

# 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 incorporates a wide 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.

Practice questions ?

**1** Identify the five 'flows' that are increased through the process of globalisation.

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**2** Distinguish between production, distribution and consumption.

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

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**4** Explain how globalisation has affected the pattern of production of one type of product.

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7 With reference to a place you have studied explain how globalisation has affected the lives of people.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing the answer to question 7.



# Global systems

Global systems have developed from the social, economic, political and environmental **interdependence** that exists between different parts of the world. These systems often demonstrate the **inequalities** that exist between people and places.

Major international institutions including the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the World Trade Organization were established to stabilise the world economy, promote international economic cooperation and encourage free trade.

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

Inequality exists both within countries (seen by the distribution of wealth) and globally. The most common way to define absolute **poverty** is to base it on a minimum level of income needed to meet basic needs. In 2020 the World Bank defined the international poverty line as \$1.90 a day.

Geopolitical relationships enable some nations (and some TNCs) to drive global systems and gain advantages at the expense of others.

## Practice questions ?

- 8 Use an example of economic, political, social or environmental interdependence to outline its importance in the contemporary world.

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- 9 Complete Table 1.1 by outlining the role of each of the three major international institutions in promoting stability, cooperation and development.

Table 1.1 Role of major intergovernmental institutions of the World Economic Order

Institution	Role in promoting stability, cooperation and development within global systems
International Monetary Fund	.....
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**11** Complete the graph in Figure 1.2, using the logarithmic scale, by plotting the GDP values for a range of countries at different levels of economic development in 2019. Use the figures given in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 GDP values for ten selected countries

Country	USA	China	Germany	India	UK	Brazil	Nigeria	Kenya	Albania	Haiti
GDP 2019 (US\$ billions)	21,400	14,300	3,800	2,900	2,800	1,800	448.1	95.5	15.3	8.5

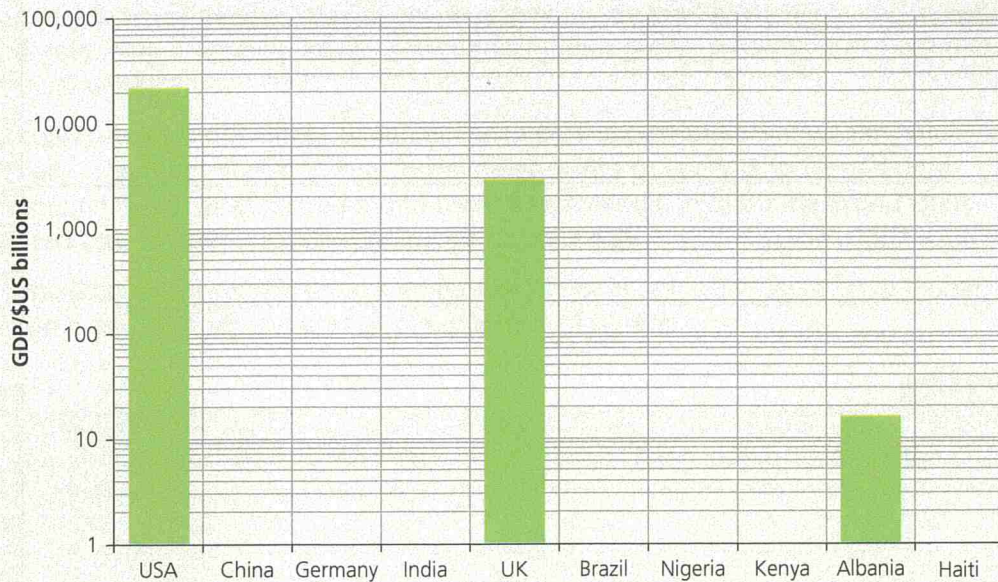


Figure 1.2

**12** Suggest reasons why an unequal flow of (a) people, (b) money or (c) technology can lead to inequality between different places.

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**13** Analyse the data in Table 1.3. It has information about the number of people living in extreme poverty in 1990 and predictions of how that number will change by 2030.

Table 1.3 Changing levels of poverty for global regions, 1990 and 2030

Region	People in extreme poverty (millions)	
	1990	2030 (prediction)
East Asia and Pacific	987	3
Europe and Central Asia	13	2
Latin America and the Caribbean	63	19
Middle East and North Africa	14	26
South Asia	536	5
Sub-Saharan Africa	278	416
Rest of the world	4	8
<b>Global total</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>479</b>

Source: World Bank [www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/12/21/year-in-review-2018-in-14-charts](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/12/21/year-in-review-2018-in-14-charts)

### Worked example

There is predicted to be a significant decrease in the total number of people living in poverty. In 2030 the global number is expected to be around 25 per cent of that in 1990.

