

Aiming for A* in Edexcel A-Level Geography

Globalisation

Task 1:

For each of these specific bits of language from the spec, what do they relate to and what content did you learn that links to this word or phrase?

	What does word or phrase relate to? Why did we learn about it? What content does it link to?	Use this word or phrase in a sentence
Widening and deepening global connections, interdependence and flows		
Shrinking world		
Time-space compression		
Global economic centre of gravity		
Impact on people's health and Wellbeing		
De-valuing local and larger-scale ecosystems		
Deregulation		
Diasporas		
Inequalities of global trade		

Globalisation

Task 2:

Ensure that you have completed all of the extra reading tasks that were given to you as you studied the Globalisation topic. These were often in addition to the homework tasks set:

Spec Point	Task	Link
3.1	Podcast and questions on containerisation: 1. What were the challenges before containerisation? 2. Why was containerisation not welcomed at first? 3. What has containerisation ended?	50 Things That Made the Modern Economy - Shipping Container - BBC Sounds
3.2c	Reading and notes on the academic Paper on China's SEZs	PDF on Teams / Bromcom
3.3b	Reading and questions on the Economist Article about the rise of Chinese TNCs	PDF on Teams / Bromcom
3.4c	Reading and notes about the decline of Detroit	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/magazine-18271118/detroit-the-ruins-left-behind-when-city-loses-half-its-population https://www.businessinsider.com/what-detroit-has-compromised-for-its-economic-recovery-2019-7?r=US&IR=T detroit_usa_-_traditional_industry_decline.pdf

Superpowers

Task 1:

For each of these specific bits of language from the spec, what do they relate to and what content did you learn that links to this word or phrase?

	What does word or phrase relate to? Why did we learn about it? What content does it link to?	Use this word or phrase in a sentence
Militarised colonial control		
Neo-colonial mechanisms		
Hegemon / hegemony		
Global environmental governance		
Changing patterns of power		
Dominant economic forces		
Geostrategy		
Environmental degradation		
Strains trade relations and TNC investment		

Future balance of global power		
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Superpowers

Task 2:

Ensure that you have completed all of the extra reading tasks that were given to you as you studied the Superpowers topic. These were often in addition to the homework tasks set:

Spec Point	Task	Link
7.1a	Reading and notes on the decline of America's soft power under Trump	PDF on Teams / Bromcom
7.3a	Reading, notes and questions on Prisoners of Geography extract about China building the Nicaraguan Canal	PDF on Teams / Bromcom
7.3a	Reading and notes on China Vs USA articles	Economist Article PDF on Teams / Bromcom A new world order? BRICS nations offer alternative to West – DW – 04/10/2023 Can China surpass the United States as the next world superpower? - LSE International Development https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-07-05/when-will-china-s-economy-beat-the-u-s-to-become-no-1-why-it-may-never-happen https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/05/china/china-world-biggest-navy-intl-hnk-ml-dst/index.html
7.3a	Extra reading on military spending globally	Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2024
7.4b	Reading and questions on the Economist Article about the rise of Chinese TNCs	PDF on Teams / Bromcom
7.4b	Synoptic reading about GM cotton in India's TNCs	PDF on Teams / Bromcom
7.4c	Reading and notes about Labubu's as an example of the rise of China's cultural influence	DeepSeek, TikTok, Temu: How China is taking the lead in tech - BBC World Service - YouTube Has China become cool? How Labubu Became An Unlikely Soft Power Symbol
7.5c	Videos and notes on the peacekeeping work of the UN	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAdX7YgWwxU https://youtu.be/hm_KyN4ZGBI?si=LeEfL5QOOJ3BpfM8
7.7c	Podcast consider 'If China attacked Taiwan, what would Trump do?'	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct7178
7.8a	Video and notes about whether the west should be worried about Chinese investment in Africa	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBHqjYuJ5el
	Reading on up to date information about the BRI and the Silk Road	Economist Article PDF on Teams / Bromcom PDF on Teams / Bromcom

7.9b	Video and notes on whether we're heading for space wars	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5B7684WXSVo
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Superpowers

Task 3:

The chapter saved as 'Superpowers Task 3' is a chapter taken from the introduction of 'Invisible China' published in 2020.

