

Understanding Globalisation PYQ 2020

Q1. Globalisation is a multidimensional phenomenon. Explain its various dimensions with suitable examples.

Ans1. Globalization is a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses various aspects of human society, including economics, politics, culture, technology, and environment. Here are some key dimensions of globalization with examples:

Economic Dimension: Globalization has transformed the global economy, leading to increased economic interdependence and integration among countries. It has facilitated the movement of goods, services, capital, and labor across national borders, creating global supply chains and networks of production. For example, multinational corporations operate in multiple countries, sourcing materials from one country, manufacturing in another, and selling products in yet another, creating a global flow of goods and services.

Political Dimension: Globalization has also reshaped political dynamics at the global level. It has led to the emergence of international organizations and institutions, such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and International Monetary Fund, which play a significant role in shaping global governance and policy-making. Globalization has also facilitated the spread of democratic ideas, human rights norms, and advocacy for social justice across borders, creating transnational movements and influencing national and international politics.

Cultural Dimension: Globalization has fostered the exchange and diffusion of cultural ideas, practices, and values across different countries and regions. It has led to the spread of global popular culture, such as music, movies, fashion, and cuisine, which transcends national boundaries and creates a global cultural landscape. However, it has also led to concerns about cultural homogenization, loss of traditional cultural practices, and the dominance of Western cultural values in the globalized world.

Technological Dimension: Globalization has been driven by rapid advancements in technology, particularly in communication and transportation. The internet, social media, and other digital technologies have facilitated instant communication and global connectivity, enabling information and ideas to flow across borders at an unprecedented speed. Technological innovations have also transformed industries, leading to automation, digitization, and the rise of the gig economy, which have both positive and negative impacts on employment, productivity, and inequality.

Environmental Dimension: Globalization has significant environmental implications, both positive and negative. It has led to the increased movement of goods and people, resulting in higher transportation emissions, deforestation, and pollution associated with global trade and travel. However, it has also facilitated the exchange of knowledge, technologies, and best practices for addressing global environmental challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation, through international collaborations and agreements like the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Social Dimension: Globalization has brought changes in social dynamics, including migration, cultural diversity, and social inequalities. It has facilitated increased movement of people across borders,

leading to multicultural societies and diverse communities in many countries. However, it has also led to social inequalities, including income disparities, labor exploitation, and social unrest, both within and between countries. Globalization has also raised awareness about social issues, such as human rights, gender equality, and social justice, and has fostered transnational social movements advocating for positive change.

In conclusion, globalization is a multidimensional phenomenon that has transformed various aspects of human society, including economics, politics, culture, technology, environment, and social dynamics. It has created opportunities for economic growth, innovation, and cultural exchange, but has also raised concerns about inequality, environmental degradation, cultural homogenization, and social unrest. Understanding the different dimensions of globalization is crucial for analyzing its impacts, addressing its challenges, and harnessing its benefits in a balanced and sustainable manner.

Q2. The Idea of Nation-State is on decline in the era of globalization. Analyze.

Ans2. The idea of the nation-state, which refers to a political entity in which a single nation shares a common territory, language, and culture, has been traditionally seen as the primary organizing principle of the international system. However, in the era of globalization, there are arguments that suggest the nation-state is on decline. Let's analyze some key factors that contribute to this perspective:

Economic Interdependence: Globalization has led to increased economic interdependence among countries, with cross-border flows of goods, services, capital, and labor. This has resulted in the formation of complex global supply chains and networks of production, where countries are interconnected through economic ties. As a result, the economic well-being of nation-states is increasingly influenced by global economic forces and not solely determined by their own domestic policies. This has diminished the ability of nation-states to have full control over their economies, thereby challenging the traditional notion of sovereignty associated with the nation-state.

Transnational Challenges: Globalization has also given rise to transnational challenges that transcend national boundaries, such as climate change, terrorism, cybercrime, pandemics, and migration. These challenges require international cooperation and coordination among countries to effectively address them. Nation-states, acting alone, often find it difficult to tackle these complex issues, as they require collective efforts and shared governance mechanisms that go beyond national borders. This has led to the emergence of international organizations and networks as important players in global governance, thereby reducing the exclusive authority of nation-states.

