Name:

Student Number:

Department:

Section: UNI123-???

Instructor:

Date:

Essay title:

**TO WHAT EXTENT CAN CHINA BE CONSIDERED A ‘SUPERPOWER’?**

Since 1991, the international system has arguably been unipolar, with the US as the sole superpower. However, the last decade and a half has seen the growth of China as a military and economic power, which leads us to ask whether China can be considered a ‘superpower’. Although it is quite clear that Russia has lost its superpower status, and the EU, Japan and India have too many internal and overseas problems to allow them to be seen as superpowers, China occupies a different space. There are four main reasons why China can be considered a superpower, and these reasons are diplomatic, cultural, military and economic.

(OPTIONAL): Clarification/definition of key term: SUPERPOWER (Jones, 2010)

1. Diplomatic-Political factors

In this section, I will discuss China’s diplomatic and political strengths.

UN Security Council membership

The worldwide Confucius Institutes

Centralised rule

Shen, (2017): “China’s seat at the UN Security Council has allowed the republic to advance its interests at the highest levels.”

1. Cultural factors

In this section, I will examine China’s cultural strengths.

Unified language, culture, geography

Comparsion with India

Singh, M. (2018) “China’s unified culture is a source of great strength as it imparts a feeling of historical identity to the vast majority of Chinese people, both at home and abroad.”

1. Military

Description and analysis of China’s military

Army, navy, air force

Comparison with Russia, the US and India

Expansion and investments (statistics, Chinese Min of Defence)

1. Economic factors

Cheap labour force (source: Smith, 2012) “surplus labour force”

Industrial production (source: Cheng, 2016) “continuous growth since 1997”

Stable currency (source: Smith, 2012) “stabilised by central government in 2002”

Low inflation (latest figures)

**FULL** REFERENCE LIST (in APA, at least 3)

Chinese Ministry of Defence (2018) *Military Capability and Predictions for the Coming Decade*, Beijing

Jones, J P (2010), ‘The Concept of the Superpower in the Information Age’, *Journal of Int Rel*, Vol.22, No.4

Shen, X. (2017). *China and the UN*, New York, Penguin

Singh, M. (2016), ‘Indo-Chinese Cultural Ties’, New York, Harvill

Smith, H. (2017), ‘China’s Looming Credit Crash’, *Journal of Political Economy*, Spring 2017