

Edexcel Geography A-level

Migration, Identity and Sovereignty **Essential Notes**

Enquiry question 1: What are the impacts of globalisation on international migration?

Globalisation and Migration

- Globalisation has led to extensive **movements of capital, goods and people** which has impacted migrations rates and traditional definitions of **sovereignty**.
- International migration changes the **ethnic composition of populations** which, although creating diversity, changes attitudes to national identity.



→ Globalisation has changed economic systems at a global scale as demand for labour has changed. This has encouraged **rural to urban migration**, such as in China, and **international migration** between countries, such as from the UK to Australia (a good program to watch is BBC's Wanted Down Under).

- For instance, the UK had a skills shortage of plumbers in 2004 which was filled by Polish immigrants under the **EU Free Movement of People Agreement**. However trends have now changed and there is a worry that British citizens are outcompeted by skilled European immigrants who work efficiently and demand less pay.



- Between 3 to 4% of the global population live outside their country of birth but this proportion varies greatly between countries because of **governmental policies** which regulate international migration. For example, Australia, Singapore and Japan have policies relating to international migration based on the levels of engagement immigrants make to the global economy.
- The pattern of international migration is always changing as the population grows and interacts. Environmental, economic and political events, such as **war, natural disasters and financial crises**, affect the source areas of migrants and their destinations. This produces flows of voluntary economic migration, refugees and asylum seekers.

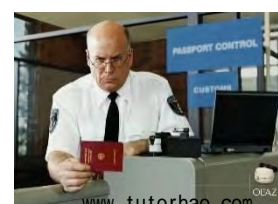
Causes of Migration

- Migrants move for **economic benefits**, such as finding work, or to re-join family members. Other reasons involve the displacement of refugees due to **conflict and poverty** in the source region. In 2016, there were 169, 846 migrants crossing the Mediterranean with 620 deaths.
- It is suggested that economic efficiency is maximised when goods, capital and labour can move freely across international borders but this poses challenges for **national identity and sovereignty**.
- Migration can however cause **inequality** as some regions may have an abundance of skilled immigrants, thus having an efficient labour force, whilst others may not.
- The **Zelinsky Model of Migration Transition** claims that as a country develops, the type of migration changes. In more developed states, there is a rise in international migration which increases global hub cities (e.g. New York) and deepens interdependence (elite migration: Australia have a point system to decide who enters the country). There are large migrant flows from India to the UAE and the Philippines to Saudi Arabia.



Consequences of International Migration

- Migration changes the **cultural** and **ethnic** composition of states which can spark **tension** between migrants and natives. Tensions result from the differences in **perceptions** of social, cultural and demographic impacts of migration. For example, there is tension in the USA about Mexican migrant flows over the border.

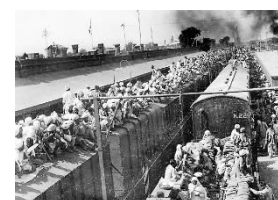


- There are variations in the ability of people to migrate across national borders according to levels of **skill, income, opportunities, age** and the presence of **border controls**.

Enquiry question 2: How are nation states defined and how have they evolved in a globalising world?

Nation States

- **National sovereignty** is the concept of independent nations having an organised government who have the right to make **laws and regulations** without other nations interfering.
- National sovereignty states vary in their **ethnic, cultural and linguistic unity** and this results from the history of population growth, their isolation and the role of migration. If you were to compare two countries, such as Iceland and Singapore, the differences would be a result of variations in national sovereignty.
- National borders occur due to **physical geography** and **historical development** whilst other borders are a result of **colonial history** which may exclude different ethnic and religious groups from having an input. This can lead to problems of sovereignty and legitimacy, leading to tensions erupting within the nation, which becomes split.
- India was ruled by the British Empire. One they left, there were overwhelming demands from Muslims to have their own country. Punjab was the agricultural basket of India, supplying the nation's crops and food demands. After intense conflict in 1947, Punjab was **partitioned**; West Punjab became Pakistan.
- The partition was devastating as riots erupted and widespread looting broke out. Women were kidnapped, raped and battered by Hindus and Muslims alike and trains filled with tortured women and children would arrive between the borders of India and Pakistan daily. There were 600, 000 murders in just 7 days.
- During rioting, there was **mass migration**; in three months East Punjab was emptied of all Muslims and West Punjab of all Sikhs and Hindus.
- India also faced further partitions when Bangladesh was separated from India.
- There are many **contested borders**, such as between Ukraine and Russia or India and China, whilst not all nation states are recognised, such as Taiwan. This can stimulate conflict and complicate population movements.



The Role of Nationalism in Developing the Modern World

- **Nationalism** is the extreme form of patriotism where one nation feels superior over other countries. 19th century nationalism was vital in the development of empires, such as the Roman Empire, but created a source of conflict as other nations became part of larger empires (the British Raj in India).
- Since 1945, many new nations emerged as empires disintegrated. Macmillan's "wind of change" speech was the first sign that the British government accepted that the Empire had collapsed. This speech was paramount in speeding up the process of African independence.
- Patterns of migration between former colonies and the imperial core country are still evident and important in changing the **ethnic composition** and **cultural heterogeneity** of those countries. Amongst its former colonies, the UK is still seen as a strong and powerful nation, with the potential of bettering the lives of migrants.



