

a-level exam questions & answers: global systems & global governance (section a) > 6-mark assorted questions (AO1 & 2)



References:

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This document is available both as a pdf and editable word document – from the [global systems and governance topic page](#) - which can be printed.



what are ao1&2 6-mark questions?

At A-Level, you are likely to receive two types of 6 Mark Questions, involving one or multiple figures.

Questions which require you to use this data **AND YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE** are AO1&2 Questions, as they require a relevant understanding of the topic involved.

writing tips & tricks:

With these questions, it's always valuable to **briefly think or note exactly what points you are going to make**, and how to **reference one of the figures each time**. Do this over and over consistently.

You are looking to make around 3 well explained points with reference to the figure to gain full marks or make more points and explain in less detail. On some questions you may be able to follow the **OHLAD** structure, which goes as below:

OVERVIEW > using the figure what general trends or patterns can you spot. Use your knowledge to explain them.

[DATA] HIGHS > from your previous observation, highlight an example of one extreme in data (for example if there is a map showing local deprivation, pick out some areas with the highest levels and try to suggest reasoning behind this.

[DATA] LOWS > vice versa for data which is at the bottom end of the scale, if applicable.

ANOMALIES > is there anything in the figure which doesn't look like it belongs there? If yes, then write it down and again why it may be the case.

DATA MANIPULATION > **this is how we give out the higher marks** - don't only use the data you can see in the figure – modify it. For example, use percentages, fractions, compare it to others etc... for example if you have one area of a map suggesting poverty levels are at 55% and another at 30%, you could use your calculator to quickly say that the area is 0.54 times as impoverished, or 54% (30/55.). Examiners **L O V E** this kind of thing!

Successfully mastering this helps with your understanding and application of concepts as it shows evidence of wider knowledge and is good exam practice. You have approximately 8.5 minutes on this, so make sure you don't overwrite, which is easy to do.

want to know more about how to answer 6-mark questions (and all the others for that matter) more effectively? have a look at our [geography portal ULTIMATE GUIDE TO A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY booklet here](#) or by scanning the qr code to the right. It has loads of helpful information – and there's even one for gcse students also!



2) Using figure 2, 3 and your own knowledge, compare the correlation between the core periphery model of global development and real GDP change in 2017 and suggest reasons for your findings.

[6 Marks]

Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.1 >> Globalisation

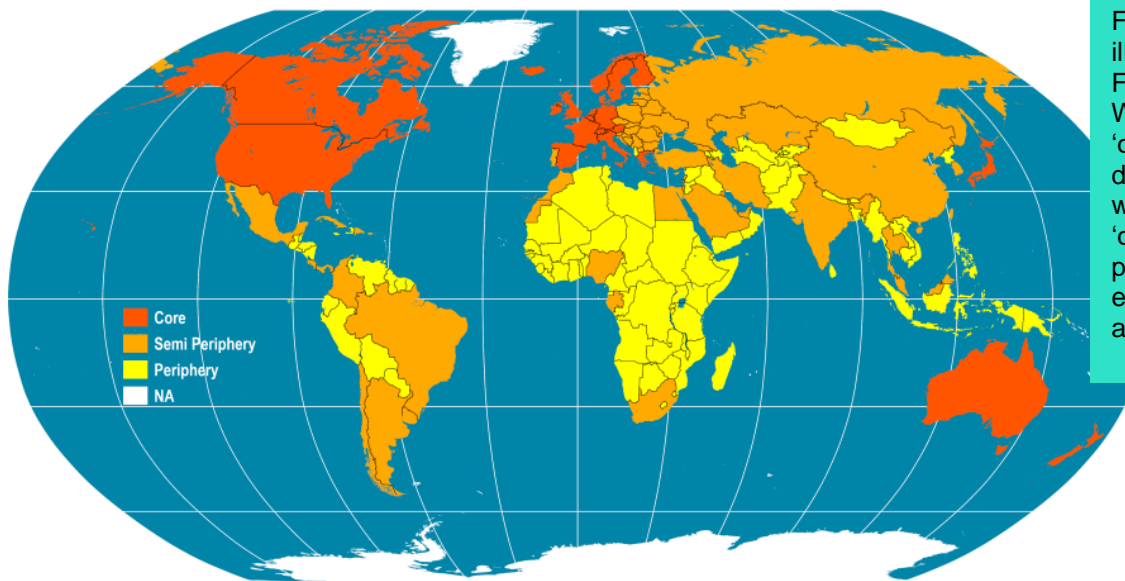


Figure 2 < shows an illustrated version of Frank and Wallerstein's proposed 'core-periphery model', dividing the world into wealthy, powerful 'core' countries, semi-periphery newly emerging economies and periphery nations.