Read the chapter, make notes, and answer the following questions:

1. Summarise what this chapter into 1 paragraph: what is the main threat to China's future rise and why is it a threat?
2. What facilitated China's rise in terms of development? How did China achieve its economic growth?
3. Why is the urban-rural divide so significant in China? How and why are the two areas different?

Task 4:

The chapter saved as 'Superpowers Task 4' is chapter 1 of 'Invisible China' published in 2020.

Read the chapter, make notes, and answer the following questions:

1. What is the middle-income trap? Write a short paragraph to summarise the idea of the middle-income trap.
2. Why might China become trapped in the middle-income trap?
3. What is an example of a country that has escaped the middle-income trap and how did this country do it?

Thinking Synoptically

Task 1: Endangered languages and climate change

This podcast draws together the idea of endangered languages (Globalisation 3.6b), increasing tensions in the Arctic (Superpowers 7.7) and vanishing landscapes through climate change (studied throughout). As you listen to the podcast, answer the questions below.

Link: [BBC Radio 4 - Start the Week, Endangered languages and vanishing landscapes](#)

1. How many languages are there estimated to be spoken in the world today?
2. How many are estimated to no longer be spoken by the end of this century?
3. How many languages are spoken in Papua New Guinea?
4. What are the reasons given for minority languages dying out?
5. What's the link between climate and landscape and language?
6. What's the link between climate change and language dying out?
7. What does it mean to say that 'the Arctic is no longer reliably frozen' and where did this phrase come from?
8. How does this change in the Arctic relate to geopolitical issues?
9. Who are named as players in the Arctic and what are they doing?

10. What signs of hopes are mentioned at the end of the podcast?

Thinking Synoptically

Task 2: Are We the last generation- or the first sustainable one? Hannah Richtie, TED Talk

Link to the TED Talk: [Are We the Last Generation — or the First Sustainable One? | Hannah Ritchie | TED](#)

Before watching:

1. How do we define sustainability? What is the definition that you're going to give, if required to, in your A-Level geography exams?

2. Using this definition and your understanding of sustainability more broadly, complete the table below,

Examples of more sustainable activities	Examples of unsustainable activities

Whilst watching:

As you watch the TED talk, record the answers to these questions.

The questions are in the same order as Hannah Ritchie discusses them in her talk.

1. What is Hannah Ritchie's argument about this generation? What does she think we can achieve?
2. What reasons does Hannah Ritchie give for why our ancestors were more sustainable?
3. What does she argue that we need to do to be truly sustainable? We need to provide opportunities for future generations and do what else?
4. Hannah Ritchie shows how we have made huge progress on the first half of her equation for sustainability: providing a good life for everyone today. What evidence do she used to show this?

5. But these improvements have come at a cost to the environment and much data shows that. However, when we look at carbon emissions, what has happened?
6. Why have global per capita carbon emissions peaked? What are the drivers for this?
7. What has happened to global deforestation?
8. What does Hannah Ritchie argue that we need to do, to have the sustainable world we want?
9. What does Hannah Ritchie say we need to do in order to achieve this?
10. She argues that we need to reframe sustainability. How does she argue we should do this?
By seeing:

Sustainability as an _____ not a _____.
11. What does this mean?

After watching:

Write a short paragraph to summarise this TED talk to someone who has not watched it.
What were the key points of this talk and what are your key take-aways?

Thinking Synoptically

Task 3: The Global Risks Report 2025

The following 2 pages are extracts from the Global Risks Report 2025 that best link to what you study as part of your A-Level geography course. The full report can be read here:

https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2025.pdf

World Economic Forum

The report uses findings from the Global Risks Perception Survey which surveys over 900 global leaders across academia, business, government, international organisations and general society.

This document brings together extracts from the report linked to your A-Level geography studies.