Cultural Diversity: Globalization has fostered the exchange and diffusion of cultural ideas, practices, and values across different countries and regions, resulting in increased cultural diversity within nation-states. As people migrate, travel, and communicate across borders, cultural boundaries become more porous, and diverse cultures coexist within the same nation-state. This challenges the traditional notion of a homogenous nation-state based on a single culture, language, or identity, and raises questions about the relevance and viability of the nation-state as the sole basis of political organization in a globalized world.

Technological Advancements: Rapid advancements in technology, particularly in communication and transportation, have facilitated global connectivity and instant communication across borders. The internet and social media have enabled people to connect, share information, and organize across

national boundaries, creating transnational communities and networks that transcend the borders of nation-states. This has challenged the notion of a nation-state as a self-contained entity with exclusive control over its territory and citizens, as people can now easily access information, ideas, and perspectives from around the world, influencing their attitudes and identities.

Supranational Institutions: Globalization has given rise to supranational institutions, such as the European Union (EU), that challenge the traditional notion of the nation-state. The EU, for example, is a supranational entity that has its own governance structure, policies, and regulations that supersede the sovereignty of its member states in certain areas. This has led to a pooling of sovereignty among member states, blurring the lines of the nation-state as the sole authority in a globalized world.

However, it is important to note that while the idea of the nation-state may be challenged in the era of globalization, it still remains a dominant form of political organization in many parts of the world. Nation-states continue to play a significant role in international relations, and national identity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are still important principles in global politics. Moreover, globalization has also led to various reactions, including a resurgence of nationalism and calls for protectionism in some regions, indicating that the future of the nation-state in the era of globalization is complex and evolving.

In conclusion, while the idea of the nation-state may be facing challenges in the era of globalization, it is important to recognize that it is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. Globalization has indeed brought about changes in the traditional concept of the nation-state, including economic interdependence, transnational challenges, cultural diversity, technological advancements, and the rise of supranational institutions. However, the extent and nature of these changes may vary depending on the context and region. Some argue that globalization has weakened the nation-state, while others contend that it has led to its adaptation and evolution.

For instance, proponents of globalization argue that the interconnectivity and interdependence fostered by globalization have led to increased economic growth, technological innovation, and cultural exchange, which have benefitted nation-states in various ways. Globalization has facilitated access to global markets, foreign investment, and technological advancements, allowing nation-states to enhance their economic development and raise the living standards of their citizens. Moreover, globalization has also led to the spread of democratic values and human rights, leading to the emergence of global norms and standards that nation-states can adopt and adhere to.

On the other hand, critics of globalization argue that it has led to the erosion of state sovereignty and the widening gap between the rich and the poor, both within and among nation-states. They contend that globalization has led to the concentration of power in the hands of global corporations and international institutions, limiting the ability of nation-states to regulate their own economies, protect their cultural heritage, and make autonomous policy decisions. Moreover, globalization has also led to social and cultural disruptions, as it challenges traditional norms, values, and identities, leading to resistance and backlash in some cases.

In response to these challenges, some nation-states have adopted protectionist measures, such as trade barriers, immigration restrictions, and cultural preservation policies, in an attempt to safeguard their national interests and assert their sovereignty. The rise of nationalist movements and populist ideologies in some parts of the world can also be seen as a reaction to the perceived erosion of the nation-state in the era of globalization.

In conclusion, while globalization has brought about changes in the traditional concept of the nation-state, its impact is complex and multifaceted. The idea of the nation-state may be facing challenges in the era of globalization, but it remains a significant form of political organization in many parts of the world. Nation-states continue to play a crucial role in international relations, and national identity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity remain important principles in global politics. The relationship between globalization and the nation-state is evolving and dynamic, and the future trajectory of this relationship is likely to be shaped by various economic, social, political, and cultural factors.

Q3. How do the main features of trade and financial liberalisation advocated by the World Trade Organisation contribute to world economy? How have these economic reforms impacted upon nation states?

Ans3. The main features of trade and financial liberalization advocated by the World Trade Organization (WTO), such as the reduction of trade barriers, the promotion of open markets, and the facilitation of international trade and investment, are intended to contribute to the world economy in several ways.

Economic Growth: Trade liberalization can promote economic growth by expanding market access and increasing competition. When trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, are reduced or eliminated, it allows goods and services to flow more freely across borders, creating new opportunities for businesses and consumers. This can lead to increased economic activity, job creation, and higher levels of productivity, ultimately contributing to overall economic growth.

