

# a-level exam questions & answers:

## global systems & global governance (section a) >

### 4-mark assorted questions (AO1)



References:

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

1) Explain the concept of and types of global 'flows'.

Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.1 Globalisation

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2) Describe the role of technology in the growth of globalisation.

Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.1 Globalisation

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3) Explain how trade agreements are a factor in globalisation.  
Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.1 Globalisation & 3.2.1.3 International Trade & Access To Markets



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4) Explain the concept of the 'global commons.'  
Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.5 Global Commons



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5) Outline the 'costs' of globalisation that are perceived by some people.  
Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.6 Globalisation Critique

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## writing tips & tricks:

These questions are answered purely on **AO1** – meaning demonstrating knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions, and change, at a variety of scales.

In recent years, the A-Level specification has changed from having 4 X 1-mark multiple choice questions to a single 4-mark answer. The key to answering these is being very **concise** and **accurate** when writing. Make and if necessary, elaborate on your points in the answer – either four distinct points, or two and explain them in more detail.

THINK! Can I see four marks in my answer? Is there enough content?

**Remember to use the question command word – what is it asking?** If describe, say what you know. If explain, focus on how something is occurring. If outline, break down key points from the subtopic etc...

Bad day at the office? Can't remember anything? Geog. Portal topic checklist tests can help you loads 😊

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V1.2, last updated 30.10.21



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## global systems & global governance (section a) >


### mark scheme | 4-mark assorted questions (AO1)




version stage v1.1, last updated 30.10.21

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Q.:	Sp. Ref.:	Information For Markers:	B'down:	Marks:
1	3.2.1.1	<p><b>Describe the concept of and types of global 'flows'.</b></p> <p><b>Point marked</b> Allow (1) mark for each valid point with additional marks for developed points (d).</p> <p><b>Notes for answers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globalisation can be defined as the increasing interconnectedness of the world's economic, cultural and political systems (1)</li> <li>• Flows broadly describe the movement of something from A to B or one area to another. (1)</li> <li>• These can be both tangible, such as flows of labour (people / movements of migration) and products (traditional manufactured goods) (1) or intangible such as flows of services ((in the) tertiary / quaternary sectors) and information (such as via the internet / mobile devices / technological advancements) (d)</li> <li>• Additionally, most flows involve transactions of wealth / capital (1) – which themselves then become flows within this larger global network. (d) With regards to capital, this can occur in a number of forms, such as TNC Profit Repatriation (d), FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) (d), Aid (Bilateral / Multilateral such as through the UN) (d), as well as remittance payments (d) etc...</li> <li>• All flows occur on different scales and time periods – but importantly they occur from and to all corners of the globe. (1)</li> </ul> <p>For full credit, reference must be made to at least 3 flows occurring, if more than just 'name dropped' - with reference ideally to four. Credit any further evidence of understanding or examples, bearing in mind the trigger word in this question is 'describe' not 'explain.'</p>	AO1= 4	4
2	3.2.1.1	<p><b>Describe the role of technology in the growth of globalisation.</b></p> <p><b>Point marked</b> Allow (1) mark for each valid point with additional marks for developed points (d).</p> <p><b>Notes for answers</b></p>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Globalisation can be defined as the increasing interconnectedness of the world's economic, cultural and political systems. In recent years, one of the most important influences in all dimensions of globalisation is technology. (1)</li> </ul> <p>A few examples follow. Please note this list is not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This can be through advancements in transportation and transportation infrastructure, such as aircraft, vehicles etc... which have improved the accessibility of the world. (1)</li> <li>Computers, phones, e-mail and the internet have made global communication easier than ever before, opening up new markets and creating a 24/7 economy (1) – for example according to the world bank in 2020 the remittance market was worth over \$700 Billion. (d)</li> <li>Improvements to technology in education and health have led to rising life expectancy and literacy - leading social mobility and access to improve. (1)</li> <li>Technology has also led to cultural globalisation, for example the 'Americanisation' of tastes and fashion through global advertising. (1)</li> </ul> <p>Credit any further evidence or valid examples. At least two developed points must be made for full credit.</p>		
3	3.2.1.3 	<p>Explain how trade agreements are a factor in globalisation</p> <p><b>Point marked</b> Allow (1) mark for each valid point with additional marks for developed points (d).</p> <p><b>Notes for answers</b> Allow credit for specific knowledge and understanding of what trade agreements are and how they lead to globalisation. Candidates may also consider that trade agreements have occurred as a result of globalisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trade agreements are formed by countries joining together to form a trade bloc that encourages trade between themselves and promotes economic co-operation (1), for example NAFTA (d).</li> <li>Trade agreements are a factor in globalisation by encouraging trade across a number of countries. This may lead to increased investment from other countries (1) for example Audi has built a factory in Mexico in order to gain access to other NAFTA countries (1).</li> <li>Trade agreements can lead to people moving more freely to seek work in the trading bloc (1). This encourages globalisation by increasing links between countries as often supporting goods and services will follow (d).</li> <li>Bilateral agreements allow trade between two countries and can therefore enable greater flow of goods and labour between the two countries (1).</li> <li>Without trade agreement some countries wouldn't trade with others (1). Therefore, agreements such as the WTO</li> </ul>		