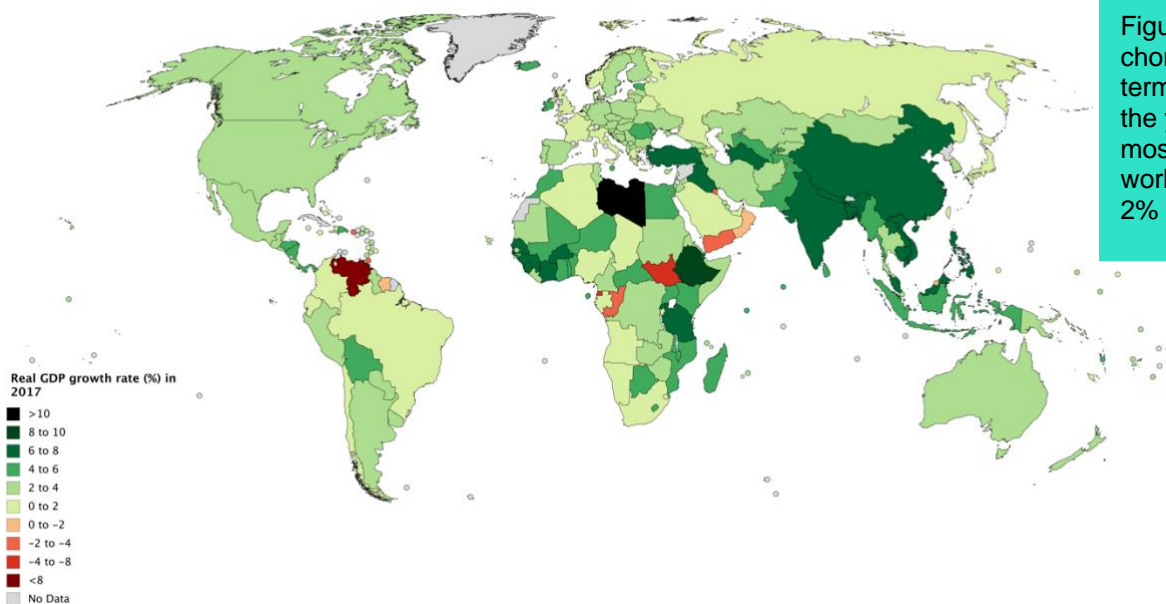


Figure 3 < shows a choropleth map of real terms GDP change in the year 2017 among most countries of the world. This is split into 2% increments.

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3) Using figures 4a, 4b and your own knowledge, to what extent do you agree that tourism is a threat to the global common of Antarctica?

[6 Marks]

Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.5 >> The 'Global Commons'

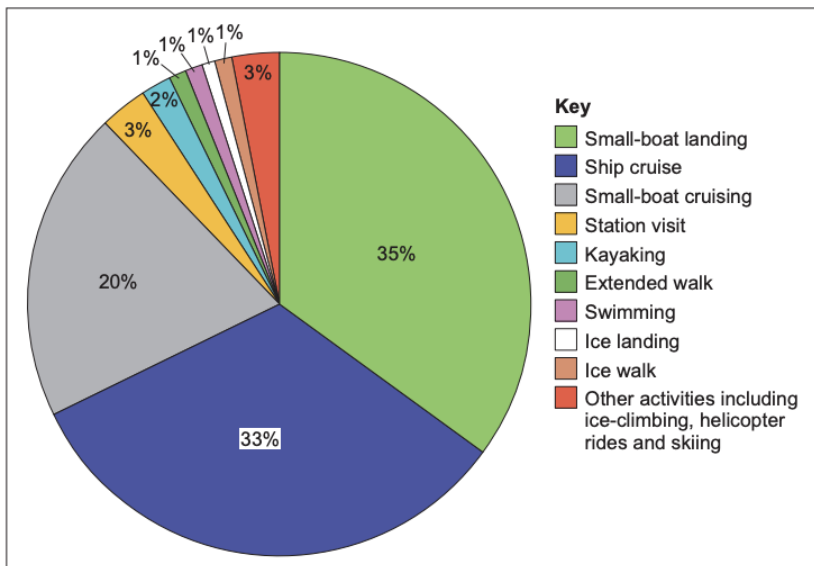


Figure 4a < shows percentage breakdown of main tourist activities for visitors to Antarctica in 2016-17. In the 2016-17 season there were a total of 44,202 visitors.

