



Mark scheme: Paper 3 – Higher Level: Global interaction

Higher Level only

Timing: You have one hour to complete one question.

Choice: One out of three questions

Structure:

Part (a) requires a short essay on one of the topics of the theme.

The command terms used are straight forward such as *describe* and *explain*.

Part (b) requires a more synoptic view of the theme and an analytical approach and uses command terms such as *discuss*, and *evaluate*.

Both parts of the question should be written in the style of an essay and require careful planning. Spend at least five minutes writing a plan to make sure that you cover the main points in a logical order and always draw a conclusion even if you are running out of time. The question may not ask for examples, but your answer should be supported by factual evidence from the real world; examples and case studies are important. If you are asked to present an argument, remember to address both sides although your answer may be biased.

- 1 a Explain how new transport and communications technology have influenced the process of international interaction.
[10 marks]

Improvement in communications has been fundamental to the process of globalization. This includes all types of transport, for example, the use of bulk ocean carriers to transport bulky materials slowly but cheaply. Long-haul flights in wide-bodied jets have allowed perishable produce and tourists to reach their destinations quickly. Containerization allows easy transfer of goods from sea going vessels to other modes of transport by road or rail. These improvements in transport have reduced the friction of distance. Associated with new and more efficient types of transport technology has been the increasing size and density of global transport network linking communication hubs and incorporating more and more of the periphery into the network.

The adoption of other types of communication technology has involved the expansion of the telecommunications network. The cell phone is more adaptable in difficult and remote areas where land lines cannot be constructed. The Internet users still concentrate in the high income countries, but penetration is increasing in the peripheral areas. National usage varies according to socio-economic factors. For example, women, ethnic minorities, low-income families and the elderly have less access.

Improvements in both transport and ICT have increased the amount of interaction between high income countries.

Nevertheless, the participation of the country's from the poorest parts of the world such as sub Saharan Africa is still negligible.

New technologies in transport and ICT have allowed people, produce, money and culture ideas to penetrate these places, to allow them to access the global network and to benefit from the advantages of international interaction.

To access mark bands D and above both transport and ICT should be mentioned.

b Globalization is to blame for the global environmental problems that exist today Discuss this view. [15 marks]

Globalization involves the transfer of financial capital, ideas, culture and people across the world in ever increasing volumes, leading to the relocation of productive activity. This process is nothing new and has been occurring over several centuries, However, the speed, intensity of activity and scale of impacts have increased markedly since the 19th century.

Colonialism was responsible for establishing exploitation and trade in raw materials and commercial products from LEDCs to MEDCs. More recently, in the post-colonial age the unregulated activities of TNCs using cheap labour, abundant raw materials and efficient transport systems have generated much environmental damage. Their involvement strongly supports the idea that globalization is to blame for environmental degradation.

Environmental degradation may be local, or, if there are multiple locations or a cumulative effect over time, the impact could be global. Waterlogging, salinization, soil erosion, deforestation, groundwater depletion, desertification, biodiversity loss, and pollution are all local states of degradation but some such as deforestation have a global climatic impact as well.

Answers should outline the nature of degradation and the aspects of globalization that have caused or exacerbated the problem. In summary these are:

- extension of the global communication network;
- greater volumes of traffic,
- damaging and unregulated activities of TNCs and
- increasing intensity of agriculture, mining, logging and fishing.

The answer needs to make the connection to globalization to access mark band D and above.

2 a Explain how the power of the nation-state might be reduced by globalization [10 marks]

Globalization is the increasing interaction between nations and regions of the world. This involves the flow of people, goods, ideas and finance across increasingly permeable international boundaries, which in itself may make the country lose some of its distinctiveness. TNCs have been instrumental in stimulating these flows and have been assisted by the improvements in communications technology and transport. Their success in harnessing the raw materials and

utilising the cheap labour of the LEDCs has given some TNCs much power; their wealth exceeding that of some nation states and this may encourage the growth of nationalism and concern for the diminishing power of the nation-state.

Nation-states are having to cede some of their power to international intergovernmental organisations and regionalised institutions these may be political (EU), Economic (NAFTA), military (NATO) or even broader (UN, IMF, WTO) leading to a system of global governance which states must increasingly abide by. Some believe that national governments are being disempowered by these institutions from above and their power undermined by the NGOs from below.

A good answer achieving band D / E, should cover all the possible causes of decline for the nation-state by TNCs, inter-governmental organisations and NGOs. This is essentially a political / economic question and the focus should not on cultural aspects alone.