“Global risk” is defined as the possibility of the occurrence of an event or condition that, if it occurs, would negatively impact a significant proportion of global GDP, population or natural resources.

Declining optimism

As we enter 2025, the global outlook is increasingly fractured across geopolitical, environmental, societal, economic and technological domains. Over the last year we have witnessed the expansion and escalation of conflicts, a multitude of extreme weather events amplified by climate change, widespread societal and political polarisation, and continued technological advancements accelerating the spread of false or misleading information. We seem to be living in one of the most divided times since the Cold War.

The time to act is now- is consensus possible in a fragmenting world?

Deepening divisions and increasing fragmentation are reshaping international relations and calling into question whether existing structures are equipped to tackle the challenges collectively confronting us. Levels of global cooperation across many areas of geopolitics and humanitarian issues, economic relations, and environmental, societal and technological challenges may reach new lows in the coming years. Key countries appear to be turning inward, focusing on mounting domestic economic or societal concerns, just when they should be seeking to strengthen multilateral ties to confront shared challenges.

The Western-led global order is expected to continue its decline over the next decade but will nonetheless remain an importance locus of power. Alternative power centres are likely to strengthen, not just led by China, but also by key emerging powers, including India and the Gulf states.

The decade ahead will be pivotal as leaders will be confronted with increasingly complex global risks. But to prevent a downward spiral in which citizens worldwide will be worse off than before, ultimately there is no option other than to find avenues for dialogue and collaboration.

The world in 2025

The current geopolitical climate, following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and with wars raging in the Middle East and in Sudan, makes it nearly impossible not to think about such events when assessing the one global risk expected to present a material crisis in 2025: close to one-quarter of survey respondents (23%) selected State-based armed conflict (proxy wars, civil wars, coups, terrorism, etc.) as the top risk for 2025.

These results are likely to reflect the depth of respondents’ fears surrounding the two major current cross-border conflicts, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East, and perhaps also concern around the risks of conflict over Taiwan, China.

Regarding Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the position taken by the new US administration will be critical to its evolution. Will the United States take a firmer stance towards Russia, counting on such a move acting as a deterrent

to further Russian escalation, and/or will it increase pressure on Ukraine, including reducing financial support? In the latter case, European governments might increase their own support for Ukraine. The spectrum of possible outcomes over the next two years is wide, ranging from further escalation, perhaps also involving neighbouring countries, to uneasy agreement to freeze the conflict.

In the Middle East, any shift towards a full-scale Iran-Israel war over the next two years would draw in the United States further. Such a war would, in turn, generate more long-term instability in the entire region, including the Gulf economies, where US military bases could become targets. Meanwhile, recent political developments in Syria raise both opportunities and risks. Hopes are high that there could be a revitalization of the economy and a more inclusive political environment. However, building stability across Syria will be challenging, given the many competing interests that are involved. These include both domestic groups and foreign states; if other countries decide to intervene more heavily while the transition unfolds, this could lead to renewed confrontations.

In addition, conflict over Taiwan, China cannot be ruled out. Limited armed confrontation could be triggered more easily if global tensions are high around geoeconomic confrontation and if rhetoric is aggressive. Both the United States and China may go further in the coming years in undertaking military manoeuvres close to Taiwan, China designed to show strength and act as deterrent. A major risk is that just one such manoeuvre could be misinterpreted by the other side and/or lead to accidental loss of life or destruction of hardware, leading to tit-for-tat military escalation.

Waning appetite for multilateralism

With the world facing this wide spectrum of ongoing armed conflicts, and escalation risks in the two major cross-border conflicts, the current weakness of the multilateral security framework with the UN Security Council (UNSC) at its core is alarming. The UNSC has not managed to stop conflicts from escalating, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the wars in the Middle East and in Sudan.

Despite discussions over the last year about reinvigorating UN peacekeeping operations, these are in decline on aggregate, with their size having been reduced from over 100,000 peacekeepers in 2016 to around 68,000 in 2024.