Figure 4b > shows a small-boat landing party of tourists visiting a penguin colony on South Orkney Islands in Antarctica.



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4) Using figure 5 and your own knowledge, to what extent do patterns of global shipping movement mirror the core-periphery model?

[6 Marks]

Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.3 >> International Trade & Access To Markets

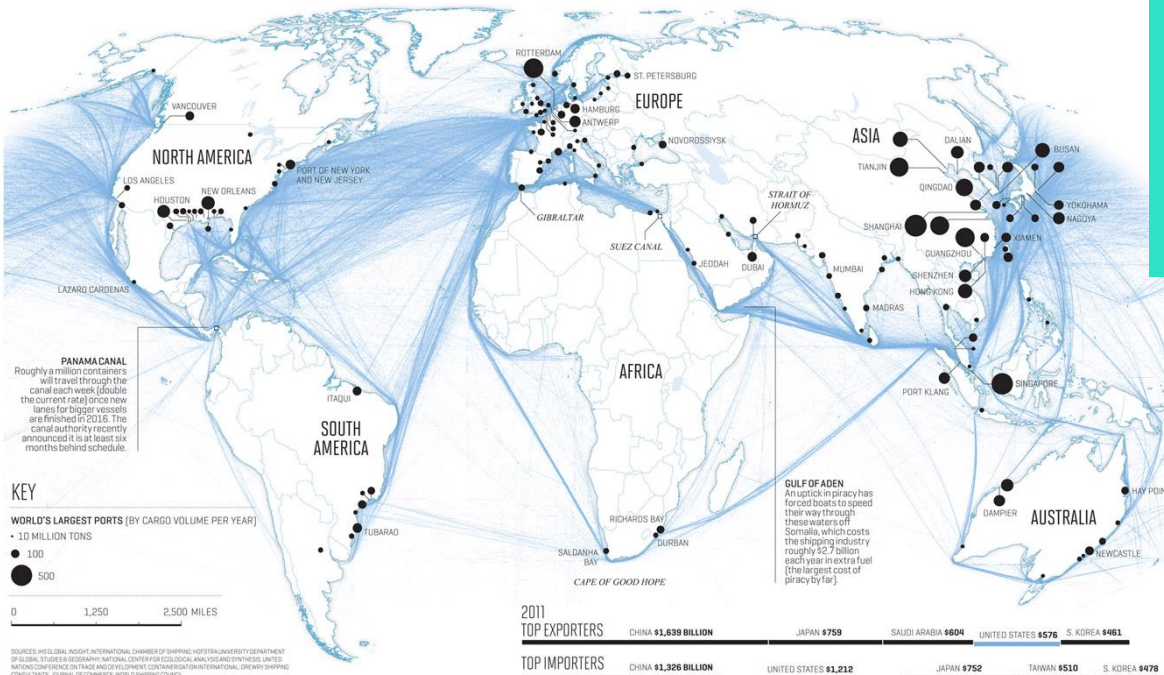


Figure 5 < shows global shipped cargo volumes and routes in 2011, including the top importers and exporters.