Efficiency and Productivity: Trade liberalization can lead to increased efficiency and productivity through the reallocation of resources to more productive sectors. By opening up markets to international competition, firms are encouraged to become more competitive, innovate, and improve their efficiency to remain competitive in global markets. This can result in the allocation of resources to sectors where countries have a comparative advantage, leading to a more efficient use of resources and increased productivity.

Consumer Welfare: Trade liberalization can benefit consumers by increasing access to a wider variety of goods and services at competitive prices. When trade barriers are reduced, it allows consumers to access products from different countries, providing them with more choices and potentially lower prices. This can lead to improved standards of living and increased consumer welfare.

Global Integration: Trade liberalization can foster global integration by promoting economic ties among nations. Increased trade and investment can create networks of economic interdependence, leading to closer economic cooperation and diplomatic relations among countries. This can contribute to the development of a more integrated and interconnected global economy, promoting peace and stability among nations.

However, the impact of trade and financial liberalization on nation-states is not uniform and can vary depending on a country's economic, social, and political context. While these reforms can bring benefits to the world economy, they can also have some implications for nation-states.

Economic Dislocation: Trade liberalization can result in economic dislocation, particularly in industries that face increased competition from foreign producers. This can lead to job losses,

declining industries, and social disruptions, particularly in countries that may not have the capacity to compete on a global scale. This can have implications for nation-states in terms of domestic political stability, social cohesion, and welfare policies to mitigate the impact on affected communities.

Loss of Policy Autonomy: Trade and financial liberalization can limit the policy autonomy of nation-states as they are required to conform to international trade rules and agreements. This may restrict their ability to implement certain domestic policies, such as protectionist measures, industrial policies, and environmental regulations, that are seen as necessary for their national interests. This can impact the sovereignty and decision-making power of nation-states, particularly those that may have different economic and social priorities.

Unequal Distribution of Benefits: The benefits of trade and financial liberalization may not be equally distributed within nation-states. Certain sectors or regions may benefit more than others, leading to inequalities in income, wealth, and opportunities. This can result in social tensions and inequalities within countries, which may have political implications and impact the overall stability and governance of nation-states.

In conclusion, the main features of trade and financial liberalization advocated by the WTO can contribute to the world economy by promoting economic growth, efficiency, consumer welfare, and global integration. However, these reforms can also have implications for nation-states in terms of economic dislocation, loss of policy autonomy, and unequal distribution of benefits. It is important for nation-states to carefully manage the impact of these reforms, taking into consideration their specific economic, social, and political context, to ensure that the benefits are maximized while addressing any potential challenges or disparities that may arise.

Q4. What are the major impacts of climate change on environment? Discuss the international agreements introduced to prevent environmental degradation

Ans4. Climate change is a pressing global environmental issue that has wide-ranging impacts on the environment. Some of the major impacts of climate change on the environment include:

Rising temperatures: Climate change is causing global temperatures to rise, leading to changes in weather patterns and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, hurricanes, floods, and droughts. These changes can disrupt ecosystems, affect biodiversity, and lead to changes in vegetation patterns.

Sea level rise: As temperatures rise, glaciers and ice sheets melt, causing sea levels to rise. This can result in the loss of coastal habitats, increased coastal erosion, and flooding of low-lying areas, threatening human settlements, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

Changes in precipitation patterns: Climate change can lead to changes in precipitation patterns, resulting in changes in water availability, ecosystem functioning, and agricultural productivity. Some areas may experience increased rainfall and flooding, while others may experience decreased rainfall and drought, both of which can have severe impacts on ecosystems, agriculture, and water resources.

Disruption of ecosystems: Climate change can disrupt ecosystems by altering ecological processes and species interactions. This can result in changes in species distribution, loss of habitat, and

changes in ecosystem services, such as pollination and carbon sequestration, which are critical for the functioning of ecosystems and human well-being.

Loss of biodiversity: Climate change can lead to changes in species distribution and loss of habitat, resulting in the loss of biodiversity. This can have cascading effects on ecosystem functioning, as biodiversity plays a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem stability, resilience, and productivity.

To address the challenges of climate change, international agreements and frameworks have been introduced to prevent environmental degradation and promote sustainable practices. Some of the key international agreements related to climate change include:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): This is a global environmental treaty adopted in 1992, with the objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. It sets the framework for international cooperation on climate change, including regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to review progress, negotiate and implement climate policies.