The most dramatic reduction is predicted in East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia. The two regions have over 1.5 billion in 1990 which is predicted to reduce by over 99 per cent by 2030. All regions, except the Middle East and North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, are predicted to see a significant decrease. In fact, there could be 1.5 times the number of people in poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, with this region accounting for almost 90 per cent of the global total in 2030.

A03: A clear analytical statement to start, supported with good use of the data.

A03: Clear use and manipulation of the values shows understanding of the nature of data.

A03: The final section has clear analysis and identifies a pattern and anomaly. The point is supported with clear manipulation of the data evidencing numeracy skills.

## International trade and access to markets

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 (TNCs), which operate all over the world.

The growth of TNCs 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.

### Practice questions



**14** The EU is a customs union. Explain what is meant by a customs union.

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**15** Trade barriers are used by countries as a 'protectionist' measure. What are countries trying to protect?

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**16** Identify **two** types of external trade barrier protecting an economy and explain how they work.

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

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**18** What factors would influence a large manufacturing TNC in its decision to invest in a major new production plant?

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

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**20** Summarise the global pattern of trade of one food commodity **or** one manufacturing product.

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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.

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.

## Practice questions ?

**23** Outline reasons why global governance is a complex matter and difficult to achieve.

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**24** Explain why development policies might actually lead to increased inequalities and injustices.

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

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**26** In 2015 The UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development were launched. Summarise the main objectives of these goals.

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28 List the four recognised global commons and explain why they are recognised as such by international law.

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29 Explain why the global commons are under threat from human activity and why they need to be protected.

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30 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.

- 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)

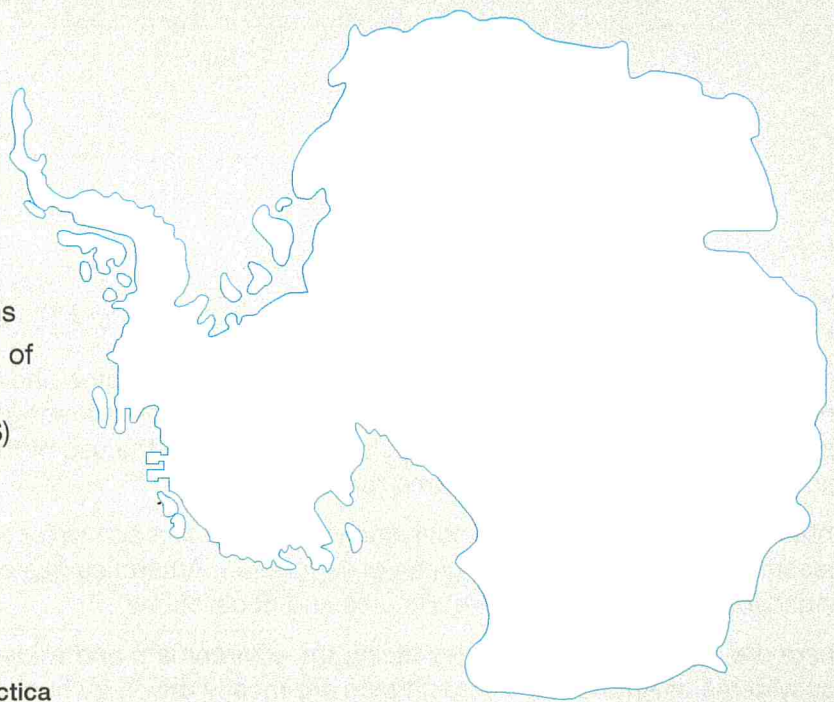


Figure 1.3 Outline map of Antarctica



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

**a** Describe the landscape of Antarctica.

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

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**32** Distinguish between the Antarctic Convergence Zone and Divergence Zone.

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**33** Complete Table 1.4 by explaining the nature of each threat and its potential impact on the Antarctic environment.

Table 1.4 Threats to Antarctica

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



**34 a** How did the Antarctic Treaty resolve the issue of sovereignty in Antarctica?

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**b** Outline the main features of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty.

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**35** 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.

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**36** Assess the role of non-government organisations (NGOs) in the governance and protection of Antarctica.