The UNSC faces ongoing structural challenges, and over the next two years risks having even less impact, given the new US administration's likely less favourable stance towards the UN generally and its preference for seeking solutions to conflicts unilaterally. There is a danger that more governments lose faith not only in the UNSC, but in multilateralism as a forum for resolving conflicts, and that the world instead becomes more adversarial, with conflicts ending only via battlefield, winner-takes-all victories and not through negotiated, multistakeholder peace agreements. While there continue to be discussions that aim towards reform of the UNSC, they are unlikely to make meaningful progress over the next two years given the complexity of aligning national interests and the current lack of political will to do so. Furthermore, there is no viable alternative global governance set-up in sight.

The growing vacuum in ensuring global stability at a multilateral level will lead governments around the world increasingly to take national security matters into their own hands, coordinating security and defense efforts only with select allied countries, or making unilateral military decisions. More countries will attempt to gain a greater degree of autonomy and self-sufficiency. Defense budgets could be prioritized over other long-term investments, placing at risk spending in areas such as healthcare, education and infrastructure. This accelerating military spending would represent a continuation of recent trends: World military expenditure increased for the ninth consecutive year in 2023, reaching a total of \$2.4 trillion, with 2023 seeing a steep rise over 2022. The top five countries accounted for 61% of the total. As governments with strengthening militaries perceive that multilateral constraints on unilateral military action are weaker, there could be more instances of cross-border military interventions in the coming years.

Worsening humanitarian crises

Even beyond global security considerations, multilateralism appears set to endure its most difficult period since the

founding of the UN in 1945. Over the next two years, more questions are likely to be asked by national governments about the roles and priorities of key multilateral institutions, and there could be constraints placed on their funding. The outlook for this broader weakening of multilateralism is associated with declining global budgets for humanitarian aid.

Declining funding translates into an acute risk of humanitarian crises deepening. Global humanitarian efforts are highly dependent on the financial and human resources and institutional know-how provided by the UN. This know-how, in areas such as logistics or relationships with local governments and NGOs, has been built up over decades and is irreplaceable over a short- or even medium-term time horizon. Over 90 million people in need receive humanitarian aid or development assistance from UN institutions on an annual basis. A rising number of these individuals, as well as others who also need support but are unable to access it, will be at increasing risk of insecurity, disease, malnutrition and starvation over the next two years if UN institutions and the humanitarian sector overall are weakened further.

Questions based on the 2025 Global Risks Report

1.The Global Risks Report 2025 is written by the WEF which is one of the IGOs you learnt about.

What is the WEF and what is its role?

What other IGOs did you learn about and how do they differ from the WEF and each other?

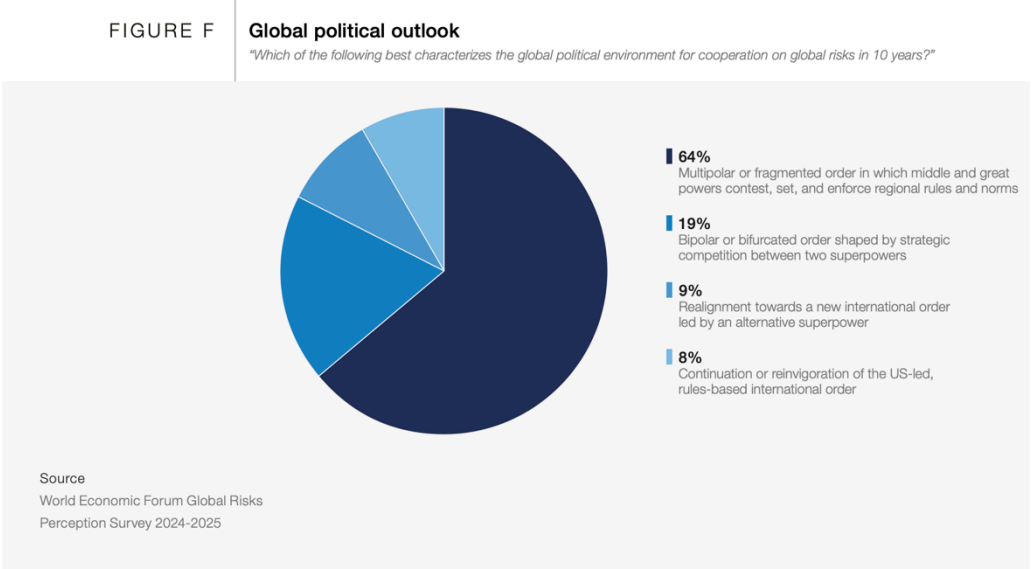
2. Under the subheading 'Declining Optimism', the following events are mentioned as evidence of our increasing fragmented world. Complete the table below: what is one example of each event that you've learnt about in your studies? The last row has been started for you.

