

Structured Essay Questions

Essay Structure

Introduction:

- Define key terms
- Thesis statement (stand + how its going to be proven)
- Summary of arguments to be discussed

Body:

- First view: 2 points (PEEL)
 - o Link every point to the thesis statement
- Second view: 1 point (PEEL)
 - o Link every point to the thesis statement

Conclusion:

- Summarize all points made
- Weigh: Use criteria to prioritize the view in support of stand

Rubrics

- Relevance → whether the arguments address the question
- Evidence → how relevant, accurate and specific the examples are
- Elaboration → how well reasoned the arguments are
- Perspective → whether both sides are presented, and whether both sides are evaluated properly

Suggested Timeline

- Plan: 6 minutes
 - o Write down definitions directly onto introduction first
 - o Plan separately the:
 - Stand
 - Points
 - Examples for each point
 - Weighing criteria
- Write: 30 minutes
 - o Introduction: 5 minutes
 - o Points: 7 minutes each
 - o Conclusion: 4 minutes

Globalization

Unit Overviews

1. What is globalization
2. How did globalization in the 20th century come about?
3. What are the impacts of and responses to globalization?
4. What is globalization's role in Singapore's past and future development?
5. What are the implications of globalization on citizenship?

Defining and Summarizing Globalization

Globalization: A process of increasing interconnectedness and flow of products, people and ideas between places across the world

- Interconnectedness and flow across 3 dimensions:
 - o Economic
 - o Political
 - o Sociocultural

- Not a new phenomenon: earlier waves were exhibited throughout history, but were more limited in extent of effects (it is most recently driven by rapid technological and economic developments)

Definition by George Ritzer (2011): “a transplanetary set of processes involving increasing liquidity and the growth of multi-dimensional flows of people, objects, places and information as well as the structures they encounter and create that are barriers to or expedite these flows”.

As a result, the world may be:

- Smaller
 - o Reduced travel and communication time
 - o Distances and barriers to movement have been circumvented by technology
- More interconnected
 - o More transport, communication infrastructure and links between places around the world
 - o Facilitates the flow of people, objects, places and information

Globalization might be seen as a “new form of imperialism”:

- Imperialism: “a policy or practice by which countries increase their power by gaining control over other areas of the world”
- Cultural flows are unequal:
 - o Some dominant producers of globally-accepted cultures (like American fast food, or media like Hollywood) have influenced/shaped recipient cultures that embrace such cultures as superior to their own
 - o Indigenous/local cultures have experienced some “cultural colonization”, erosion of culture or homogenization (with other similarly colonized cultures)

‘Giant melting point’ assumption about globalization may be false:

- Not all countries are equally influenced or affected by globalization
- Few dominant cultures, and other recipient cultures → not all cultures contribute to the melting pot
- Not all countries are accepting of the effects of globalization (China, with the Golden Shield Project, for example)

Views towards globalization:

- Positive: those who gain from globalization
 - o Large businesses (TNCs), higher income earners who can take advantage of globalization to drive higher profits from low production costs and expanded markets
 - o Supporters of dominating cultures
- Negative: those who lose out due to globalization
 - o Smaller businesses, lower income earners
 - o LEDCs which can be exploited by TNCs which use resources and manpower in exchange for reduced wages
 - o Those against loss of recipient cultures, environmental loss, etc.

Dimensions of Globalization

Economic:

- International trade & production chains

- Economic migration (labor)

Cultural:

- Via:
 - o Trade
 - o Mass media
 - o Tourism & migration
- Integration and homogenization of various indigenous and foreign cultures

Political:

- International organizations and law
- Collective security
- Global activism

Economic

The Stan Shih Smile Curve: A model that evaluates value addition to products over various elements of the production chain.

- 3 distinct tiers:
 - o Highest value addition: Conceptualization, R&D, Branding, Marketing, Sales/Aftersales
 - o Medium value addition: Design, Distribution
 - o Lowest value addition: Manufacturing (component fabrication, assembly)
- Higher value adding processes are done in MEDCs, while lower value addition is done in LEDCs
- Case study: Apple iPhones
 - o Highest tier: USA, Germany
 - o Middle tier: South Korea, Japan, Canada
 - o Lowest tier: China

Bretton Woods system & post WWII economic development:

- Bretton Woods: Meeting of 44 Allied states in Bretton Woods in July 1944
- Key elements:
 - o Fixed exchange rates were decided: national currencies were pegged to reserve currency (the US dollar) based on gold reserves
 - o Removal of restrictions on use of various currencies for international trade
 - o Creation of International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to facilitate lending of funds for development
 - o Reduction trade restrictions through bodies like World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Effects:
 - o Stability of exchange rates that encouraged international trade and investment
 - o Promoted rise and spread of TNC/MNCs