**Worked example**

To ensure their work was effective, over 20 NGOs formed a coalition called The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC). ASOC was successful in campaigning to block the threatened exploitation of oil, gas and minerals and supported the development of the Madrid Protocol preventing resource exploitation in Antarctica. ASOC has also been granted observer status at Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) meetings. This is an important role enabling them to focus on raising awareness on issues relating to environmental protection. NGOs have been successful and have contributed to ensuring that Antarctica is still protected. In 2017 NGOs contributed to efforts that saw the Ross Sea becoming the largest Marine Protected area in the world.

A01/A02: This starts with clear knowledge and understanding and assesses how the NGOs were to work together.

A02: It provides clear assessment of the importance of the role the NGOs play in raising awareness.

A01/A02: Further evidence of clear knowledge and understanding is shown, with assessment of the success of a specific example of a role played by NGOs.





**37** Table 1.5 shows information about the number of Minke whales caught by Japan in the Southern Ocean between 1986 and 2018.

**Table 1.5** Number of Minke whales caught by Japan in the Southern Ocean 1986–2018

1986	3028	1997	438	2008	551
1987	273	1998	389	2009	680
1988	241	1999	439	2010	507
1989	330	2000	439	2011	171
1990	327	2001	444	2012	266
1991	288	2002	452	2013	103
1992	330	2003	441	2014	252
1993	330	2004	443	2015	0
1994	330	2005	441	2016	335
1995	440	2006	856	2017	333
1996	440	2007	508	2018	334

Source: <https://iwc.int/total-catches>

Use Table 1.5 to calculate the following measures of central tendency:

**a** Mean

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**b** Mode

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**c** Median

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Comment on the usefulness of each of these measures in analysing this set of data.

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**Exam-style questions** ?

**Exam-style set 1**



**1** Explain how flows of capital act as a dimension of globalisation. (AO1)

**4 marks**

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2 Table 1.6 shows information about the world steel production in 2001 and 2019.

Table 1.6 World steel production in 2001 and 2019

Country	2019		2001	
	Rank	Million tonnes	Rank	Million tonnes
China	1 ↔	996.3	1	148.9
India	2 ↑	111.2	8	27.3
Japan	3 ↓	99.3	2	102.9
USA	4 ↓	87.8	3	90.1
Russia	5 ↓	71.9	4	59.0
South Korea	6 ↔	71.4	6	43.9
Germany	7 ↓	39.7	5	44.8
Turkey	8 ↑	33.7	15	15.0
Brazil	9 ↔	32.2	9	26.7
Iran	10 ↑	25.6	22	6.9

Source: [www.worldsteel.org](http://www.worldsteel.org)

Analyse the data shown in Table 1.6. (AO3)

6 marks









## Exam-style set 2

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- 1 Outline the purpose of the International Whaling Commission in the conservation of Antarctica. (AO1)

4 marks

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- 2 Figure 1.5 and Figure 1.6 show information about tourist numbers in Antarctica.

Figure 1.5 shows the total number of tourists visiting the area and the number that actually landed each season since 2002.

Figure 1.6 shows the origin of tourists visiting in 2018–19.