Global Issue	Example studied as part of A-Level course
Expansion and escalation of conflict	
Extreme weather events amplified by climate change	
Widespread societal and political polarisation	
Continued technological advancements accelerating the spread of false or	The rise of AI and how this links to the superpower characteristics of cultural and political (/soft) power. Key points for how AI links to superpower status:

misleading information	
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3. The report says that ‘the Western-led global order is expected to continue its decline over the next decade’. What does this phrase ‘the western-led global order’ mean and why is it expected to decline?

4. Figure F is taken from the report. It shows that 64% of survey respondents think that there will be a multipolar or fragmented order / approach to cooperation on global risks in 10 years.



Based on your study of Superpowers, complete the table below:

Evidence for the existence of a multi-polar world in 10 years	Evidence against the existence of a multi-polar world in 10 years
Based on what you have learnt, which of the 4 options shown in Figure F do you think is most likely and why?	

Thinking Synoptically

Task 5: The Global Risks Report 2026

The following 2 pages are extracts from the Global Risks Report 2026 that best link to what you study as part of your A-Level geography course. The full report can be read here:

https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2026.pdf

This is a much shorter extract of the report compared to the 2025 Global Risks Report which was more closely aligned to what we study in our Superpowers topic. The 2025 Report summary should be read (and the tasks completed) before completing this one which asks you to compare the two.

World Economic Forum

The report uses findings from the Global Risks Perception Survey which surveys over 1300 global leaders across academia, business, government, international organisations and general society.

This document brings together extracts from the report linked to your A-Level geography studies.

“Global risk” is defined as the possibility of the occurrence of an event or condition that, if it occurs, would negatively impact a significant proportion of global GDP, population or natural resources.

Uncertainty is the defining theme of the global risks outlook in 2026.

A contested multipolar landscape is emerging where confrontation is replacing collaboration, and trust- the currency of cooperation- is losing its value.

Multilateralism is in retreat

The multilateral system is under pressure. Declining trust, diminishing transparency and respect for the rule of law, along with heightened protectionism, are threatening longstanding international relations, trade and investment and increasing the propensity for conflict.

In this period of geoeconomic transformation, alliances are being reshaped and the resilience of markets and of the institutions that emerged from the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944 is being tested. Protectionism, strategic industrial policy and active influence by governments over critical supply chains all signal a world growing more intensely competitive.

In this year's GRPS, 68% of respondents describe the global political environment over the next 10 years as a “multipolar or fragmented order in which middle and great powers contest, set and enforce regional rules and norms”, an increase of four percentage points compared to last year (Figure 9). Only 6% of respondents expect a reinvigoration of the previous unipolar, rules-based international order. As nations increasingly prioritize national interests over collective action, pressing questions emerge about the capacity of the international community to confront shared challenges such as climate change, global health and economic stability – as well as generate the local growth needed for domestic prosperity and stability.