Kyoto Protocol: This is an international treaty under the UNFCCC adopted in 1997, which sets binding emission reduction targets for developed countries. The Kyoto Protocol introduced the concept of emissions trading and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to promote emission reduction projects in developing countries.

Paris Agreement: This is a global treaty under the UNFCCC adopted in 2015, which sets a goal to limit global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Agreement establishes a framework for countries to set and report on their own nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate resilience.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): This is an international treaty adopted in 1992, which aims to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. The CBD includes provisions for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: This is an international treaty adopted in 1971, which aims to conserve and sustainably use wetlands, including marshes, swamps, and peatlands. The Ramsar Convention provides a framework for international cooperation on the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

These international agreements provide a platform for countries to collaborate and take collective action to prevent environmental degradation, including climate change. They promote cooperation, information sharing, capacity building, and financial support among nations to address the challenges of climate change and other environmental issues.

The main features of trade and financial liberalization advocated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) also have implications for the world economy in the context of climate change. The WTO promotes trade liberalization through agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which aim to reduce barriers to international trade and promote economic growth. Financial liberalization, on the other hand, refers to the deregulation and liberalization of financial markets, allowing for greater capital flows and investment opportunities.

The impacts of these economic reforms on nation-states in the context of climate change are complex and multi-faceted. On one hand, trade liberalization can lead to increased economic growth and development, which can contribute to the well-being of nation-states. It can create opportunities for countries to access new markets, technologies, and financial resources, which can support efforts to address climate change through investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and other green sectors.

However, the pursuit of economic growth through trade and financial liberalization can also have negative impacts on the environment and exacerbate climate change. For example, increased international trade can lead to higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions due to increased transportation, energy consumption, and industrial production. Additionally, financial liberalization can lead to speculative investments in environmentally harmful activities, such as fossil fuel extraction or deforestation, which can contribute to environmental degradation and climate change.

To address these challenges, international agreements and policies have been introduced to integrate environmental concerns into trade and financial liberalization frameworks. For example, the concept of "green trade" or "sustainable trade" has gained prominence, which emphasizes the promotion of environmentally-friendly goods and services and the adoption of sustainable production and consumption practices. The concept of "green finance" has also emerged, which focuses on mobilizing financial resources for environmentally-friendly investments and promoting sustainable financial practices.

Furthermore, international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the CBD include provisions that highlight the need to align trade and investment policies with environmental objectives, including climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. These agreements recognize the interdependence of economic, social, and environmental issues, and call for integrated approaches that promote sustainable development and address environmental degradation.

In conclusion, while trade and financial liberalization advocated by the WTO can contribute to economic growth and development, their impacts on nation-states in the context of climate change are complex and require careful consideration of environmental concerns. International agreements and policies have been introduced to prevent environmental degradation and promote sustainable practices, including integrating environmental objectives into trade and financial liberalization frameworks. It is crucial for nation-states to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability to address the challenges of climate change and promote sustainable development.

Q5. Critically assess the role of UNO over the years. Has the United Nations outlived its usefulness?

Ans5. The United Nations (UN) has played a significant role in international relations since its establishment in 1945, with the primary objectives of maintaining international peace and security, promoting human rights, fostering sustainable development, and facilitating cooperation among nations. Over the years, the UN has made important contributions in areas such as conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, and global governance. However, its effectiveness and relevance have been subject to criticism, and opinions on whether the UN has outlived its usefulness vary.

One of the key strengths of the UN is its role in peacekeeping and conflict resolution. The UN has been involved in numerous peacekeeping missions around the world, aimed at preventing or

resolving conflicts and maintaining peace and security. These missions have helped to mitigate conflicts in some cases, such as in Cyprus, Namibia, and El Salvador, and have contributed to saving lives and promoting stability in conflict-affected regions.

The UN has also played a vital role in humanitarian assistance, providing aid and support to countries and populations affected by natural disasters, conflicts, and other crises. UN agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have been instrumental in delivering humanitarian aid to those in need, addressing issues such as hunger, malnutrition, disease, and displacement.

Furthermore, the UN has provided a platform for member states to engage in global governance and multilateral diplomacy, allowing for dialogue, negotiation, and cooperation on pressing global issues such as climate change, nuclear disarmament, and sustainable development. UN conferences and summits, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change, have resulted in important international agreements and commitments aimed at addressing global challenges.

