

Answer Key for In-Text Questions

Chapter 9

Title: Chapter 9 Questions for Review

Question/Prompt: 1. What is globalization?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Globalization is the process of increased interrelation among regions of the globe, resulting in homogeneity.

Question/Prompt: 2. Explain the HDI and its benefits over GDP per capita as a measure of global inequality.

Correct Answer Example(s):

A country's gross domestic product (GDP), which is the total income of all its residents divided by its population, can be used to gauge its potential for economic prosperity. However, large differences remain even if we adjust for purchasing power parity, which measures the local cost of living.

Instead, we can use the Human Development Index (HDI) to get a different picture of global inequality and people's well-being. The HDI combines three important measures of well-being to give a fuller image of people's conditions than solely looking at income:

- Life expectancy: Longevity and health measured by life expectancy at birth
- Human capital: Formal education and knowledge assessed via adult and youth literacy measures
- Standard of living: As captured by a measure of the GDP per capita

Question/Prompt: 3. How has the COVID-19 pandemic exposed problems with functionalist and conflict theory approaches to globalization?

Correct Answer Example(s):

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed problems with the functionalist approach to globalization in the following ways:

- The pandemic shows how multinational corporations benefit at the cost of suppliers, and, in turn, workers. It demonstrates how the neoliberal ideal of "small government" and a deregulated business environment leaves workers vulnerable to decisions made by multinationals based on capital gains rather than workers' rights.

- It shows that states remain important despite globalization, evidenced by the fact that they retain the right to shut their borders to outsiders and order citizens into social isolation, and not global networks or multinational corporations.
- A lack of global cultural convergence is evidenced by the different ways states (and within states, regions) dealt with the health and economic issues the pandemic created.
- Despite global networks of information flow, global networks of travel and trade are much affected by widely varying national shutdowns.
- The pandemic sharpened nationalistic sentiments and policies in many parts of the world, undermining global institutions such as the World Health Organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed problems with the conflict theory approach to globalization in the following ways:

- The pandemic resulted in drastic losses of wealth and life in leading core societies—in the USA and UK, for example—as well as in newly industrialized countries (NICs) like China and Russia.
- Many Marxist theorists view the state as a passive tool of the ruling capitalist class. However, the pandemic has shown that the state can influence the course of stock markets and the fortunes of major multinational corporations.

Question/Prompt: 4. Describe the relationship between globalization and the state.

Correct Answer Example(s):

Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- A key goal of neoliberal globalization is to fundamentally change the role of the state in everyday affairs. In this view, the state no longer looks after its citizens; rather, the state serves the economy and its objective is to create regulations that will benefit corporations and maximize profits. In this system, the state's role is to create programs and incentives to help and support companies in their research and development and in creating innovations.
- States become less powerful through deregulation as multinational corporations become better able to operate freely across borders. Some of the largest multinational corporations have the assets of small to medium-sized national economies and, by their ability to invest or disinvest in particular countries, they exercise a great deal of political influence throughout the world.
- However, states remains important in a globalized world because each country remains responsible for the health, welfare, and safety of its people. Ultimately, states have control over borders, work patterns, education, social lives, and responses to health and economic issues.
- Further, crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic have sharpened nationalistic sentiments and policies in many parts of the world and undermined global institutions. The pandemic has also showed that states can influence the course of stock markets and the fortunes of major multinational corporations.

Question/Prompt: 5. How does global inequality influence global migration?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Global inequality among countries has produced a clear “citizenship premium” for people in the Global North and “citizenship penalty” for people in the Global South. This citizenship premium–penalty difference has had an increasingly powerful effect on international migration over the last 50 years. Decade after decade, people in poor countries have migrated to countries like Canada, which they perceived as offering them an opportunity for upward mobility.

Question/Prompt: 6. What are the differences in how the far left and the far right approach antiglobalization? What do they have in common?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- The far right approach to antiglobalization puts forward two main arguments. First, it argues that globalization takes away jobs in local economies due to products being made in the Global South. Second, it argues that globalization leads to mass immigration that brings cultural influence and reduces the number of jobs and opportunities available to existing citizens.
- In contrast, the far left approach to antiglobalization argues that the spread of capitalism by globalization has resulted in asymmetrical power relations both domestically and internationally. In this view, globalization exploits Global South countries and creates new economic dependencies that continue cycles of poverty. Further, globalization results in the commodification of every aspect of life, including health, education, culture.
- Both approaches to antiglobalization oppose neoliberal globalization, which promotes unfettered, unregulated markets and free trade.

Title: Chapter 9 Questions for Critical Thought

Question/Prompt: 1. Do you think technology is making the world smaller? What evidence do you see in your everyday life that supports the argument of a shrinking world?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- The world feels smaller through the seamless integration of technology, products, people, and information on a global scale.
- Youth around the world wear the same brands and styles, creating a sense of global connectivity and homogenization.
- In an interconnected world, events do not occur in isolation. Rather, local events and understandings occur in relation to what unfolds in other parts of the world.
- Today, many people, especially young people, spend more time engaged in communications conducted through cyberspace than in face-to-face interactions. People who may have otherwise never met can find commonalities and form relationships anywhere around the world.
- Technologies such as the internet, air travel, and mobile phones also contribute to greater global integration across time and space.