Globalisation Impacts

- Globalisation has caused a growth of **low-tax state regimes** which provide havens for the profits of TNCs and wealthy citizens. This is a classic example of “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer” (cumulative causation).
- Most governments have accepted the emergence of these tax-havens albeit some NGO raise objections.
- Growing **global inequalities** are threatening to the sustainability of the global economic system which, if not regulated, could collapse entirely. Some governments, such as Ecuador, have thus created alternative models.



Enquiry question 3: What are the impacts of global organisations on managing global issues and conflicts?



Global Organisations

- The **United Nations** was the first post-war **IGO** to be established and has grown in importance since. It has a role in **global governance and peacekeeping** but members of the Security Council have different geopolitical visions.
- The UN tries to ensure **human rights and freedom** from discrimination and abuse by supporting international justice. The UN also have a role in managing global environmental, socio-economic and political problems.
- Interventions by the UN involve **economic sanctions** and **direct military intervention** which is made to defend human rights. These interventions have a **mixed record of success**.
- For example, the UN forces in Congo have been accused of not providing aid after peacekeepers failed to provide assistance in Mavivi after attacks.
- In a report of 2014, Human Rights Watch accused peacekeepers of failing to respond to repeated calls for help during an attack which killed 30 people. The peacekeepers were only 9 km away but arrived two day later.
- It is however reported that the UN has placed the toughest sanctions in the world on Iran which has been beneficial in driving forward peace.
- Some member states, such as the US and Russia, have worked independently from the UN in intervening in ‘failed states’ which impacts geopolitical relations and global stability.



The Role of IGOs

- The **IMF, WB and WTO** were created by world war two allied nations and have been vital in maintaining the dominance of **western capitalism**, global economic management and trade policy (free trade).
- **Global borrowing rules and trade policies** have been effective in delivering growth to the developed world, but the impact of Structural Adjustment and HIPC policies on the developing world’s economies and economic sovereignty is disputed.
- Jamaica, for example, is under massive **debts and loans** from the IMF and World Bank, which prevents the nation from growing efficiently. Jamaica spends twice as much on debt repayments as it does on

education and health combined. **Structural adjustment programmes** have not been beneficial in Jamaica. During the 1980s, the number of registered nurses fell by 60% whilst food prices increased whilst the IMF held down wages.

- Membership of global trade and financial IGOs is almost universal but regional groups have also emerged, such as NAFTA and SEATO.



IGOs Managing Environmental Problems

- Some IGOs aim to improve environmental issues such as the **quality of the atmosphere and biosphere**. IGOs have been involved in developing laws for managing oceans, such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and international rivers, such as the Helsinki Rules. These agreements promote **security, sustainability and peace**.
- IGO's responsibility also includes management of **Antarctica** as a continent of peace and security. The Antarctic Treaty System was created to prevent nations from exploiting resources and spoiling the pristine Antarctica. This helps promote biodiversity and sustainability.



Enquiry question 4: What are the threats to national sovereignty in a more globalised world?

National Identity

- **National identity** is the sense of a nation as a cohesive whole, represented by distinctive traditions, cultures and language. Each nation has an identity unique to them.
- Nationalism remains a powerful force which is reinforced through **education, sport** and by **political parties** stressing the importance of loyalty to both the institutions and the ideas of nation states.
- Education is perhaps the most powerful aspect of reinforcing nationalism as it provides a history and reasoning behind a country's success and previous triumphs. For instance, we are taught about the British Empire which, accordingly, reinforces the previous ideologies of the Britain's power and success, creating an identity.



- Identity and loyalty may be tied to **distinctive legal systems**, methods of **governance, national 'character'** or a **landscape**, such as The English Countryside or The Taj Mahal.
- For example, North Korea has a national identity based upon their political communist regime whilst Russia is identified by its previous political ideologies before the cold war.
- Most countries are **multinational**, made of contrasting ethnic groups which poses questions on national identity and loyalty. Understanding national identity is thus a complex concept, especially in an era of globalisation. Since the world has become interconnected, is there such a thing as traditional national identity?

Challenges to National Identity

- Many UK based companies are **foreign owned**, such as Jaguar Land Rover, making 'Made in Britain' an increasingly complex idea. Additionally, globalisation has meant



that **manufacturing is outsourced** (now more commonly done in the east) meaning less is actually made in the UK.

- '**Westernisation**' is dominated by US cultural values through the operation of large TNCs, international organisations, retailing and entertainment. This, consequently, promotes a distinctive view of the benefits of the **dominant capitalist model**.
- **Ownership of property, land and businesses** in countries is increasingly non-national. For instance, properties in London are now being owned by wealthy citizens of Russia and Qatar. This impacts on national identity.

Consequences of Disunity within Nations

- As nations begin to disintegrate, there are **strong nationalist movements** seeking to create independent, smaller states whilst remaining within larger trading groups. For example, after BREXIT, Scotland deliberated on leaving the UK so that they could remain part of the European Union. Further news of this is yet to follow.
- There are **significant political tensions** in the BRICs and other emerging nations resulting from the uneven pattern of the costs and benefits of globalisation. For instance, China is becoming increasingly dominant on the world stage but some argue that the politics of China are showing signs of change and becoming more capitalist. This hinders their national identity as they are known for their communist principles.
- The role of the state varies and national identity is not always strong. For instance, in failed states there are differences between the political and economically powerful elites, foreign investment groups and the wider population.