However, the UN also faces significant challenges and limitations. One major criticism is the lack of enforcement mechanisms and power imbalances among its member states. The veto power of the five permanent members of the Security Council (United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom) has been seen as a hindrance to swift and effective action on critical issues, as it can result in gridlock and inaction. Additionally, the UN's ability to prevent or resolve conflicts has been questioned, as peacekeeping missions have faced challenges in dealing with complex conflicts, and instances of peacekeepers' misconduct and abuse have tarnished the organization's reputation.

There are also concerns about the UN's ability to address global challenges comprehensively, including issues such as poverty, inequality, migration, and climate change. Some argue that the UN's structure and decision-making processes may not be adequate to effectively address these complex and interconnected challenges, and that it has been slow to adapt to changing global dynamics.

In recent years, there has been debate about whether the UN has outlived its usefulness. While the UN continues to play a vital role in areas such as peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and global governance, there are calls for reforms to make it more effective, transparent, and inclusive. Efforts to reform the UN have been ongoing, including discussions on reforming the Security Council, improving the budgeting and financing mechanisms, and enhancing the role of civil society and non-state actors.

In conclusion, the UN has played a significant role in international relations over the years, contributing to peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and global governance. However, it also faces criticism and limitations in addressing complex global challenges, and there are ongoing debates about its effectiveness and relevance. The UN's future will depend on its ability to adapt and reform to meet the evolving needs of the international community, and whether it can effectively address global challenges in a rapidly changing world.

Q6. Have integrated world economy and liberal trade system been successful in the purpose of eradicating poverty? How does inequality function? Explain.

Ans6. The integration of the world economy and the promotion of liberal trade systems have been touted as means to promote economic growth and development, which in turn could help eradicate poverty. However, the relationship between these factors and poverty eradication is complex, and there are differing perspectives on their effectiveness.

Proponents of integrated world economy and liberal trade systems argue that they can lead to economic growth, which can create jobs, increase incomes, and improve living standards, thus contributing to poverty reduction. The theory is that increased trade and economic openness can stimulate economic growth, attract foreign investment, promote technology transfer, and foster innovation, leading to higher productivity and economic development. As countries develop economically, it is believed that poverty levels would decrease as people have more opportunities for employment and access to better living conditions.

Furthermore, liberal trade systems are often associated with the reduction of trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, which can make goods and services more affordable and accessible. This, in turn, can benefit consumers, especially those in lower-income brackets, by providing access to a wider range of goods at competitive prices.

However, critics of these approaches argue that the benefits of integrated world economy and liberal trade systems are not evenly distributed, and may exacerbate inequality. The functioning of inequality in this context can be explained through several mechanisms:

Displacement of local industries: The liberalization of trade can lead to the flooding of domestic markets with cheaper goods from other countries, which can result in the displacement or decline of local industries. This can lead to job losses, lower wages, and reduced income opportunities, particularly for those who are employed in vulnerable industries or lack the skills necessary to compete in the global market. As a result, income inequality may increase as those who are left behind may face reduced income and employment opportunities.

Concentration of wealth and power: Global economic integration and liberal trade systems can benefit larger corporations and multinational companies, as they have greater access to resources, markets, and capital. This can lead to the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few, exacerbating income and wealth inequality. Small farmers, local businesses, and vulnerable populations may face challenges in competing with larger corporations, leading to a widening wealth gap.

Unequal distribution of benefits: Economic growth and development may not necessarily result in poverty reduction if the benefits are not distributed equitably. In many cases, the gains from trade and economic openness may be captured by a small segment of the population, while the poor and marginalized groups may not see significant improvements in their living standards. This can result in social and economic disparities, further exacerbating inequality.

Social and environmental impacts: The pursuit of economic growth and integration into the global economy may also have negative social and environmental impacts, such as land grabbing, environmental degradation, and loss of traditional livelihoods. These impacts can disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples, rural farmers, and marginalized groups, leading to increased inequality in access to resources and opportunities.

In conclusion, the relationship between integrated world economy, liberal trade systems, and poverty eradication is complex. While proponents argue that these approaches can stimulate economic

growth and reduce poverty, critics highlight concerns about the unequal distribution of benefits, concentration of wealth and power, and social and environmental impacts. It is important to carefully consider and address these issues to ensure that efforts towards poverty eradication are inclusive and equitable, taking into account the needs and rights of all segments of society, particularly the poor and marginalized groups.

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