

Unit 1

Global challenges

Going global

Chapter 8 Globalisation

1 Study Figure 8.2. Using an atlas, estimate the total kilometres that the parts of the laptop have travelled, assuming it is finally assembled for sale in Malaysia.

Advice

The origins described are: Mexico (*c.* 16,000 km), Thailand (*c.* 1,000 km), India (*c.* 4,000 km), Costa Rica (*c.* 18,000 km), Israel (*c.* 8,000 km), Singapore (*c.* 500 km), Germany (*c.* 10,000 km), Philippines (*c.* 3,000 km) and China (*c.* 3,000 km). Do not include Texas and Taiwan, as these are places where the laptop was designed. Answers will vary greatly depending on where measurements are taken from (e.g. coastlines or interiors).

The resource www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/distance.html provides an alternative to the use of atlases.

Answers ought to be somewhere in the range 50,000–75,000 km.

2 Draw a table with two columns headed '1900' and '2000'. List the leading transport and communications technologies associated with each time period.

1900	2000
Railways	Jet aircraft
Steam ship	Railways
Horse and carriage	Broadband internet
Telegraph	Mobile telephones
Telephone	
Motor car	

Assessment

Expect a good range (at least four or five offered) in each column for full marks to be awarded. Students could additionally offer a brief outline of each technology if teachers want to make this a more substantial exercise. There should be a mixture of transport and telecommunications in both cases, as in the above grid.

3 Compare recent global trends in internal and international migration.

Internal migration trends are relatively simple to describe: rural–urban flows with some counter-urban movement in high-income nations. Refugees from hazards might also be mentioned at a local scale. Internal migration has been on the rise in recent decades, with record numbers of migrants now living in the world's cities (e.g. in China). Internal movements are often relatively short-distance events when compared with international movements.

International migration trends are more complex to describe and involve a mixture of groups (elites, poor workers, refugees etc.). In the EU, in particular, international migration is on the rise. Globalisation has encouraged skilled workers to relocate between different countries. However, some countries (e.g. the USA) were more open to migration in the past than today, so not all trends are upwards.

Assessment

Level 1 Unstructured account where it is not always clear which type of migration is being discussed.

Level 2 Structured answer giving equal coverage of both categories (only description is required, explanation is not) with some supporting statistics.

Level 3 Structured account that describes international trends as being complex and involving a mixture of groups (elites, poor workers, refugees etc.). Good comparisons will be drawn (e.g. of numbers involved) between internal and international flows.

4 Describe the varied characteristics of elite groups and suggest reasons why these people find it relatively easy to move between nations.

Characteristics can refer to age and gender (young professionals but also affluent retirees) or skills and occupations (artists, musicians, financial-sector workers, lawyers, architects, academics etc.)

Reasons given may include changing rules (relaxation within the EU) or the role that TNCs play in helping to transfer executives between nations. All countries are likely to look favourably on applications for residency from rich or prestigious individuals.

Assessment

Level 1 Neglects or misunderstands one aspect of the question (e.g. may not state any actual characteristics, only offers reasons).

Level 2 Structured answer that clearly distinguishes between characteristics and reasons. Details are given of one or two examples.

Level 3 Structured account that identifies three or four different 'types' (occupations or demographics). Specific reasons are offered for the movements described (e.g. Polish dentists moving to the UK to meet NHS shortages).

5 Using examples at a range of scales, outline the main factors responsible for globalisation.

- **Range of scales.** The IMF is an international organisation; the internet is global; the EU is supranational; TNCs invest in particular places and localities.
- **Factors.** Expect some use of the factors covered in this chapter and supporting details (technology, TNCs, the IMF, trade blocs etc). Globalisation may be compartmentalised (economic/social/cultural) and aspects of its spread considered.
- **Context.** Higher-scoring answers may have a historical dimension and contrast early 'shallow' globalisation (e.g. the British Empire) with the present 'deeper' processes (e.g. the highly complex architecture of giant TNCs and the major trade blocs).

TNCs seek out least-cost locations for production and new markets where products can be sold. Political changes (trade blocs, IMF rules) and the breakneck pace of technological change since the 1970s enable TNCs to act on their desire to globalise. Globalisation, however, is about more than just economics. There may be a spread of social norms, democratic politics and cultural preferences. The nature of the 'spread' is complex. Is it a homogenising spread effect or one that allows for diversity and hybridisation?

Assessment

Level 1 A rather vague account (e.g. little known beyond an awareness that TNCs and the internet exist).

Level 2 Describes the main factors responsible and offers some detail. At this level, do not expect much attention to be paid to different aspects of globalisation (economic or social), or much mention of scale.

Level 3 Structured account that pays attention to the idea of scale or offers historical perspective or can compartmentalise the effects.