



The South China Sea, one of the world's busiest waterways, is subject to several overlapping territorial disputes.

- A. Define "Exclusive Economic Zone" and explain how EEZs differ from a state's territorial sea, and international waters, under UN Convention on the Laws of the Sea.
- B. Identify and explain three reasons why the South China Sea is subject to many territorial disputes.

## Rubric

### Part A: Three points.

One point for defining EEZ as an area of coastal water and seabed within 200 miles distance of a country's coastline, to which the country claims exclusive rights for fishing, drilling, and other economic activities.

One point for explaining that a state's territorial sea extends twelve nautical miles from the coastline and is regarded as the sovereign territory of the state, although foreign ships are allowed innocent passage through it, or transit passage for straits.

One point for explaining that international waters (high seas) do not belong to any State's jurisdiction. All states have the right to fishing, navigation, overflight, laying cables and pipelines, as well as scientific research.

### Part B: Six points (three identify; three explain)

Various reasons may be identified and explained, including:

- Irredentism as a result of historical claims over territory.

- The importance of the South China Sea as an international trade route (one third of all international trade passes through the SCS).

- National security -- for example, China has built military installations on some disputed islands in the SCS.

- Economic value of the region -- The SCS accounts for 10 percent of the world's fisheries, making it a key source of food for hundreds of millions of people. The region is also home to major oil and natural gas reserves.

- Geographic: there are so many countries in close proximity to one another, resulting in high competition for maritime resources and tension over sovereignty.

Sources:

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/article/2186449/explained-south-china-sea-dispute>

[https://www.cfr.org/interactives/chinas-maritime-disputes#!/chinas-maritime-disputes?cid=otr-marketing\\_use-china\\_sea\\_InfoGuide](https://www.cfr.org/interactives/chinas-maritime-disputes#!/chinas-maritime-disputes?cid=otr-marketing_use-china_sea_InfoGuide)