Question/Prompt: 2. Explain how capitalism is an expansionist and exploitative system in terms of core and peripheral states. Under what circumstances might the system prevent peripheral states from becoming core states?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- Immanuel Wallerstein's *The Modern World-System* (1974/2011) proposes that beginning in the sixteenth century, an important worldwide social system was developed based on capitalist principles. His model consists of three categories of world nations: core states, peripheral states, and semiperipheral states.
- Core states are industrialized, wealthy, and powerful. Peripheral states are of lower income and less able to exert political influence internationally, and are subject to control or manipulation by core states. Semiperipheral states, as the name suggests, are somewhere between core and peripheral states, but with some political influence.
- From the beginning, core states were the source of manufactured goods and the beneficiaries of slave labour taking place in the periphery. Today, we see similar flows of workers, products, and capital from one part of the world to another. Core states (like Canada) rely on cheap, poorly compensated labour in the poorest peripheral countries (like Bangladesh) to ensure a high-profit margin for manufactured goods.
- The purpose of capitalist imperial rule is to enrich capitalists in core states at the expense of people living in peripheral states. The rulers of core states take much of the raw material, cheap labour, and economic surplus from peripheral states, which are unable to

resist their efforts due to preexisting global inequality. They also create enforced trading partners that purchase more than they export. Investors from the core states therefore effectively control the economies of these peripheral states. Profits made in the periphery drain out of the local economy and flow back to the core, perpetuating and exacerbating global inequality.

Question/Prompt: 3. What do you think Canada's role should be in reducing global inequality? What might get in the way of the best intentions of Canadians?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- Canada is a prosperous country in the Global North that has the ability to help reduce global inequality.
- The state plays an important role in preventing or mitigating cross-national social problems that are most harmful to people in the poorest countries: problems like human trafficking, environmental destruction, mass migration, epidemics, and cybercrime. In fact, one could argue that the biggest problems facing humanity today are global problems like climate change. No single country, however wealthy or powerful, can hope to solve these problems without cooperating with other, poorer nations.
- States increasingly stimulate and promote certain kinds of innovation through taxation and the redistribution of national revenues. Often, the innovations developed in this way spread globally and benefit poorer countries, which could not have developed the same technology on their own. In this way, states contribute to social development and international equality. States often regulate the development, spread, and sharing of new technologies. In fact, state policies can greatly affect the rate at which innovations are adopted
- States also play a role in funding global organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the United Nations and its agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; the World Bank; the World Health Organization, among others. By funding these organizations, wealthier and more powerful states reduce global inequality by indirectly providing services and benefits to poorer societies that benefit from these but could not pay for them on their own.
- However, many of these organizations have also come under criticism. International organizations undermine Global South countries' ability to protect their citizens from exploitation and, in this way, continue colonial patterns of paternalism. Programs that are aimed to reduce global inequality often come attached with guidelines for modernization and require countries to open to free-market capitalism. This creates new dependencies of Global South countries on Global North multinationals and also undermines local small-scale economic activity and state sovereignty.
- Canada profits from the exploitation of the Global South, which gets in the way of attempts to reduce global inequality.

Question/Prompt: 4. Explain the concept of the creative class as introduced by Richard Florida. What role do you think the creative class plays in creating diverse and economically and socially successful cities?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- Richard Florida suggests that certain cities have a concentration of “creative capital”—individuals having high degree of education, skills, and creativity. Members of this “creative class” move to these cities because of their economic and lifestyle benefits that are not available elsewhere. He suggests that cities that possess the “three T’s”—technology, talent, and tolerance—are particularly successful at attracting members of the creative class. Florida’s work suggests that individual decisions about where to live are just as important as political or corporate power in shaping our societies.
- Some people argue that the prosperity of cities indeed depends on the presence of the creative class to spark economic growth. Others, however, argue that members of the creative class come from high-income backgrounds and benefit only the rich. Further, they argue that their presence leads to gentrification and displaces poor and working classes.

Question/Prompt: 5. What are the benefits and drawbacks of international communication tools such as social media, blogs, and YouTube in terms of global inequality and globalization? Do these tools encourage a single culture worldwide, or do they allow for the sharing of different perspectives and values?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- The development of international communication tools have resulted in the global spread of lifestyles and values prevalent in the Global North, including the desire for democracy and American culture.
- These technologies have played a substantial role in establishing English as the hegemonic world language. One of the most devastating effects of globalization through the dominance of the English language is the unprecedented loss of languages around the world. However, there are attempts to revive languages, and some use technology to give them new relevance.
- However, international communication tools can raise awareness about global inequality and provide innovative solutions.
- To some degree, technological innovation has helped significantly to improve cooperation around the world. Today, many people, especially young people, spend more time engaged in communications conducted through cyberspace than in face-to-face interactions. People who may have otherwise never met can find commonalities and form relationships anywhere around the world.

- Many people are exposed to different perspectives and viewpoints, which promotes tolerance, acceptance, and inclusivity.

Question/Prompt: 6. If the antiglobalization movement opposes neoliberal notions of globalization rather than globalization in general, what strategies could the movement use to more effectively create real social change?

Correct Answer Example(s):

Some strategies the antiglobalization movement could use to more effectively create real social change include:

- Increase restrictions and regulations for multinational corporations
- Ensure international organizations do not tie financial aid to guidelines for modernization and require countries to open to free-market capitalism
- Improve labour laws in the Global South
- Support immigration and recognize the many contributions it provides to local economies
- Abolish offshore tax havens
- Introduce a carbon tax for multinational corporations
- Support local food movements and sustainable regional food production
- Support the positive effects of globalization on Global South countries, such as improved standard of living, access to clean water, and increased life expectancy