



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Level

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**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

**8987/11**

Paper 1 Written paper

**October/November 2012**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

INSTRUCTIONS (Resource Booklet)

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This Resource Booklet contains Documents 1 and 2 which you should use to answer the questions.

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the documents before attempting to answer the questions.  
This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.



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This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



The documents below consider the impact of globalisation. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the question paper.

**Document 1:** adapted from OneWorld.net's Globalisation Guide, updated in April 2010. OneWorld is a network organisation working for sustainable development and human rights.

The globalisation of our modern world has been the salvation for many but a curse for the poor. From the perspective of the world's poorest countries, undemocratic global governance has allowed the economic dimension of globalisation to dance to the tune of big business. Globalisation has distributed its favours too unevenly, provoking protests from campaigners for global justice.

Globalisation has drawn attention to itself as a consequence of its rapid acceleration. The spread and integration of people, commerce, knowledge and culture across the planet has advanced since the dawn of civilisation.

It is only over the most recent generation that, driven by microchip technology, cheap transportation and an avaricious business culture, the intensity of globalisation has delivered controversial results. The pace of change is most apparent in developed countries. Most everyday household goods and clothing are imported from a single country, China; simple enquiries about banking or insurance may involve a call centre in India, and flexible educational courses are available from institutions across the world through distance learning.

These illustrations of globalisation are broadly positive in their effect, creating space for personal fulfilment, stimulating wealth through efficiency and encouraging cross-cultural experience. They also ignore how these rewards are weighted towards those whose circumstances are already relatively prosperous.

By contrast, the global poor have been left behind. Whereas sharply rising volumes of foreign trade and investment over the last twenty years have transformed standards of living in industrialised countries, the number of sub-Saharan Africans living in extreme poverty has risen. Whereas internet technology has revolutionised our capacity for knowledge and interaction, swathes of South Asia and Africa provide no electricity, let alone computers. Whereas the global supply chains of our supermarket culture deliver exotic year-round affordable foods, over a billion people in the developing world are too poor to feed themselves adequately.

Contemporary globalisation is therefore linked with widening global inequality. The post-colonial search for an effective development model for the losers of globalisation reflects the anxiety of the winners.

**Document 2:** adapted from an article on WorldPublicOpinion.org, a global source of public opinion research on international affairs and policy. The poll referred to was conducted in 2007 and the results published in April of the same year.

Support for globalization is remarkably strong throughout the world. Seventeen countries plus the Palestinian territories were asked if 'globalization, especially increasing connections of our economy with others around the world, is mostly good or mostly bad' for their country. In every case positive answers outweigh negative ones.

The highest levels of support are found in countries with export-orientated economies: China 87%, South Korea 86% and Israel 82%. Positive answers fall below 50% in only three countries, though such responses outweigh negative replies by wide margins. Those with more education are more likely to feel that globalization is mostly good in 13 of the 18 countries. Younger respondents, ages 16–29, are more positive than those 50 years or older in eight countries.

There is an even stronger consensus around trade's positive impact on national economies. Majorities say trade benefits their country's companies in all the countries asked. Most of those polled also believe that trade benefits consumers. Majorities express positive views in all but one country, Argentina. Attitudes about whether trade is good or bad for 'your own standard of living' follow a similar pattern. Majorities in all but three countries express positive views. Higher education is associated with the belief that trade is good for one's standard of living in seven of the fourteen countries asked.

In four countries, the idea that trade is bad for the environment is the most common view. In none of the countries do large majorities believe trade helps the environment. There are several reasons why people may think that trade harms the environment. Some may believe that it stimulates growth and consumption, resulting in more factories and cars and ultimately more pollution. Others may assume that by opening domestic markets to foreign goods, trade allows companies to evade environmental laws by moving to countries with more lax regulations. One way to mitigate the potentially negative impact of trade on the environment is to require minimum environmental standards as part of trade agreements. Critics say, however, that including environmental standards in trade agreements hurts the developing world by increasing costs and discouraging investment.

There is significant concern about the effect of trade on employment, especially in more developed countries. Anxiety about trade's impact on labour is also expressed in concerns about foreign policy goals.

Concerns about the effects of trade on jobs has prompted labour leaders in developed countries to insist that trade agreements include labour standards that would require signatory governments to comply with international labour standards, such as prohibiting child labour and allowing workers to form labour unions. They argue that such standards would prevent a 'race to the bottom' by companies that move to countries without minimal worker protections in search of lower costs.

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

Document 1 © <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/globalisation>.

Document 2 © <http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btglobalizationtradera/349.php?lb=btgle>.

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