1. What are the three sovereignty claims to the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, from their historical roots to their modern incarnations?

2.Why do the claimants consider sovereignty over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands valuable or important?

3. According to relevant treaties and official statements, how is the United States involved in this dispute and what is the U.S. government’s position on the administration and sovereignty of the islands?

4. What is the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in this conflict?

5. How has the relationship between China and Japan evolved since the Sino-Japanese War and how has it shaped the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute?

6.What are the major elements of the U.S.-China bilateral relationship and the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship? What might be the consequences of various U.S. responses for these relationships?

7.How does Asia’s changing military balance factor into this dispute?

8. What are the policy options open to the United States in this crisis and what are the relative advantages and disadvantages of each?

9. What are the goals of any U.S. policy decision in this case? How do these goals align or conflict with each other, and what trade-offs might you be willing to make in order to pursue them?