		<p>which covers trade in goods, services and designs (1) (d) help trade flow freely by providing a forum for negotiations encouraging trade across the globe (d).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, it can also be argued that trade agreements are necessary because of globalisation (1). Countries need to act as bloc to be able to negotiate on a global scale due to unequal power (d).</li> </ul> <p>The notes for answers are not exhaustive. Credit any valid points. Credit given for how lack of agreements, e.g. quotas and tariffs, will act against globalisation.</p>		
4	3.2.1.5 	<p><b>Explain the concept of the ‘global commons.’</b></p> <p><b>Point marked</b> Allow (1) mark for each valid point with additional marks for developed points (d).</p> <p><b>Notes for answers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The global commons refers to the Earth’s shared resources (1), such as the deep oceans and atmosphere (d).</li> <li>• The global commons includes those areas that have no national governance but are used jointly by all people (1).</li> <li>• The only land-mass considered to be part of the global commons is Antarctica (1).</li> <li>• Some people define the commons to be even broader to include resources that are shared by all but not controlled by any single country (1) for example, cyber-space, language and science (1) this is referred to as the ‘common heritage of humanity’ (d).</li> <li>• Access to such shared resources has historically been difficult but advances in technology mean that such resources are in danger of being over exploited (1) for example the potential oil reserves in Antarctica (1).</li> <li>• The notion of the tragedy of the commons (1) as there is no single jurisdiction there is always the potential for overexploitation (1). If an individual country / group acts independently this will be contrary to the whole group and the shared resource becomes depleted (d).</li> <li>• As current resources become depleted there will be an increasing need for the global commons to meet the needs of the world’s population (1).</li> </ul> <p>Allow credit for specific knowledge of what the ‘global commons’ are and why they need protection. Candidates must outline the concept and explain why they need protection for full marks. Max 1 mark for list of examples without elaboration.</p>		
5	3.2.1.6	<p><b>Outline the ‘costs’ of globalisation that are perceived by some people.</b></p> <p><b>Point marked</b></p>		

Allow (1) mark for each valid point with additional marks for developed points (d).

**Notes for answers**

- Globalisation critique / counter-globalisation refers to the view that elements of our globalised, interconnected world are not as valuable as perceived, and that nations and people would be better of less intertwined with one another's affairs. (1)
- Some people argue that 'top down' globalisation has overemphasised benefits for those in power (1) at the risk and growing vulnerability of those marginalised, minority groups or those lower down the social hierarchy. (d)
- It is also argued that the global 'core-periphery model' has led to a 'race to the bottom' in outsourcing of products and services to lower income countries where workers are often exploited and treated poorly. (1)
- Furthermore, globalisation and global wealth growth has also been paired with environmental destruction and a decline in the health of the natural world (1) – pollution, overcrowding and overconsumption being some of these core reasons. (d)
- Others, such as US President Trump, argue that globalisation unfairly affects certain economies or countries (1) – hence his trade war with China, who he claimed 'stole American industry.' (d)
- Criticism of globalisation may also involve global institutions such as the UN (1) – who are often branded as 'bureaucratic and ineffective' or the EU 'who took the sovereignty of countries in it' – which led to the Brexit referendum. (d)

Further examples can be credited. For full credit more than just a general understanding of globalisation critique must be shown, with at least three points or two developed points visible.