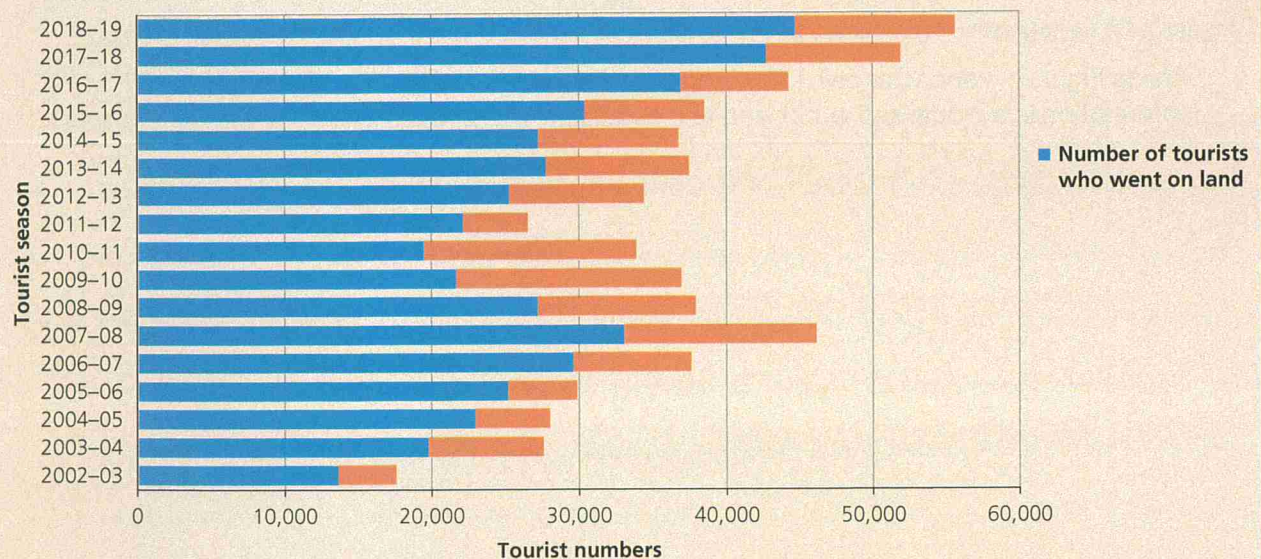


Figure 1.5 The number of tourists visiting and landing in Antarctica since 2002

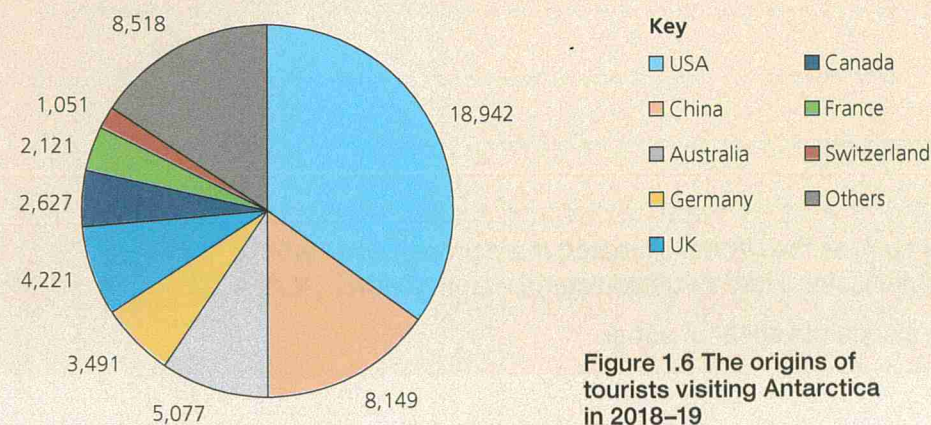


Figure 1.6 The origins of tourists visiting Antarctica in 2018-19

Analyse the data shown in Figure 1.5 and Figure 1.6. (AO3)

6 marks

7.5



3 Figure 1.7 shows information about trends in Antarctic temperature change compared to the average for 1951–80.

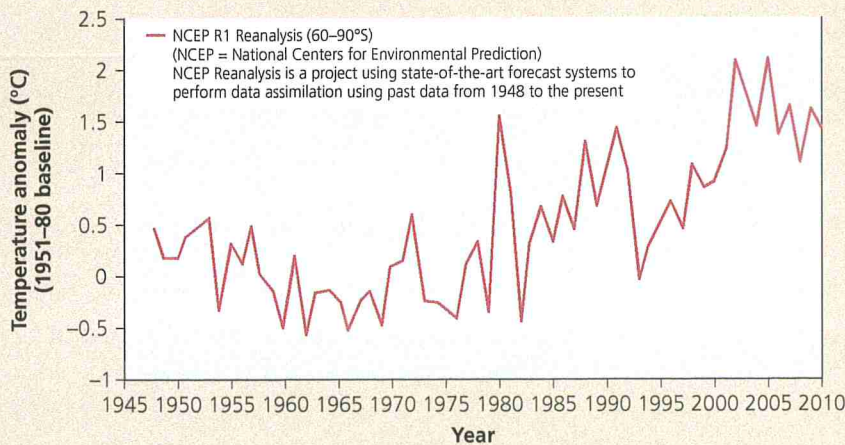


Figure 1.7 Antarctic temperature anomaly

Using Figure 1.7 and your own knowledge assess the threats posed by global climate change on Antarctica. (AO1, AO2)

6 marks





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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)

20 marks

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Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

**Additional essay question**

Assess the extent to which global economic pressures will inevitably lead to an increase in the search for mineral resources in Antarctica. (AO1, AO2)

20 marks

25

Plan and write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.