

Study Questions**Bridging Regions, Strengthening Ties: The East Coast Rail Line (ECRL) in Malaysia**

1. Which key factors should the opposition party members consider in order to determine whether transportation infrastructure should be prioritized in its economic growth plan? If not transportation, what should they advocate for instead?
2. What parts of the ECRL project timeline seem fair and/or realistic? Which aspects do not? Why?
3. How would you characterize PM Razak's relationship with China, especially with regards to the ECRL project?
4. Which aspects of the Malaysian-Chinese investment relationship (and the broader geopolitical dynamics in the region) seem to be impacting the ECRL project the most? How are they impacting the project?
5. How should Dr. Kian-Ming consider the ECRL project in the context of the broader Belt and Road Initiative in the region? Globally?
6. Given there are no traditional funders interested in financing large-scale infrastructure projects in Malaysia, how should Dr. Kian-Ming weigh the costs and benefits of Chinese investment in Malaysia?
7. Which concerns from critics about the ECRL carry the most weight? Which will have implications for PM Razak's leadership in the upcoming general election?
8. How should Dr. Kian-Ming and opposition party members manage their own party image in preparation for the general election amidst criticism of PM Razak and Chinese investment?