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a-level exam questions & answers:

global systems & governance (section a) >

mark scheme | 6-mark assorted questions (AO1 & 2)



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Q.:	Sp. Ref.:	Information For Markers:	B'down:	Marks:
1	3.2.1.3 	<p>Using figure 1 and your own knowledge, assess the extent to which this pattern is similar to the global trade in a food commodity or manufactured product you have studied.</p> <p>AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of the patterns of world trade in oil and the food commodity or manufactured product studied. AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding to the novel situation to analyse and evaluate the extent to which there are similarities and differences in the pattern.</p> <p>Mark scheme Level 2 (4-6 Marks) AO1 – Demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering clear analysis and evaluation drawn appropriately from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are evident with clear relevance.</p> <p>Level 1 (1-3 Marks) AO1 – Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions, change. AO2 – Applies limited knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering basic analysis and evaluation drawn from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are basic with limited relevance.</p> <p>Notes for answers This question requires knowledge of the world trade in either a food commodity or manufactured product. Answers should show awareness of the extent to which this world trade compares with world trade in oil. The answer will be very dependent on the choice. No credit for description of Figure 1 in isolation.</p> <p>AO1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade patterns of food commodities are very much dependent on the where the food can be grown. This pattern has become more complex with new technologies allowing food to be grown more universally. Food commodities will vary depending on the example. For example bananas are mainly grown in between the tropics and production is centred on Latin America, West Africa and Indonesia and India. 80% of exports are produced in Latin America and the Caribbean. The largest importers are the EU and the US. 90% of the price stays in HICs. Manufactured goods flows are mainly and traditionally a movement of high value manufactured products from the more 	AO1= 3 AO2= 3	6

		<p>developed/high income countries to the less developed/low income countries, and of low value manufactures from the less developed countries to the more developed, although this is no longer so clear cut.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World trade in manufactured products will very much depend on the example chosen. Textiles are predominantly manufactured in south and south-east Asia, particularly in the low labour cost areas of Bangladesh and Vietnam. There are also pockets of manufacturing in Eastern Europe. The largest importers are the rich developed countries such as the US, UK and Japan. <p>AO2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To some extent there will be similarities with whatever example is used. Figure 1 shows that the biggest consumers of oil are the EU and US/Canada. The EU consumes 22.4 million barrels, which is the largest value. It imports oil from a variety of locations. This is similar to most world trade patterns. For example, it compares favourably with world trade in bananas or textiles. Analysis of the similarities in the export patterns. For example, many of the countries exporting oil are found in the tropics such as Latin America or in west Africa, this is similar for coffee and tea production. Many LICs are oil exporters. This will be similar to many primary food commodities. Consideration of the extent to which the amount of oil exported is similar to the food commodity or manufactured product. For example, although LICs such as those in west Africa do export oil the amounts are often far less than food commodities. The pattern of oil may have more in common with manufactured products, but this will depend on the product studied. The extent to which the spread of countries is similar. Oil is very much a global product. It is exported from all continents except Australasia. The import patterns have an even larger spread. The pattern of oil export is likely to be very different to the food commodity or manufactured product. Export of oil is dominated by the Middle East, producing 28.4 million barrels, more than double the next largest exporter (USA/Canada). This is unlikely to be the same for their product. They may consider the extent to which domination of one world region is also present for their commodity. For example, banana trade is dominated by exports from Latin America. Imports of most products dominated by EU countries and the US. The extent to which there are differences between oil and the commodity studied. They may consider this geographically or economically. An evaluation of the usefulness of the oil flow map would also be creditworthy as they may highlight that the oil map is only showing flows above 1 million barrels so therefore any countries / regions receiving less than this will not be shown. 		
2	3.2.1.1	<p>Using figure 2, 3 and your own knowledge, compare the correlation between the core periphery model of global development and real GDP change in 2017 and suggest reasons for your findings</p>		

AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of the concepts of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of a country as well as the (Frank-Wallerstein) Core Periphery Model

AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding in comparing and contrasting datasets along with logical reasoning surrounding the trends observed.

Mark scheme

Level 2 (4–6 marks)

AO1 – Demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change.

AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering clear analysis and evaluation drawn appropriately from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are evident with clear relevance.

Level 1 (1-3 Marks)

AO1 – Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions, change.

AO2 – Applies limited knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering basic analysis and evaluation drawn from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are basic with limited relevance.

Notes for answers


This question relies on a high-level ability for candidates to link two geographical concepts which they should be familiar with, whilst making constant and relevant references to, and manipulating the data of, the provided figures.

