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MARKSCHEME

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GEOGRAPHY

Higher Level

Paper 3

8 pages

1. **(a)** **Explain how *one* multi-governmental organization has led to a loss of sovereignty.** *[10 marks]*

Candidates would be expected to define their chosen multi-governmental organization as a grouping of nations, providing as their example the EU, NAFTA, MERCOSUR, ASEAN or others.

The example chosen will influence the answer, as some MGOs are merely free trade areas while others have a common external tariff; in the case of the EU a common market and fuller economic union with shared currency and freedom of movement for workers. Thus an answer based around the EU will most likely assert that sovereignty has indeed been lost, while one based around NAFTA may address the phrase "loss of sovereignty" more reservedly.

Accept a wide interpretation of MGO to include the IMF, UN, G20, NATO *etc*. However, such answers may be self-limiting and unlikely to gain the higher bands as it may be hard to display a loss of sovereignty.

Marks should be allocated according to the markbands.

(b) **Discuss the interrelationships between global interactions and changes in technology.** *[15 marks]*

Credit all content in line with the markbands. Credit unexpected approaches wherever relevant.

One view is that technology drives global interactions. Historically, improved transport and communications networks have enabled the flows that allow global interactions to occur *[Guide 2]*. Expect details about cheap air flights driving global tourism *[Guide 5]*; the internet driving the growth of virtual communities (Facebook); spatial diffusion into new markets (*e.g.* mobile uptake in Africa and Asia. Various forms of technology are a key factor explaining the growth in power and influence of TNCs (with their ability to "knit" places together as part of a productive division of labour, out-sourcing or through their attempts to build markets around the world) *[Guide 3]*. Also credit references to "technology transfer" by TNCs and application of the shrinking world concept / time-space compression *[Guide 2]*.

Another reciprocal view exists, which is that globalization drives technology. It is global consumerism *[Guide 5]* which drives innovation, outsourcing and the technologies needed to make it all possible. Demand from people for faster internet (HD TV on demand *etc.*) leads to large TNCs re-investing profits into R & D hubs. Some answers might even touch on the role of international conflict in driving military technologies (roots of internet lie here). Or the need for diasporas to maintain communication *[Guide 5]*.

To attain band E, there must be some acknowledgement or suggestion of an "interrelationship" rather than just "relationship" – and the reciprocal relation should be mentioned or strongly implied.

Other approaches may be equally valid. Accept a wide interpretation of "technology" (*e.g.* global diffusion of medicare, farming techniques *etc.*)

Marks should be allocated according to the markbands.

2. **(a)** **Explain how global core areas (hubs) can be distinguished from peripheral areas.** *[10 marks]*

Candidates would be expected to define "global core areas / hubs" as significant places that provide a focal point for global flows and activities. They are places where major diaspora groups may be found or may be identified as source regions either for contemporary cultural diffusion (*e.g.* Seattle's computer industries) or economic imperialism (*e.g.* Washington). The scale at which hubs can be identified is open to interpretation. Small cities like Cambridge (UK) are hubs; but so too are megacities such as Sao Paulo and small states including Monaco and Luxemburg.

Arguably, entire nations such as Singapore and South Korea could be described as hubs at which point the term hub is almost synonymous with "core" in world systems analysis. But an appropriate "core and periphery" analysis in 2011 should not simply echo 1970s World Systems theory. Responses that do not acknowledge this and do not examine more than a simple "MEDC-LEDC" worldview (*e.g.* by at least acknowledging a semi-periphery of emerging economies / NICs) should not progress beyond band C (within bands D and E, a good explanation of a fuller range of characteristics could compensate for a more limited description of the hub / periphery pattern).

At bands D and E, answers need to be focused on how such places can be *distinguished* from other places and should not just assert that they exist. People and organizations in hubs will display high levels of global participation which could be measured using KOF or AT Kearney indices. They may also host major diasporas or can be mapped as source regions for key "globalized" cultural traits including language (such as English or Spanish). Mapping the head offices of large TNCs is another route of enquiry. Other routes could include a ranking of the competitiveness of financial centres, airports; ports; internet bandwidth availability; reliance on agriculture.

Other approaches may be equally valid.

Marks should be allocated according to the markbands.

(b) **Examine the geographical consequences of international outsourcing.** *[15 marks]*

Credit all content in line with the markbands. Credit unexpected approaches wherever relevant.

Outsourcing should be clearly defined as the concept of taking internal company functions and paying an outside firm to handle them *[Guide 3]*. "Geographical consequences" of outsourcing can encompass economic, political, social, cultural, environmental, geopolitical and demographic themes at varying scales, for both host and source regions. Outsourcing occurs across all sectors of industry from agriculture to high-tech research. It can be a complex affair when strings of sub-contractors (both up-stream and down-stream linkages) are part of the picture.

