

BITS PILANI, DUBAI CAMPUS
Dubai International Academic City, U.A.E.
Semester II 2021-2022
MIDSEM EXAM (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: HSS F317 Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO GLOBALISATION
Date: 21.03.2022 Time: 90 minutes Maximum Marks:30 Weightage:30

1. The Internet has been described as the “backbone of globalisation”, and “a wonderful invention that has made our lives more diverse, colorful and richer”. In what fundamental ways has the Internet been responsible for the acceleration of globalisation in the contemporary era? Answer your question with respect to economic and cultural globalisation, specifically. Would you adopt the hyperglobalist, transformationalist or sceptic view in explaining the Internet’s impact on globalisation on the whole? Give reasons and cite specific examples in support of your answer.

5 Marks

2. Globalisation is defined as the process of interdependence in which states are increasingly interconnected and social relations are stretched across national boundaries. However, sceptics argue that neither is globalisation new, nor is it global, and neither is the interdependence between states very deep. Give reasons and cite examples for why sceptics make each of these arguments. Do you agree with the sceptic view? Give reasons in support of your answer.

5 Marks

3. Terms such as de-globalisation and slowbalisation are becoming more and more common in our world today. What are some of the recent developments that have posed a challenge to globalisation? How do these developments threaten to turn back globalisation, or slow globalisation? Discuss at least three such developments. Amongst the developments you point out, what in your view is the most threatening to the process of globalisation and why?

5 Marks

4. Contemporary economic globalisation is considered the bedrock of the modern era of globalisation. It is traced to the gradual emergence of the international economic order set up at Bretton Woods in 1945. What was the rationale for the emergence of this system? Describe how the internationalisation of trade and finance has facilitated economic globalisation. Are there any emerging challenges to economic globalisation that you can foresee in the context of international trade and finance? Discuss any two.

5 Marks

5. In what ways have capitalism and liberalisation impacted economic globalisation? Discuss at least two examples of capitalism’s and liberalisation’s positive and negative impacts. Klaus Schwab, World Economic Forum Founder and Executive Chairman said in 2020 that there is a growing need for a new kind of capitalism. Why do you think he said this? Do you agree with his view? Give reasons and cite examples in support of your answer.

5 Marks

6 Marks

6. What specific example of cultural globalisation would you point to if you were respectively, a hyperglobalist, a sceptic and a transformationalist? On the whole, what do you associate with cultural globalisation more: cultural hybridisation or cultural uniformity? That is, do you think cultural globalisation makes people around the world more culturally alike or more diverse? Give reasons and cite examples in support of your answer.

5 Marks

BITS PILANI, DUBAI CAMPUS
Dubai International Academic City, U.A.E.
Semester II 2021-2022
COMPRE EXAM (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: HSS F317 Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO GLOBALISATION
Date: 30.05.2022 Time: 3 Hours Maximum Marks: 40 Weightage: 40

7. Globalisation signifies the trans-planetary flow of not only goods and ideas, but people as well. In your estimation, how important is the flow of people as compared to goods and ideas to the process of globalisation? In what ways does migration impact globalisation? As compared to earlier flows of people, do you think the contemporary era with its technological advancements and connectivity is responsible for greater human migrations across the world than earlier eras? Do you think there has been a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment in the world in recent years? What is responsible for this rise in anti-foreigner policies and sentiment? According to you, what kind of challenge or threat does anti-immigrant sentiment pose to globalisation in the future? Support your answer wherever necessary with suitable real world examples.

8. Ever since the 1999 Seattle WTO protests, globalisation has faced predictions of its end. These predictions only intensified after the 2008 economic crisis, the election of Donald Trump in the United States, and more recently, the outbreak of Covid in 2020 and the Ukraine-Russia conflict in 2022. In what ways is the Ukraine-Russia war impacting globalisation? How do you compare and contrast the impact the pandemic has had vis-à-vis the Ukraine-Russia war on globalisation? What do you think the near future holds for our globalised world, given the twin challenges the pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war has put on the world? Are we headed to a world which, like Edward Alden says, “is a more divided world economically that will mirror what is clearly a more divided world politically”? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples.

6 Marks

9. Globalisation has allowed agricultural production to grow globally much faster than in the past. In what other ways has globalisation facilitated agricultural trade positively? Why then is food security still such a grave concern in our world, and what does globalisation have to do with it? The absolute number of undernourished persons declined from 1,010.6 million in 1990-92 to 794.6 million in 2014-16[2]. After a period of sustained decline, this number increased from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. What are some of the negative impacts that critics of corporate globalisation of agriculture highlight? Do you agree with them? Give reasons in support of your answer.

6 Marks

10. Arguably, since 1989, globalisation has brought more jobs, higher wages and lower prices, not just for richer countries but also for developing and poorer nations. Why then is inequality still rampant in our world? What relationship does inequality have with globalisation? Discuss the relationship citing the views that both support and critique the impact globalisation has had on inequality. Which view do you find more convincing and why? Support your answer appropriately.

6 Marks

11. The scale, speed, and depth of Earth's environmental decline have been unprecedented in recent decades. In your view, what have been the main causes for this environmental degradation? Do you agree with the view that the ecological devastation of the planet is the price we have to pay for the higher productivity and economic prosperity that globalisation has brought to our world? Keeping the challenge of climate change in mind, do you think there is a way we can globalise in a sustainable and environment-friendly manner? Or are globalisation and environmental sustainability two mutually contradictory in nature? Does the answer lie in resisting globalisation or altering it, in the context of globalisation? Give examples in support of your answer.

6 Marks

12. Hyperglobalists suggest that the territorial divisions between countries in the world are becoming increasingly irrelevant, and that states are even less capable of determining the direction of life within their borders. For example, the workings of global capital markets limit the ability of states

to control exchange rates or protect their currency, thereby making nation-states vulnerable to the discipline imposed by economic choices made elsewhere, over which states have no practical control, for example when countries go to the IMF for loans and are forced to adopt austerity measures, as the IMF-Sri Lanka talks highlight. Are there any other policy arenas you can think of where nation-states have been constrained in their choices by global forces? How does this compare with the Sceptic view on the power nation-states continue to have over making policy within their borders and even externally? Which view do you support and why? Give reasons and use specific case studies to support your answer.

5 Marks

13. How would you assess globalisation's overall impact on India? In what ways has globalisation presented an opportunity for India, and in what ways has it posed a challenge? How has India responded to the pressures and challenges brought about by globalisation? Discuss the impacts of globalisation on India keeping in mind all four dimensions: economic, political, cultural and ecological, and take suitable instances to support your answer.

5 Marks