

Globalization WRITTEN TEST

I. DIRECTIONS: Read the following text carefully and for questions a – l put the words from the box in the right places. (12 PTS.)

increases • growth • boost
equal • average • counterparts
poverty • labour • shift
struggle • heights • rosy

Why globalisation may not reduce inequality in poor countries

Globalisation has made the planet more (a) _____. As communication gets cheaper and transport gets faster, developing countries have closed the gap with their rich-world counterparts. But within many developing economies, the story is less (b) _____. Inequality has worsened.

Basic theory predicts that inequality falls when developing countries enter global markets. The theory of comparative advantage is found in every introductory textbook. It says that poor countries produce goods requiring large amounts of unskilled (c) . Rich countries focus on things requiring skilled workers. Thailand is a big rice exporter, for example, while America is the world's largest exporter of financial services. As global trade (d) , the theory says, unskilled workers in poor countries are high in demand; skilled workers in those same countries are less coveted. With more employers clamouring for their services, unskilled workers in developing countries get wage boosts, whereas their skilled (e) don't. The result is that inequality falls.

But the high inequality seen today in poor countries is prompting new theories. One emphasises outsourcing—when rich countries (f) _____ parts of the production process to poor countries. Contrary to popular belief, multinationals in poor countries often employ skilled workers and pay high wages. A report from the OECD found that (g) _____ wages paid by foreign multinationals are 40% higher than wages paid by local firms. What is more, those skilled workers often get to work with managers from rich countries, or might have to meet the deadlines of an efficient rich-world company. That may (h) _____ their productivity. Higher productivity means they can demand even higher wages. By contrast, unskilled workers, or poor ones in rural areas, tend not to have such opportunities. Their productivity does not rise. For these reasons globalisation can boost the wages of skilled workers, while crimping those of the unskilled. The result is that inequality rises.

Other economic theories try to explain why inequality in developing countries has reached such (i) [REDACTED]. A Nobel laureate, Simon Kuznets, argued that growing inequality was inevitable in the early stages of development. He reckoned that those who had a little bit of money to begin with could see big gains from investment, and could thus benefit from growth, whereas those with nothing would stay rooted in (j) [REDACTED]. Only with economic development and demands for redistribution would inequality fall. Indeed, recent evidence suggests that the (k) [REDACTED] in developing-country inequality may now have slowed, which will prompt new questions for economists. But as things stand, globalisation may (l) [REDACTED] to promote equality within the world's poorest countries.

II. DIRECTIONS: Find in the text the words that mean the same as the following, then write it in the space provided. (8PTS.)

1. large difference
2. likely to be good or successful
3. things that are produced in order to be sold
4. having or showing the knowledge, the ability
5. strongly desired by many
6. obtaining goods or a service by contract from an outside supplier
7. having a limiting or adverse effect on (something)
8. very strong and firmly fixed

III. What do the underlined words refer to in the text? (6 PTS.)

1. their (line 2)
2. it (line 5)
3. their (line 10)
4. they (line 18)
5. ones (line 19)
6. those (line 21)

IV. DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions. Use your own words as far as possible. (2 PTS.)

1. What is the difference between developed and developing countries in terms of their working force?

2. In what way do multinational companies cause inequality among workers when they relocate to poorer countries?

V. DIRECTIONS: Complete the following using your own words as far as possible. (3 PTS.)

1. According to past theories, global trade reduces inequality among workers in developing countries because ...

2. Local industries in developing countries ...

3. Despite allowing countries to move closer to each other, globalization has ...

VI. DIRECTIONS: Rephrase the following as started. (6 PTS.)

1. I have never thought about working abroad because I have a career here. *I would think about ...*

2. How long does it take to get a visa? *Have you any idea ...*

3. Many EU countries are experiencing high levels of immigration because of the unemployment crisis. *If it weren't ...*

4. Lots of workers will be unemployed if the company relocates. *Should ...*

5. "Don't worry! Everyone will help you if you need it." *He was insecure about going abroad, so I told him ...*

6. If the world economy improved, immigration rates would go down. *Were ...*

VII. DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets to give them a future meaning. (5 PTS.)

1. Provided she (have) _____ the right skills, she will get the job at the multinational.

2. By this time next year the company (relocate) _____ to India.

3. If the company (give) _____ an image of fairness, it needs to pay their workers better wages.

4. I think that one day inequalities in the workplace (fall) _____.

5. I need to brush up my English because I (work) _____ in the States.