Improvements in ICT are an important consequence (due to the need for enhanced video-conferencing capability, etc.) and not merely a cause of out-sourcing *[Guide 2, Guide 3]*. So too are trade blocs (MGOs), insofar as businesses will lobby for expanded tariff-free trade areas within which they may out-source at lower cost to themselves *[Guide 6]*.

At a national and local (city region) scale, a key theme must be the reaction to loss of jobs in "source" economies *[Guide 7]*, but growth for emerging "host" economies. Sweat shop workers may be cast as "victims" or beneficiaries of global capitalism in this account according to the case studies used (outsourcing includes "white-collar" work in Bangalore, for instance) or the candidate's political convictions (though exploitation needs to be evidenced and not simply asserted). TNC shareholders may be recognized as being amongst the real winners of outsourcing *[Guide 3]*.

Environmental aspects are likely to be a popular theme, notably in relation to pollution *[Guide 4]*. However, high band answers should make it clear that the problems result from outsourcing (so unreliable sub-contractors are the issue) – and not simply the internationalization of trade.

It may not always be clear whether genuine outsourcing or a firm's own division of labour is being discussed (*e.g.* as a cause of de-industrialization in developed countries). The benefit of the doubt should be given and a band D mark could be awarded to answers that are insecure on the precise meaning of out-sourcing but are strong on the varied geography of global shift.

There are many possible approaches and these should be assessed on their merits. Depth might compensate for lack of breadth.

Marks should be allocated according to the markbands.

3.   **(a)**   **Analyse the consequences of *one* specific transboundary pollution event.**   *[10 marks]*

A transboundary pollution event is one which has damaging effects for more than one country. It is most likely that candidates will analyse a major oil spill or air pollution event. "Event" strongly suggests a single dated occurrence but some credit should still be given to an account of a more pervasive problem (such as acid rain). Thus, for band E, the account must clearly relate to transboundary pollution (thus the pollution type is named, *e.g.* sulphur dioxide or crude oil; affected states are clearly identified). Further, the temporal aspect should be addressed: if not a single event (*e.g.* an oil spill) then a period (year or decade) must be identified (giving us a broad interpretation of "event"). An account of acid rain that is not geographically or historically specific should not move beyond band C. If both are there, band E is possible.

It should be made explicit who is affected and why the event is "transboundary". The consequences may include: immediate ecological and environmental harm; longer clear-up operations; subsequent changes in national and/or international legislature; implications for the polluter (such as poor publicity and "PR nightmare" for TNCs).

The best answers may have a range of varied consequences (such as political / governance response) and will not simply focus on ecological damage.

Pollution events such as the Bhopal incident are not transboundary but may achieve band C if the concept of transnational has been well-explored (idea of TNCs moving their pollution / unsafe operations overseas). The movement of recycling wastes to China may be marked in the same way (it's hardly an event, but some limited credit for the transboundary / transnational aspects of the case study could be given idea if it has been well-written).

Marks should be allocated according to the markbands.

(b)   **"The negative effects of globalization on cultural traits have been overstated." Discuss this statement.**   *[15 marks]*

Credit all content in line with the markbands. Credit unexpected approaches wherever relevant.

The negative effects candidates should be familiar with includes the threat of cultural homogenization associated with the diffusion of western and latterly Japanese cultural traits and branded commodities. In extreme cases this can be described as cultural imperialism. *[Guide 5]*. The cultural production of homogenised landscapes may be commented on *[Guide 4]*.

The question invites discussion of whether this first viewpoint has been overstated. The strongest responses will recognize alternative responses exist and globalization can be challenged / contested. They may suggest a variety of alternative outcomes *e.g.* hybridization / glocalization of branded products *[Guide 7]*; or growth of diaspora music and art that draws on global influences *[Guide 5]*. More extreme forms of rejection also exist, such as throwing out TNCs and the IMF *[Guide 3]* or the resistance of nationalist parties to MGO membership *[Guide 6]*; at a local level, people may "opt-out" and pursue strategies such as local sourcing of food (food preferences being a cultural trait) *[Guide 7]*.

The persistence of diaspora traits is also clear evidence of cultural resilience (*i.e.* the idea that cultural traits can easily survive) *[Guide 5]*. Equally, it may be argued that some cultures have remained free of global influences by choice *e.g.* Bhutan *[Guide 7]*.

The process of cultural homogenization – if it exists – can be very complex and alternative viewpoints should be credited on their merits.

At bands D and E, both sides of the argument should be addressed, although balance need not be expected if the candidate has a strong *evidenced* argument that mostly agrees or disagrees with the title.

A wide variety of cultural traits can be accepted including any that are not specifically mentioned in the syllabus. Answers that rely heavily on just one or two case studies (especially if their relevance to contemporary globalization is spurious, such as early encounters between westerners and the Dani tribe) are likely to be too narrow to receive much AO3 credit – and are unlikely to progress beyond band C.

Marks should be allocated according to the markbands.