FIGURE 9

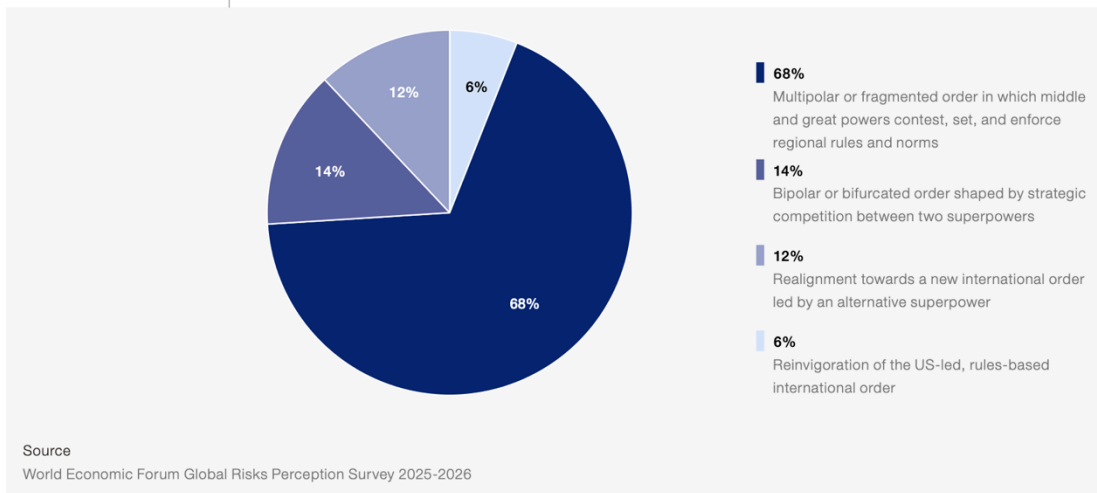
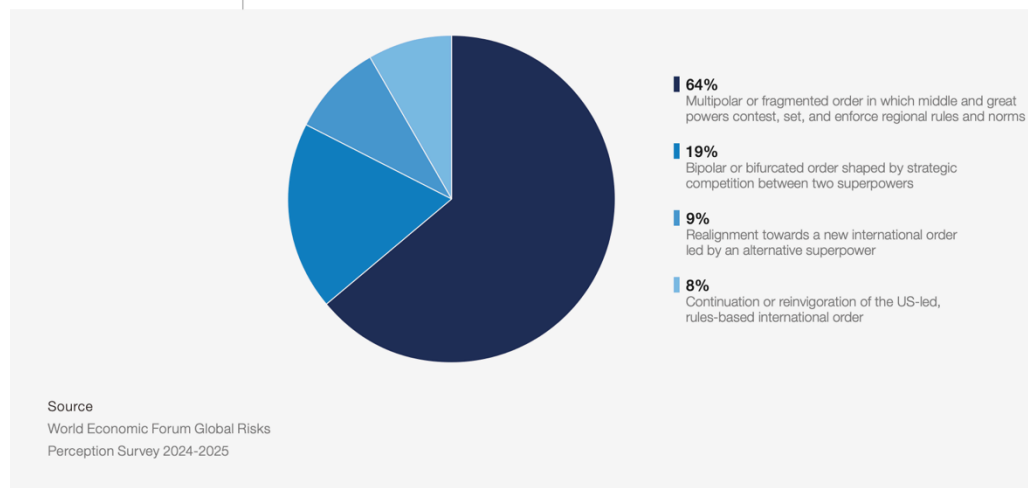
Global political outlook*"Which of the following best characterizes the global political environment for cooperation on global risks in 10 years?"*

Figure 9 above is an updated version of Figure F from the 2025 Report (shown below). How has the expert's thinking changed from 2025 to 2026? What are the differences between the two pie charts?

FIGURE F

Global political outlook*"Which of the following best characterizes the global political environment for cooperation on global risks in 10 years?"*

Thinking Synoptically

Task 6: Risk as a key concept in Geography

The concept of 'risk' is one of the key concepts that underpins your A-Level geography course. Put the term 'risk' in

the middle of a page and mind-map where the concept of 'risk' has arisen in each of your A-Level topics. Aim to fill the whole page with links / keywords / key points.

A reminder that the topics are:

Globalisation

Regenerating Places

Superpowers

Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Tectonics

Coast

The Water Cycle

The Carbon Cycle