AO1

- The concept of GDP – Gross Domestic Product (per capita) specifically as a measure of relative growth / decline suggesting changing levels of wealth in countries of different development. By and large the average global citizen has become 4.5x wealthier than in 1950.
- GDP is a measure of market value of goods and services produced by a nation. It is correlated with development fairly closely. Typically, countries will be attempting to grow GDP at the highest rate, although for a variety of reasons such as conflict, corruption or political tension certain nations may experience declining GDP, and fewer companies are willing to invest there.
- Knowledge and understanding of the (Frank & Wallerstein) Core-Periphery model as a method of dividing countries. Most core countries can be found in Western Europe, North America, Australasia and Japan. No further credit is available for stating concept as is mentioned in caption.

AO2

- Figure 3 suggests that GDP (global wealth or similar) has increased in nearly all nations in the year 2017, with only 10 countries (around 5%) registering a relative decline; regardless of their status in the core-periphery model.
- There is reasonable evidence to suggest a correlation between GDP growth in 2017 and the core-periphery model, but not that the richer 'core' nations are growing fastest and vice versa.
- However, it can be argued that the group of countries which are growing at the highest rate are typically semi periphery

		<p>nations, with both India and China (top 5 global economies) registering growth of between 6 and 8%, over 2x as much as the USA and UK, two similarly important 'core' nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likewise, on one hand, many periphery nations are LICs, particularly concentrated in Africa, where all but 5 nations are periphery, which have smaller economies, tend to grow at a higher rate than core nations of between 4-8%. Conversely, they are more vulnerable to external events, or systematic shocks such as conflict or corruption which has reduced GDP significantly. As per figures 2 & 3, all countries experiencing GDP decline are periphery. An example of this is Venezuela, which has shrunk globally at the highest rate, at over 8%, due to fluctuations in their main export – oil. Another anomalous result is Libya which had an economic growth of well over 10%. (This anomalous result is a result of ongoing conflict which destroyed the country's economy following the Arab Spring of 2011, and it has 'rebounded'.) An argument could be levied that core countries aren't as rapid growing than semi/periphery nations but are more stable in this growth. No core regions have experienced a GDP decline in 2017, with all registering growth of between 0 and 4% annually. This slow but stable growth can be linked to core nations typically being wealthier per capita, with higher wages, more established companies as well as being all western style democracies so autocratic large-scale decisions like infrastructure building in China is impossible (thus more challenging to grow GDP relatively quickly.) Credit any other valid information. 		
3	3.2.1.5 	<p>Using Figure 4a, 4b and your own knowledge, to what extent do you agree that tourism is a threat to the global common of Antarctica?</p> <p>AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of the threats to Antarctica from tourism.</p> <p>AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding to the novel situation to analyse and evaluate the extent to which tourism is a threat to Antarctica.</p> <p>Mark scheme</p> <p>Level 2 (4–6 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering clear analysis and evaluation drawn appropriately from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are evident with clear relevance.</p> <p>Level 1 (1–3 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions, change. AO2 – Applies limited knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering basic analysis and evaluation drawn from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are basic with limited relevance.</p>	AO1= 3 AO2= 3	6

		<p>Notes for answers</p> <p>This question requires knowledge of the threat from tourism in Antarctica. Answers should show awareness of the extent to which the pie-chart and image suggest tourism is a threat. Threats from tourism not derived from the figures can be credited as AO1 only.</p> <p>AO1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism numbers in Antarctica have more than doubled in the past 20 years putting increased pressure on its fragile nature. • There is a significant danger from cruise ships in terms of oil spills and introduction of invasive species such as Mediterranean mussels. • However, global governance through the Antarctic Treaty system and IAATO attempts to limit the threat by preventing large cruise ships with more than 500 tourists from landing. • Tourists can only reach a very small proportion of Antarctica and research suggests that only 10 out of 200 landing sites show sign of wear and tear. <p>AO2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of Figure 4a shows that up to 53% of people may not actually be landing on Antarctica so the threat may be less direct. However, a third are large cruise ships which run the risk of ice-collision and subsequent oil spills. These large cruise ships could also bring in invasive species. • However, this is also a sign that companies are signing up to the IAATO agreement that large cruise ships are not allowed to land. • Figure 4a suggests that some visitors do more extreme activities such as ice-walking, swimming and kayaking. These activities will require more infrastructure and so pose a larger threat to the natural landscape and the local wildlife. As people want more adventurous holidays, demand for these activities might increase in the future. • Figure 4a shows that 1% do extended walks which will take people further away from the landing sites. Although a small percentage it is about 4400 people, posing a threat to fragile lichen species for example, and penguin colonies. • Figure 4b shows that tourists have landed on a penguin colony. Evidence shows that penguin breeding and feeding patterns are affected by tourism. The tourists may also pose a threat to lichens that will grow on the rocky shoreline • However, in Figure 4b the tourists are wearing red jackets as imposed by IAATO. This makes them show up on the ice and suggests this is a reputable tourist company. The landing craft is also small. By landing in specified locations, it protects other areas of Antarctica. • There may be an overall conclusion to consider the extent to which tourism is a threat. Any reasonable conclusion is valid as long it is related to evidence derived from Figures 4a and 4b. • Credit any other valid approach. 		
4	3.2.1.3	<p>Using figure 5 and your own knowledge, to what extent do patterns of global shipping movement mirror the core-periphery model?</p>	AO1= 3 AO2= 3	6

AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of global shipping & containerisation being important factors in globalisation and (frank-wallerstein) Core Periphery Model.

AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to be able to relate the figure available to a concept learnt within globalisation, with reference to global trade and access to markets.

Mark scheme

Level 2 (4–6 marks)

AO1 – Demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change.

AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering clear analysis and evaluation drawn appropriately from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are evident with clear relevance.

Level 1 (1-3 Marks)

AO1 – Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions, change.

AO2 – Applies limited knowledge and understanding to the novel situation offering basic analysis and evaluation drawn from the context provided. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are basic with limited relevance.

Notes for answers

Q4 is not from an AQA past paper but could very well be used due to its relevance, however students found this a challenging question to answer, possibly because relating a figure to a concept isn't typically taught. It requires a detailed understanding of different components in the figure.

AO1

- During the 1960s, processes of containerisation, transport technology and global shipping have allowed for goods to be transported across the world at a scale hitherto unimaginable; flows of products being a key factor in our globalised world. It is estimated up to 80% of the goods trade travels through marine shipping, valued at approximately \$14 trillion!!! In 2019.
- The amount of goods carried by container, for example, increased from around 102 million tons in 1980 to 1.83 billion tons in 2017.
- The Frank-Wallerstein Core-Periphery model is a concept in globalisation which divides the world into more economically important and wealthier 'core' nations such as the USA, UK, Japan, Western Europe etc... and producing countries which are either referred to as 'semi-periphery' roughly mirroring the rise in NEE Newly Emerging Economies, and LIC 'periphery' nations, less involved in global trade and flows.
- This concept is controversial as it could be argued that nations which are globally important have shifted and changed. For example, India (and sometimes China – 2nd largest) is classified as a semi-periphery nation despite being the 4th largest global economy.

AO2

- Figure 5 shows global shipping routes, top importing and exporting nations (by boat), as well as the largest ports by cargo volume. It can be observed that there are a few trends in

line with the core periphery model. Notably, Western Europe and North America have the highest concentration of shipping ports between 10 and 500 million tonnes.

- Countries as small as the UK have 8 ports, suggesting they are closely aligned with flows of global shipping traffic, whilst in the whole of Africa, considered a periphery region, there are only 6 international ports, none of which process more than 100 million tonnes per year.
- The busiest trade routes centre around China and East Asia 'the world's factory' – which is both the largest exporting and importing nation at over a trillion dollars in both. Formerly a periphery nation, by most metrics China is now a semi-periphery / core nation, and the concentration of ports with over 500 million tonnes (at 6) is more than the rest of the world as per figure 5. Countries such as China have leveraged cheap labour and a large population to become secondary industrial powerhouses, exporting to the rest of the world at a scale unimaginable even 50 years ago.
- Likewise, the USA, South Korea and Japan (core nations) are all within the top 5 shipping importers and exporters, although the USA imports much more than it exports, possibly indicative of deindustrialisation and the rise of a service-oriented economy, a common feature of highly developed core nations.
- Additionally, the transatlantic and transpacific routes between these core nations are some of the most common shipping routes.
- There are anomalous results, such as other 'core' nations, such as New Zealand, receiving very little international trade (likely because of their location and low population), whilst Brazil, a periphery nation, has more large ports than the rest of South America, and significant flows to Western Europe.
- Credit any other valid information.