



PICT1012

Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of International Studies

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	4
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	5

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Lecturer

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit exposes students to the key strategic trends in the Indo-Pacific region. It looks at the rise of China and India as emerging regional great powers, and the response by other major players, including the United States and Japan. It introduces students to the most pressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges facing the region today. It also provides students with a conceptual and empirical understanding of Australia's role, interests and instruments in regional security and stability. The unit also introduces students to the diverse non-traditional challenges influencing the Indo-Pacific region. The unit concludes with an assessment of the sources and consequences of key regional factors that influence security and prosperity in the twenty-first century.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Demonstrate understanding of the key security challenges and drivers of insecurity in the contemporary Indo-Pacific region.

ULO2: Identify key actors in the Indo-Pacific region, and understand their interests and strategies.

ULO3: Identify and explain potential flash points for regional conflict and insecurity.

ULO4: Explain the role of regional states and intergovernmental organisations in maintaining Indo-Pacific security.

ULO5: Describe Australia's position and its security concerns in relation to the Indo-Pacific region.

ULO6: Contrast Australian regional security interests with the interests of other Indo-Pacific states.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Actor Brief	50%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Test	50%	No	Week 13	Individual	No	Open

Actor Brief

Assessment Type [1](#): Professional task

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 38 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension [3](#): Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will write an actor brief on one of the regional actors

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the key security challenges and drivers of insecurity in the contemporary Indo-Pacific region.
- Identify key actors in the Indo-Pacific region, and understand their interests and strategies.
- Contrast Australian regional security interests with the interests of other Indo-Pacific states.

Test

Assessment Type [1](#): Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 38 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension [3](#): No

AI Approach: Open

Test

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the key security challenges and drivers of insecurity in the contemporary Indo-Pacific region.
- Identify key actors in the Indo-Pacific region, and understand their interests and strategies.
- Identify and explain potential flash points for regional conflict and insecurity.
- Explain the role of regional states and intergovernmental organisations in maintaining Indo-Pacific security.
- Describe Australia's position and its security concerns in relation to the Indo-Pacific region.
- Contrast Australian regional security interests with the interests of other Indo-Pacific states.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to lectures prior to seminar or tutorial, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments.
- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to on-line activities.
- In most cases students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's library site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.
- This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.
- Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

- All text-based assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
- Assessment tasks must be submitted as a MS word document by the due date.
- Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.
- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)

- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)

- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)