

# Topic 1

## Global systems and global governance

### Globalisation

**Globalisation** is a process involving the integration of national economies through a global network of trade, communications and transportation. This leads to a growth of the global economy with resulting patterns of production, distribution and consumption arising from these relationships.

Globalisation also incorporates a wider range of dimensions including social, cultural and political interactions. The process involves the spread of ideas and information across the world, but in doing so it creates a growing uniformity shared by very different places.

**1 Distinguish between production, distribution and consumption. (AO1)**

**3 marks**

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**2 Explain how global marketing has reduced diversity and led to more uniformity in the products and services offered to consumers globally. (AO1)**

**4 marks**

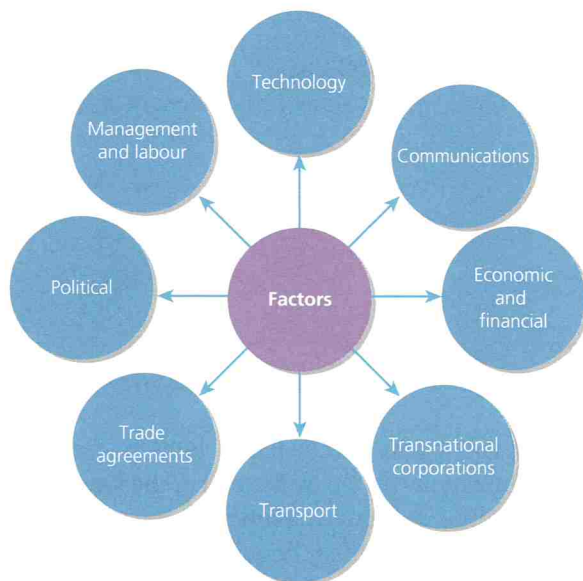
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**3 Using any TWO of the factors shown in Figure 1.1, explain how each has contributed to the process of globalisation. (AO1, AO2)**

**8 marks**



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Figure 1.1 Factors affecting globalisation

4 With reference to any named examples, outline the advantages and disadvantages of regional trade agreements/trading blocs for the countries involved. (AO1, AO2)

10 marks

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## Global systems

Global systems have developed from the social, economic, political and environmental **interdependence** that exists between different parts

of the world. However, these systems often demonstrate the **inequalities** that exist between richer, high income economies and less developed countries.

### Interdependence

5 Use an example of economic, political, social or environmental interdependence to outline its importance in the contemporary world. (AO1, AO2)

5 marks

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At the conclusion of the Second World War, major international institutions including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were established to stabilise the world economy and to promote international economic cooperation. A General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to promote free trade was agreed

later. GATT was succeeded in 1995 by the World Trade Organization (WTO). By the end of the twentieth century these major intergovernmental institutions became known as the Three Regulatory Pillars of the World Economic Order.

**6** Complete Table 1.1 by outlining the role of each of the three major international institutions in promoting stability, cooperation and development. (AO1, AO2)

12 marks

Table 1.1 Role of major intergovernmental institutions of World Economic Order

Institution	Role in promoting stability, cooperation and development within global systems
International Monetary Fund	..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... .....
World Bank	..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... .....
World Trade Organization	..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... .....

**7** Assess the success of any ONE of the institutions listed in Table 1.1 in promoting stability, growth and development. (AO1, AO2)

8 marks

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## Inequality and power relations

Unequal flows of people, capital and investment within global systems can lead to conflicts between and within countries and injustice for people and places. Understanding inequality involves recognising that global systems are shaped in unequal ways.

Inequality can be represented graphically by a Lorenz curve graph. For example, the distribution of income in a population would have cumulative percentage of

population on the  $x$ -axis and cumulative percentage of income on the  $y$ -axis. A  $45^\circ$  line from zero to 100% represents a line of perfect equality of income among the population. In reality, income distribution in each country and globally is uneven. When plotting a Lorenz curve for income distribution of a given population, the further the curve is away from the  $45^\circ$  line, the more unequal is the distribution.