- b** Discuss the consequences of increasing involvement of Transnational Corporations in global food production and consumption. [15 marks]

The involvement of TNCs in the global food business (agribusiness) has led to the increasing scale of agricultural units and the intensification of production through the application of fertilisers, pesticides, mechanisation, biotechnology and factory farming.

The positive consequences of this involvement have been the increasing global production of food, although much of this goes to the affluent market. Agribusiness has also provided local employment, social services and the acquisition of technical skills for local employees.

TNC involvement in agriculture has had some negative social impacts too. The best land is used by the TNCs and rich farmers while small local farmers must strive for an existence on marginal land. The demands of cash crops may jeopardise food supply for locals. The smaller farmers are seldom able to afford new technology and they may become unemployed.

There are several negative environmental consequences of intensive agriculture and these include; deforestation; loss of biodiversity; soil degradation and exposure; depletion of the local fresh water supplies; contamination of groundwater by pesticides; poisoning of pesticide handlers and an increase in food-miles due to the export of out-of-season crops to distant affluent countries. Nevertheless the situation is changing with the promotion of more sustainable practice through the development of organic farming which may reduce future environmental impact.

TNCs have also affected the nature of the food consumed. The spread of consumer culture has encouraged consumption of highly calorific food and drink products such as burgers and coke causing healthy diets to be abandoned.

Overall, globalization has improved the efficiency of food production, but at the expense of the environment and the production. Globalization has not solved the problem of insufficient staple food in the LICs with rapidly growing populations.

A balanced answer will consider both aspects of production and consumption and the positive and negative outcomes for mark band D /E

3 a Explain the global pattern of financial flows. [10 marks]

International financial flows result from trade revenue / payments, gross private capital flows, Foreign Direct Investment, remittances, Official Development Aid and debt repayment. In terms of assets held and the volume of financial flows, the EU, North America and Japan are dominant on the world map.

The pattern of remittances reflects that of international migration with the greatest flow from High to Middle Income countries. Low Income Countries do not participate significantly in this process where they adjoin countries other poor countries, but where a LIC adjoins a HIC as in the case of Mexico and USA, remittances are substantial.

Low Income Countries are insignificant in terms of donation or receipt of financial flows. Currently, they fail to attract much foreign investment, trade revenue or remittances, but are the focus of aid and large financial institutions such as The World Bank and IMF are significant donors. Money lending and debt present complex patterns and paradoxically, debt repayments are greatest from Low to High Income regions.

Overall, the volume of financial flows is greatest between High Income and some Middle Income Countries, with the Asian Tiger economies playing an increasingly important role. Low Income Countries such as those in Sub-Saharan Africa engage in less international trade and attract relatively little investment and are therefore excluded from many of the benefits of global economic integration.

A good answer achieving mark bands D or E should refer to the principal financial flows and provide explanation for the global pattern.

b Loss of cultural diversity is an undesirable consequence of international interaction. Discuss this view. [15 marks]

Culture involves language, food, dress, music and customs and globalization may be blamed for the loss of cultural diversity. International interactions allow for the diffusion of cultural traits and the possibility of adoption at the destination. There are several modes of diffusion; by people such as migrant workers and tourists, by transmission through the media and the Internet and by TNCs through the promotion and sale of branded goods known as cultural commodification.

Theoretically, the invading culture (predominantly Western or American) dominates and dilutes local culture and national cultural distinctiveness starts to disappear. In reality, culture does not diffuse evenly and the rate and pattern of adoption of foreign traits is patchy. In some cases the trait or commodity is adapted to local culture to become more marketable there. This is called glocalization and was first adopted as a business practice by Japanese car manufacture. Other more recent examples include the Maharaja Mac in India, the McLobster in Canada and the Ebi Filit-O in Japan. Whirlpool also makes its refrigerators in bright colors like red and blue because many Asian consumers place their refrigerator in living rooms as a sign of status.

Undesirability assumes that societies resent and reject the cultural traits caused by globalization that threaten diversity. This supposition is largely inaccurate and research shows that societies are actively preserving their national identities and this is encouraged. For example, the demand of tourists for authentic experiences and cultural diversity suggests that it continues to be valued. The anti-globalization movement is the political expression of resistance to all aspects of integration including culture.

The important aspects of this essay are the nature of cultural diversity, the diffusion of culture, the inevitability of homogenization and the extent of resistance to it. The answer should provide case study evidence to support the argument, but the focus on different aspects of culture may vary.