Rise of TNCs and MNCs:

- Structure:
 - o Headquarters in MEDCs (with regional headquarters distributed elsewhere)
 - o Production facilities in LEDCs
 - o Global distribution of products to international markets (through specialized transport networks)

- Immense gross domestic product:
 - o Example: Wal-Mart has a GDP greater than Iraq, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Luxembourg together (as per Fortune Magazine and World Bank in 2010)

Stability in currency and exchange rates + decreased national barriers to trade + decreased costs + infrastructure for development + fewer restrictions on capital transfers and immigration → growth and spread of TNCs (+ increased volume of international trade)

Cultural

Culture: The ideas, customs, and social behaviors of a group of people or society as seen in material (clothing, food, art) or non-material (language, traditions, religions) manifestations

Agents of cultural diffusion: conquest and occupation, international trade, migration, mass media and the internet, etc.

Cultural globalization:

- Flows easily because it is abstract (this allows newer social media platforms to catalyze digitized flow)
- Unequal flows: dominant and popular cultures flow quickly and take precedence when assimilating into new cultures, as compared to recipient cultures
- Three main perspectives:
 - o Convergence
 - o Hybridization
 - o Differentialism

Cultural Convergence:

- Globalization leads to increasing similarity and homogeneity throughout the world as local cultures are dramatically altered
- Barriers to globalization are weak, and permit assimilation by dominant cultures
- Cultural Imperialism:
 - o Practice of promoting a culture, usually of politically powerful nations amidst that of less potent societies
- Creates a “World Culture”
- McDonaldization:
 - o The process by which fast food restaurants are expanding and gaining control of world markets
 - o Global spread leads to local variants of fast food concepts and adoption of principles in business operations

Cultural Hybridization:

- Global processes integrate with local realities to produce new and unique hybrid cultures
- Globalization is thus seen as a creative process that generates new cultures and continued heterogenization of global culture
- Glocalization:
 - o Portmanteau of “globalization” and “localization”
 - o The “adaptation of a product or service to suit the culture in which it is sold”
 - o Seen through the McDonalds effect
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Case Study: Hainanese Cuisine

- Can be traced back to immigrants from Hainan Islands, China who arrived after the British established a trading port in Singapore in 1819
- The Hainanese people were the slowest to arrive, and “what was left when they got here were jobs in the kitchen” (Ms Yin Phua, a food and travel TV producer)
- Immigrants would work in colonial households as “cookboys” where they adapted Hainanese dishes using British or South East Asian touches (Dr Cynthia Chou, Head of South East Asian Studies at the University of Copenhagen) → cultural globalization

Cultural Differentialism:

- View that globalization is superficial and that local cultures are essentially unaffected by trans-cultural flows
- Lasting differences are preserved
- Strong barriers keep cultures closed to global processes and other cultures’
- Clash of Civilizations (S Huntington):
 - o Huntington argues that the main source of clash between civilizations will no longer be ideological (as in the past), but will now be cultural

Case Study: Peranakan Culture

- Peranakans: Descendants of 15th to 17th century Chinese immigrants who assimilated into local Malay culture (with intermarrying)
- Spoke Malay, English and Hokkien
- Nyonya cuisine blended Malay cooking styles with Chinese ingredients

Political

Key political concepts:

- Nation: A group of people that have a shared sense of imagined community, and regard themselves as a natural political community
- State: A political association that exercises sovereign jurisdiction within defined territorial boundaries
- Sovereignty: Supreme legal authority and unlimited political power over the entire population within a territorial boundary, and having the ability to act as an independent autonomous body with the right to make binding agreements with other sovereign states
- The Modern Nation-State:
 - o Conceived at the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia
 - o Essentially: States are free to pursue their self interests at the cost of others’
 - States are under their own authority
 - Cross border conflicts are private matters between involved parties
 - States have full right to use force to resolve differences (example: war)
- Collective Security:
 - o Articulated by Woodrow Wilson at the League of Nations
 - o Primary motivation: prevent war
 - The doctrine of joint response by all states to aggression committed by any state
 - Threat of collective retaliation makes initiating the aggression irrational

Political globalization:

- “The intensification and expansion of political interrelations across the globe”
- Growing significance of Inter Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs)
- Transnational actors have implications on state sovereignty as IGOs, INGOs and TNCs influence state decision making

Inter Governmental Organizations:

- “Organizations whose memberships consists of multiple states that convene to discuss issues of mutual interest”
- Examples:
 - o Global:
 - Security: UNSC
 - Trade: WTO
 - Development: WB
 - o Regional:
 - Security: NATO
 - Trade: ASEAN
 - Development: Asian Development Bank

International Non Governmental Organizations:

- A Non Governmental Organization with international scope
- Examples:
 - o Global:
 - Trade: Fairtrade international
 - Development: OxFam
 - Human Rights: Human Rights Watch
 - Humanitarian Aid: Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty International
 - Environment: World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace

Case Study: United Nations

- Summary:
 - o An IGO comprised of independent sovereign states
 - o Allows for countries to resolve conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy
 - o Passes resolutions that call for a particular course of action on an issue
- General Assembly:
 - o Comprised of 193 member states which are obliged to adhere to the UN Charter
 - o Not legally binding
- Security Council:
 - o 5 permanent members, and 10 non-permanent members (with 2 year terms)
 - o Legally binding (member nations are obliged by UN charter to carry out SC resolutions)
 - o Penalties for failing to adhere to resolutions:
 - Economic sanctions or embargoes
 - Arm embargoes
 - Collective military action/armed intervention
- Singapore in the UN
 - o Pedra Branca dispute

- Longstanding territorial dispute between Singapore and Malaysia over Pedra Branca (after failure of bilateral negotiations) → ultimately resolved by ICJ
- East Timor
 - UNSC authorized INTERFET (International Force for East Timor) to restore peace and security in East Timor after Indonesian invasions and campaigns of violence
 - Ultimately resulted in the independence of East Timor

Drivers of Globalization

Technological developments (especially in transport and communications):

- Transport:
 - In 1700s, sailing ships averaged 10mph
 - In early 1900s, steam ships averaged 36mph (industrial revolution)
 - In 1960s, jet aircrafts could reach 500mph
- Infrastructure:
 - Suez (artificial canal connecting Mediterranean and Red seas) & Panama Canal (Atlantic to Pacific oceans, in Panama)
 - Containerism and mechanized ports
 - Expansion of road and rail infrastructure (Eurostar, Indian Rail with 115,000km network)
- Communications:
 - Satellites, electronic mass media (radio, TV)
 - Converged devices (smartphones)

Infrastructure, like Bretton Woods systems (+ WTO, WB, IMF, etc.)
TNCs, MNCs

Impacts of Globalization

Economic:

Positive	Negative
<p>Rise in living standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As jobs opportunities, infrastructure and technologies are brought into LEDCs, their living standards rise - Increased national incomes allows governments to spend more on hospitals, schools, etc. - Free trade allows locals to enjoy wider varieties of goods <p>Global markets aided by freer flows of capital and trade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutually beneficial: As TNCs move into countries to set up a base of operations, they trigger a multiplier effect where numerous other small local industries are mobilized → leading to boosts of the local economy 	<p>Increase in income disparity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As TNCs gain power and countries start to depend on them (even the governments), they tend to have lesser power over them - Welfare of workers compromised, people and resources exploited - (Eg. Human trafficking in South America) - Leads to global capitalism, although LEDCs are exploited for resources, the least value is added there (Stan Shih Smile Curve) → MEDCs get richer, LEDCs get poorer - (Quote stats on how rich are getting richer, poor getting poorer) <p>Dependence on TNCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leads to mass ripple effect which

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Toyota in Thailand) - FDIs change the industrial landscape, allows for flow of people, markets and goods - (Eg. In 1975, 8% of the world had a free market system, by 1995 28% had one) - (Eg. World trade increased by 25x from 1970s to 2000s) - (Eg. FDI annual flows increased by 50x between 1970s and 2000s) - (Eg. Average tariffs worldwide on manufactured products decreased from 20% in 1910s to 4% in 2000) <p>Rise of TNCs and MNCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As fewer restrictions and tariffs are placed, TNCs are attracted to come into LEDCs for cheaper resources and labor, and also to set up new markets 	<p>affects countries worldwide due to interconnectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Eg. How the USA subprime crisis in 2005 lead to global recession of 2008) - When 1 TNC ceases operations, the jobs and lives of numerous are affected severely <p>Monopoly over markets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As more established TNCs produce higher quality and cheaper products more quickly, they gain a monopoly over local markets - This sends SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises out of business) <p>Increased competition between countries (to attract TNCs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Countries with poorer infrastructure will lose out greatly to other countries - Might leave certain countries in global backwaters, and worsen political relationships
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Cultural:

Positive	Negative
<p>Hybridization (fusion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration of new and old cultures to form better, stronger cultures - Eg: World Cup Culture - The world cup has penetrated and become part of numerous cultures worldwide, changing each of these cultures (in USA, people watch on TV as they have dinner, in South America as they congregate in front of local TV, etc.) - But all these differing cultures unite at the world cup, leading to a more united world culture - (Quote how many people watched 2014 world cup final) <p>Reintegration of declining cultures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interconnectivity of globalization allows for declining cultures to receive the limelight, and get reintegrated into societies - Popularized by larger movements, 	<p>Cultural convergence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partly due to cultural imperialism where more dominating cultures take over recipient cultures - Leads to loss of cultures - (Eg. How 1 language dies off every 14 days) - (Eg. McDonalds and Starbucks have standard modus operandi across the world → homogenization of cultures, interest in local culture lost) - Also because talent migration occurs → increased homogenization <p>Radicalization through globalization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through the increased interconnected networks, radical ideologies can be easily spread - (Eg. USA Marines clamped down on 100+ Al Qaeda operated and maintained websites used to propagate radical ideology and to

<p>companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Eg. Apple introduced Cherokee as a language on their devices' keyboards) <p>Strengthens identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through interconnecting likeminded people and making the world smaller - (Eg. FARC-Facebook, KONY2012) <p>Increased awareness of foreign cultures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leads to connectivity and common platforms for discourse (less conflict) 	<p>recruit members, between 2004 and 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Globalization led to immigration, which triggered Anders Breivik's right wing ideology → creation of the manifesto that was spread through internet) - Greater diversity (now with the possibility of garnering support) and interaction can lead to increased conflicts between different groups of people
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Political:

Positive	Negative
<p>Growing cooperation and political interrelations through IGOs and INGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leads to peaceful and diplomatic conflict resolution - (Eg. UNSC's handling of East Timor case, ICJ's handling of Pedra Branca dispute) - Regional blocs lead to better trade, better markets, and easier flow - (Eg. European Union, ASEAN) <p>Rise of global movements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Eg. AWARE/HOME) - Medical infrastructure of various countries changed by Bill&Melinda Gates Foundation 	<p>Autonomous power of a nation state declined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Eg. Countries that fail to abide by UNSC resolutions can have sanctions and embargoes imposed on them) - As these nation states become more dependent on other players (TNCs, drivers of the global markets) for growth, they can take fewer strong measures against them - (Eg. FIFA demanded a change in Brazil's legislation that banned beer sale/consumption at stadiums → eventually signed by Brazil's president) - (Eg. South American governments against human trafficking, how they fail to adhere to GA resolutions)

Responses

Positive	Negative
Free trade, free market, increased global wealth	<p>"Core-Periphery" idea (unequal distribution of wealth):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protectionism measures - Localization of the economy
Recognition that minority rights are not protected → protection of minority rights → xenophobia (Singapore, Anders Brevick)	
IGOs	People who are fighting against universalization of laws, etc.

General Questions

Who is responsible for tackling the impacts of globalization?

How does globalization grow civil society?

Who is responsible for tackling the impact of globalization?

Essay Questions

Past Years':

- Explain why globalization is considered a double edged sword.
- Countries only stand to gain from globalization. Do you agree? EYA.
- Globalization is for some countries but not others. Do you agree? EYA.
- The problem with globalization is that countries expect too much from it. Do you agree? Eya

Practice:

- Globalization is merely a tool for richer countries to exploit poorer ones. Do you agree? EYA.
- How far do you agree that developing nations reap only positive economic impacts from the process of globalization?
- It is virtually impossible for the poor to benefit from globalization. Do you agree? EYA.
- Should states embrace or resist economic globalization? EYA.

Evidence

Culture:

- 6000 languages exist as of today, but only 600 are expected to survive in the long run, 1 language dies out every 14 days
 - o Replaced by English in many places (or other dominating culture languages)
- 3.2 billion people are estimated to have watched the South Africa FIFA World Cup
- Ever since FB started in 2004, 150 billion friend connections have been made
- McDonalds is used to celebrate birthdays in HK (even of 30 year olds)
- Gangnam Style has over 1.5 billion views (most of which came from outside SK)

Economic:

- Close to 200,000,000 people currently own or have owned an iPhone
- WTO managed to average tariffs to 1/10 of what they were in 1940s
- Of the largest 100 economic entities in the world, over 50 are companies not countries
- Growing income disparity (bad, and getting worse):
 - o In the last decade, the % of liquid funds held by poorest 1/5 of the global population dropped from 2.3% to 1.4%
 - o % of liquid funds held by richest 1/5 of global population increased from 70% to 85%