- 8 On the blank graph below, plot a Lorenz curve showing global income distribution. Use the figures given in Table 1.2. (AO3)

5 marks

Table 1.2 Global income distribution (percentage of world income held by each fifth of world population)

Global population (by income group)	Poorest 20%	Next poorest 20%	Middle 20%	Second richest 20%	Richest 20%
Percentage of global income	1.5%	3.5%	6.3%	14.6%	74.1%

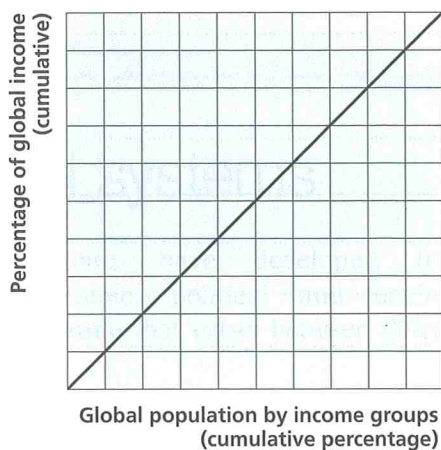


Figure 1.2 Lorenz curve showing inequality in global income distribution

- 9 Suggest reasons why an unequal flow of (a) people, (b) money or (c) technology can lead to the inequality in global income distribution shown by the Lorenz curve you have drawn. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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An alternative measure of inequality is the varying levels of **poverty** that exist globally. There is no single definition but the most common way to define absolute poverty is to base it on a minimum level of income

needed to meet basic needs. This will vary from country to country but in 2008 the World Bank defined the international poverty line as \$1.25 per day. (In October 2015, it reset it to \$1.90 a day.)



# International trade and access to markets

The increased access to markets has been a major contributing factor to globalisation and the global systems that exist today. The gradual erosion of barriers to trade and more recent political change in former

Communist countries have opened up markets and seen the development of large transnational corporations, which operate all over the world.

## Trading relationships and access to markets

**12** The EU is a customs union. Explain what is meant by a customs union. (AO1)

2 marks

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**13** Trade barriers are used by countries as a 'protectionist' measure. What are countries trying to protect? (AO1)

4 marks

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**14** Identify TWO types of external trade barrier protecting an economy and explain how they work. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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## Nature and role of transnational corporations (TNCs)

The growth of large corporations which operate in a number of countries has been a major driving force of globalisation. The spatial organisation of TNCs varies

depending on the nature of their economic activity. They have become increasingly flexible in the location of their global assets.

**15** How would a transnational corporation in the secondary sector (such as a vehicle manufacturer) usually organise and locate these key functions (*strategic management, production operations, research and development, sales and marketing*) of its business? (AO1, AO2)

4 marks

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**16** What factors would influence a large manufacturing TNC in its decision to invest in a major new production plant? (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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**17** With the use of an example, explain how TNCs are able to overcome trade barriers and gain access to different markets globally. (AO1, AO2)

5 marks

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**18** Assess the role of transnational corporations in assisting the development and growth of emerging and less developed economies. (AO1, AO2)

10 marks

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## Global governance

Global governance refers to the **rules, norms** and **laws** that regulate and form global systems.

Governance attempts to manage the geographical consequences for people and for natural environments in different places.

**19** Outline reasons why global governance is a complex matter and difficult to achieve. (AO1)

5 marks

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**20** With reference to examples, outline the role and function of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in global governance. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks

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The United Nations (UN) is the leading agency of global governance. Since the Second World War it has aimed to promote growth and stability and to prevent and resolve conflict. More recent environmental concerns have given

a greater focus on sustainable development. The UN is organised into a number of separate organisations, each with a different function.

**21** Research ONE of the following bodies/agreements and outline its contribution to economic stability and/or sustainable development: *UN Development Programme (UNDP); Millennium Development Goals; UN Environmental Programme (UNEP); Sustainable Development Goals; World Summit on Sustainable Development and Agenda 21.* (AO1, AO2)

9 marks

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### Global commons

Global commons are also known as areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and there is growing concern that they will come under increasing pressure as the global demand for resources grows. The UN recognises

the essential need to have rules and regulations governing the use of the 'commons' and also to have mechanisms in place to monitor use and enforce rules.



