



Cambridge International AS & A Level

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & RESEARCH

9239/11

Paper 1 Written Examination

October/November 2022

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

The following documents consider issues related to the rise of global superpowers. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document 1: adapted from *China at 70 still isn't a superpower* written by Cary Huang in 2019. The article was published on Inkstone News, a daily digest of China-focused stories, Hong Kong. Cary Huang is a China affairs columnist, having written on the topic since the early 1990s. He was previously Beijing bureau chief for the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong.

China's rulers have much to celebrate on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. The country looks stronger than it has for centuries. This is a consequence of a four-decade economic boom helped by the late leader Deng Xiaoping's free market reforms and opening-up policy. In those 40 years, China has witnessed something of an economic miracle.

Nevertheless, China is still not a developed country, nor a rich nation. It is a developing giant on the world stage. Just look at per capita income (PCI), the best measure of personal wealth and standard of living. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) figures show the worldwide average PCI was USD 11,570 last year. China's PCI was USD 10,000, far behind the advanced economies, which average USD 48,610.

Though China has become a globally influential power in the past 10 years, it is still not a true superpower. To be a true superpower, a country must have global influence in many varied spheres: in economics, in science and technology, in military matters and in soft power.

China is the world's second-largest economy, the largest manufacturing hub and a leading exporter of mechanized goods. It has the world's largest army.

In science and technology, China is less impressive. It has developed telecommunications, new energy and artificial intelligence over the past decade. However, it has much to learn in the traditional sciences, academic research and education. All these weaknesses must be addressed if China is to reach the status of developed country, or advanced economy.

Another of China's struggles is soft power. Japan, a soft power giant, is the most respected Asian country. While traditional power and influence can come through force, soft power is about how countries use their international image to earn the respect and support of other countries. China has yet to fully accept this fact. Consequently, it suffers a relative lack of popularity abroad. Pew Research surveys show that although African countries have generally positive views of China, perceptions of China in the US and across Europe are generally negative.

The country's biggest internal and external challenges lie ahead. The economic growth rate has steadily dropped over the past decade, a trend likely to continue. China has one of the world's biggest wealth gaps and the country has become more divided than at any time in recent memory. Mass protests in Hong Kong and the increasing rivalry and trade war between China and the US threaten China's development.

China's economic successes of the past 40 years cannot be ignored. But, unlike China, all 36 members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are not only market economies, but also free democracies. China's achievement of superpower status will also depend on its willingness to embrace modernity in governance: democracy, freedom and the rule of law. Doing so would not only accomplish what China calls its "national rejuvenation", but it would also achieve exactly what the rest of the world is hoping for: a peaceful rise for the Chinese nation.

Document 2: adapted from *Japan is a soft power superpower* written by Joshua Walker in 2019. The article was published in *The Japan Times*. The author is the president and CEO of the Japan Society, a leading U.S. organization committed to deepening mutual understanding between the United States and Japan.

Given the current leaderless world, this is Japan's global moment.

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There has never been a more important moment to appreciate Japan for the innovations and new developments that build on its ancient traditions.

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