



# GLOBALISATION

***“It has been said that arguing against globalization is like arguing against the laws of gravity.”***

Kofi Annan (1938 – 2018), former Secretary General of the United Nations

## 1. Globalisation Discussion

1. What kind of things do you think about when you think of 'globalisation'? What is it? What does it involve?
2. How has globalisation affected you personally?
3. What products does your country export to the world? Has this trade helped the people of your country?
4. What foreign imports do you buy? Are they more or less expensive than locally produced products? Are they better quality?
5. Some people say the availability of brands like McDonald's and Starbucks in every country is a bad thing. What do you think? Do you ever buy from these or similar brands?
6. How would you feel if a large employer in your country decided to relocate to another country where the wages were lower?
7. Who benefits most from globalisation?
8. What are the positive and negative consequences of globalisation?

## 2. Globalisation Vocabulary

- **globalisation (BrE) / globalization (AmE)** (noun) – *the development of businesses operating across national borders resulting in the spread of products and services around the world.*
- **race to the bottom** (noun) – *a competition between people, companies or countries in which standards are sacrificed to obtain a competitive advantage, usually wages, working conditions or product quality.*
- **manufacturing** (noun) – *the production of products on an industrial scale.*
- **telecommuting** (noun) – *working from home or remotely using the internet, email or telephone.*
- **multinational** (noun) – *a company that operates in a number of different countries.*
- **interdependent** (adjective) – *describes two or more people or things that depend on, or are affected by, each other.*

**Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)**

1. Both Mexico and Brazil lowered their minimum wages and entered into a **race to the bottom** to make their economies more attractive to foreign companies.
2. As manufacturing processes now take place across several different countries, the world has become increasingly **interdependent**.
3. Despite its many benefits, protests have taken place all over the world in opposition to the negative effects of **globalisation**.
4. **Manufacturing** jobs will never return to developed countries thanks to the vastly lower minimum wages of developing countries.
5. Despite much criticism, there is no denying that after expanding their operations to many different countries, **multinationals** have created millions and millions of jobs around the world.
6. Nowadays, you can find a job anywhere in the world without actually living in that country thanks to **telecommuting**.

### Globalisation vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Why are so many people opposed to globalisation? Are you opposed to globalisation in any way?
2. Does globalisation lead to a race to the bottom in terms of wages and working conditions?
3. Have manufacturing jobs increased or decreased in your country as a result of globalisation?
4. Will advances in telecommuting result in job losses in wealthier countries?
5. Which multinationals are active in your country? Have they had a positive or negative impact on your country?
6. In what ways is the world interdependent today?

### 3. Video: The Problem With Globalisation

You are going to watch a video by International Hub called "The Problem with Globalization."

**Watch the video here:** <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-globalisation/>

**While you watch the video, answer the following questions:**

#### Multiple choice

1. What is an unpleasant side effect of globalisation?  
a) *increasing inflation*                      **b) increasing inequality**                      c) *increasing employment*
2. What is a cause of job losses due to globalisation?  
**a) immigration**                      b) *communication*                      c) *competitive companies*
3. Which social class is the backbone of a strong and growing economy?  
a) *working*                      **b) middle**                      c) *upper*
4. What has happened to 70% of households' income in the top 25 advanced?  
a) *flat or gradually increased*      b) *rapidly decreased*                      **c) stayed the same or decreased**

#### Sentence completion

5. From the 1950s to the 1990s, most children could expect to earn more than their **parents**.
6. Many people have expressed **negative opinions** about globalisation, free trade and immigration policies.
7. In response to this, politicians have introduced policies to ensure **jobs** don't leave the country.
8. Governments punish companies for not using local **labour**.

#### Short answer

9. In 1930, how much were tariffs on foreign goods increased to? **(Nearly) 60%**
10. What began when other countries raised their own tariffs in retaliation? **A global trade war**
11. Where should reasonable sharing be encouraged? **In the global marketplace**
12. Governments and businesses should work together to improve what? **Their competitiveness**

## 4. Globalisation Conversation Questions

1. Has globalisation made the world a better or a worse place? What would the world be like with no globalisation?
2. Has globalisation affected all countries equally?
3. Which countries are taking advantage of globalisation to influence the world?
4. How has globalisation affected living standards around the world? What about jobs?
5. What effect has globalisation had on the environment?
6. Is globalisation to blame for many of the problems the world is facing today, or is it the solution to these problems?
7. Will globalisation lead to more or less conflict in the world? Why?
8. Will the world be more or less globalised in the future? Why?

## 5. Globalisation Writing Task

Write about your opinion of globalisation. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- How globalisation has benefited the world.
- The problems caused by globalisation.
- Whether or not you think the world will be more or less globalised in the future.

### **Alternative exam practice question:**

Globalisation has become a very polarising issue. Some people argue that it is the cause of many of the problems faced in the world today, while others suggest it is the solution to these problems. What are the pros and cons of globalisation?