**22** List the four recognised global commons and explain why they are recognised as such by international law. (AO1) 4 marks

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**23** Explain why the global commons are under threat from human activity and why they need to be protected. (AO1, AO2) 6 marks

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## Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

### The geography of Antarctica

As a continent, Antarctica is largely covered in snow and ice and is so hostile and remote that it has no permanent human residents. As a global ‘common’ it has no national jurisdiction but it is a centre

for scientific research and unprecedented human collaboration. Antarctica has a unique landscape as well as distinctive climates and ecosystems.

**24** Figure 1.3 shows an outline map of the continent of Antarctica. On this blank outline, draw in where appropriate and label the following areas. (AO1) 5 marks

- West Antarctica
- East Antarctica
- Ronne Ice Shelf
- Ross Sea
- Weddell Sea
- Ross Sea Ice Shelf
- Antarctic Peninsula
- Transantarctic Mountains
- an approximate position of the South Pole
- Antarctic Circle (66°34'S)



Figure 1.3 Outline map of Antarctica

**25** Summarise the key physical geographical features of Antarctica by answering the following questions.

**a** Describe the landscape of Antarctica. (AO1)

3 marks

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**b** Explain why Antarctica is considered to be a polar desert. (AO1)

2 marks

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**26** Distinguish between the Antarctic Convergence Zone and Divergence Zone. (AO1)

5 marks

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## Threats to Antarctica

There are a number of challenges facing the environment and wilderness ecosystems of Antarctica. These threats are mostly driven by human activity.

**27** Complete Table 1.4 by explaining the nature of each threat and its potential impact on the Antarctic environment. (AO1, AO2)

12 marks

Table 1.4 Threats to Antarctica

Threat	Nature of threat and its potential impact
Climate change	..... .....
Fishing and whaling	..... .....
Search for mineral resources	..... .....
Tourism	..... .....

### The governance of Antarctica

As Antarctica is a global common resource, international government organisations intervene to protect the continent from these threats, and

from further exploitation. The key strategy adopted by international governance is the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS).

**28 a** How did the Antarctic Treaty resolve the issue of sovereignty in Antarctica? (AO1, AO2)

3 marks

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**b** Outline the main features of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty. (AO1)

6 marks

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**29** The Madrid Protocol was agreed in 1991 and added further protection to Antarctica. Explain why further protection was needed and assess the value added by the Protocol. (AO1, AO2)

8 marks

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**30** Discuss the contribution of non-government organisations (NGOs) to the governance and protection of Antarctica. (AO1, AO2)

8 marks

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### Exam-style questions (A-level)

1 Explain how the International Whaling Commission has contributed to the conservation of the environment of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. (AO1)

5 4 marks

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2 Analyse factors that have led to the increased economic, political and social interdependence seen in the contemporary world. (AO1, AO2)

7 6 marks

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3 Using Figure 1.4 showing trends in Antarctic temperature change and your own knowledge, assess the threats posed by global climate change on Antarctica. (AO1, AO2, AO3)

7 6 marks

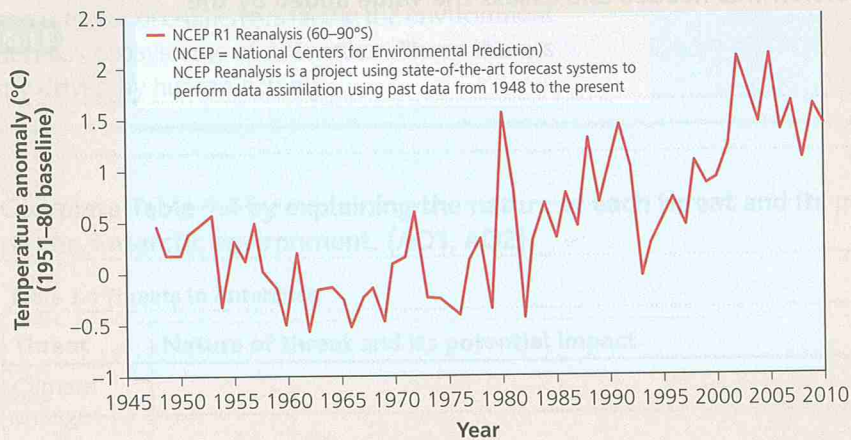


Figure 1.4 Antarctic temperature anomaly

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4 'Global governance is about a world where the rule of law governs the conduct of nations.' How far do you agree with this view? (AO1, AO2)

25 20 marks

Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.