasters and economic mismanagement, which prioritises the military. The country relies on foreign food aid.



Kim Jong-un with adoring followers

North Korean escapee talks about life in the military-focused state

"We had ideological education for 90 minutes every day. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] didn't care about any of that stuff.

...

I was so disgusted with the system. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you ask me what the worst thing about North Korea is, I'd say: being born there."

Sariwon University student
(aged 37 years, who escaped North Korea in 2013).

RESOURCE E: NORTH KOREA FIRES BALLISTIC MISSILE TOWARDS JAPAN IN LATEST ACT OF AGGRESSION

Nuclear-armed Kim regime fires "highest-ever" intercontinental ballistic missile.
(By Jeremy B. White in San Francisco for *The Independent*, 28 November 2017.)



A North Korean missile test

North Korea has fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that flew higher than any of its previous efforts, shattering a two-month respite from military tests, with experts suggesting that Pyongyang is technically close to putting Washington DC within range.



Number of North Korea missile tests (1984–2017)



Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, in November 2017

However, Mr Moon also raised concerns with his own national security council about the threat of escalation, saying that "the situation could get out of control if North Korea perfects its ICBM technology", according to his office. "North Korea shouldn't miscalculate the situation and threaten South Korea with a nuclear weapon, which could elicit a possible pre-emptive strike by the United States", he added.

I strongly condemn North Korea's latest missile test and urge Pyongyang to desist taking any further destabilising steps. This is a clear violation of Security Council resolutions and shows complete disregard for the united view of the international community.

RESOURCE F: NORTH KOREA CALLS UN SANCTIONS AN “ACT OF WAR”

North Korea on Sunday called the latest round of punishing United Nations sanctions an “act of war”, and reminded the United States that the North’s rapid development of missiles and atomic bombs meant it posed a “substantial nuclear threat to the US mainland”.

(By Russell Goldman for *The New York Times*, 24 December 2017.)

The sanctions, proposed by the United States, and adopted by a vote of 15 to 0, were the third imposed this year in a continuing effort to get the North to halt its weapons programme,

and return to the negotiating table. Under the new sanctions, fuel supplies will be drastically cut, and roughly 100 000 North Koreans working in other countries will be expelled within two years. The sanctions are intended to hurt North Korea in two vital ways:

- (1) Cutting refined petroleum imports by 89 per cent would exacerbate the country’s fuel crisis.
- (2) Expelling foreign guest workers would substantially reduce remittances, an important source of hard currency.

North Koreans watching coverage of a missile test launch in Pyongyang in July. North Korea said on Sunday that the United Nations Security Council’s latest sanctions were tantamount to a blockade.

The North vowed that each country that voted in favour of the resolution would be subject to retaliation. Presumably, that threat extends to Russia and China, the isolated nation’s last remaining allies, which approved the resolution after seeking modifications from the Trump administration. “Those countries that raised their hands in favour of this ‘sanctions resolution’ shall be held completely responsible for all the consequences to be caused by the ‘resolution’, and we will make sure forever and ever that they pay a heavy price for what they have done”, the North said.

North Korea faces UN condemnation

RESOURCE G: THE SANCTIONS ON NORTH KOREA

World powers continue to punish North Korea with economic sanctions, but problems persist with enforcement, and it's unclear if they'll be enough to pressure Pyongyang back into denuclearisation talks.

(Backgrounder by Eleanor Albert for the Council on Foreign Relations, 3 January 2018.)

What have been the economic impact of sanctions?

The effects of sanctions on North Korea's economy have been mixed so far, but recent rounds could potentially have major impact.

While the North Korean economy has hit a high, economists note that its per capita gross national income was 1.5 million won (North Korean currency), or just US\$1 342. By comparison, this was less than 5 per cent of South Korea's per capita income.

What are the challenges associated with sanctions?

Sanctions evasion

The biggest challenge is enforcement, which is the responsibility of individual states.

"China's exports to North Korea were augmented in spite of the sanctions", said the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) report.

Emboldening Kim

Tougher sanctions could have the opposite of their intended effect and add urgency to North Korea's nuclear advancement. Kim may interpret more sanctions as a threat to the survival of the North Korean regime, and they could motivate him to take more belligerent actions, like moving on South Korean territory, or targeting US territory in Guam.

Futile pursuit

Some foreign policy experts feel that sanctions alone will have little effect in deterring Pyongyang from advancing its nuclear weapons programme.

Indeed, North Korea has vowed to maintain its arsenal at all costs.

Human costs

Sanctions are often felt most by ordinary families, not the power elites who are the intended targets.

Sanctions and extended periods of drought have left many of North Korea's twenty-five million people malnourished and impoverished.

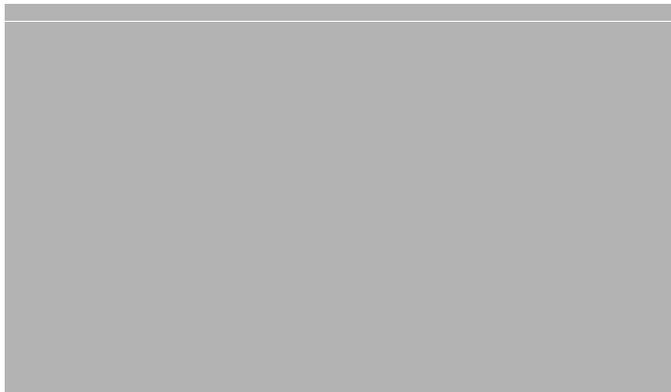
RESOURCE H: NORTH KOREAN LEADER SUSPENDS MISSILE LAUNCHES AND SHUTS DOWN NUCLEAR TEST SITE AHEAD OF KEY SUMMITS

North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, has announced Pyongyang will carry out no more ballistic missile tests and will shut down its nuclear test site, the latest olive branch from the regime as diplomacy in the region ramps up.

(By Chris Graham for *The Telegraph*, 21 April 2018.)

The declaration, long-sought by the US, will be seen as a crucial step ahead of key leaders' summits scheduled for the coming weeks.

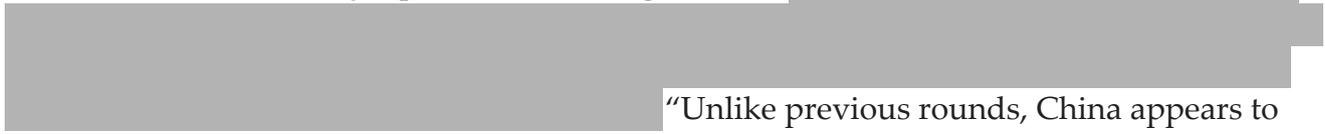
North Korea shifts focus to economy



Attendees at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea

In a significant policy shift, Kim said his country would be focusing more on the economy now, rather than the military. For years, the impoverished North has pursued a "byungjin" policy of developing both the military and the economy, but Kim Jong-un said that as it was now a powerful state, "the whole party and the whole nation should now focus on the development of the socialist economy. This is the party's new strategic policy line", KCNA cited him as saying.

Martyn Williams, a North Korea analyst and journalist, said it was "... a sign of his confidence in the country's position in the region now.



"Unlike previous rounds, China appears to have taken them much more seriously, and the economy is suffering", Williams said.

Acknowledgements

Material from the following sources has been adapted for use in this examination (accessed 22 May 2018).

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