

**FINAL
ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT**

(COVER PAGE)

Session : January 2022

Programme : Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (DMEN)

Course : ENL1102: Technical English

Date of Examination : 7 March 2022 (Monday)

Time : 8.00am – 10.30am Reading Time : Nil

Duration : 2 Hours 30 Minutes

Special Instructions :

This paper consists of **FOUR (4)** questions. You must answer **ALL** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Material permitted : Nil

Materials provided : Nil

Examiner(s) : Tan Seng Aun

Chief Moderator : Dolly Singh

This paper consists of 6 printed pages, including the cover page

DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAMME (DMEN)
ENL1102: TECHNICAL ENGLISH
FINAL ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT: JANUARY 2022 SESSION

Instructions: This paper consists of **FOUR (4)** questions. You must answer **ALL** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Question 1: READING COMPREHENSION (25 marks)

Read the passage provided below and answer all the questions.

Globalization: is it a force for good or for bad?

Globalization is defined in many ways. One simple definition is that it is the rapid increase in international free trade, investment, and technological exchange. It is the tendency of investment funds and businesses to move beyond domestic and national markets to other markets around the globe, allowing them to become interconnected with different markets. It is argued that this international trade has been one of the main causes of world economic growth over the past half century. Although there is little doubt that the global economy had grown enormously in the last 50 years, some people believe that this growth has only benefitted certain countries and that others have suffered as a result. Therefore, there are several arguments that are in favor or against globalization.

10 An argument in favor of globalization is that the benefits of increased international trade are shared among everyone in the country. Proponents of globalization say that it helps developing nations "catch up" to industrialized nations much faster through increased employment and technological advances. Asian economies are often highlighted as examples of globalization's success. An example of this is China, where per capita income rose from about \$1400 in 1980 to 15 over \$4000 by 2000. Similarly, per capita income rose by over 100% in India between 1980 and 1996. It would appear that countries which open their doors to world trade tend to become wealthier.

However, these sorts of figures might not be giving a true picture. They are 'average' figures, and despite the fact that there has been a substantial increase in income for a small minority of people, 20 the vast majority has only seen a slight improvement. Critics of globalization say that it weakens national sovereignty and allows rich nations to ship domestic jobs overseas where labor is much cheaper. The ever-increasing flow of cross-border traffic in terms of people, money, information, and technology isn't going to stop. Some argue that it is a classic situation of the rich get richer

while the poor get poorer. While global standards of living have risen overall as industrialization
25 takes root in third world countries, they have fallen in developed countries. Today, the gap
between rich and poor countries is expanding as is the gap between the rich and poor within these
countries.

What then is the real story on globalization? It largely depends on your personal perspective. For
business leaders and members of the economic elite, globalization is good. Cheaper labor overseas
30 enables them to build production facilities in locations where labor and health care costs are low,
and then sell the finished goods in locations where wages are high. Supporters of free trade also
stated that there is another direct benefit to be gained from an increase in international trade:
exports require imports. Coffee is cited as an example. Countries which produce and export
coffee import the packaging for it: a two-way trade which enables commerce to develop in two
35 countries at the same time.

However, critics maintain that, in general, it is poorer countries which produce and export food
such as coffee, and richer countries which produce and export manufactured goods such as
packaging materials. Furthermore, it is richer countries which control the prices of commodities
and therefore, farmers may be forced to sell their produce at a low price and to buy manufactured
40 goods at an inflated price. Therefore, in the globalization battleground, outsourcing is a double-
edged sword. On the one hand, low wages in foreign countries enable retailers to sell clothing,
cars and other goods at reduced rates in Western nations where shopping has become an ingrained
part of the culture. This allows companies to increase their profit margins. At the same time,
shoppers save money when they buy these goods, causing some supporters of globalization to
45 argue that while sending jobs overseas tends to lower wages, it may also lower prices at the same
time.

On the other hand, *homogenization of the world* is another result, with the same coffee shop on
every corner and the same big-box retailers in seemingly every city in every country. So, while
globalization does promote contact and exchange between cultures, it also tends to make them
50 more similar to one another. At the market level, linked global financial markets propel local
issues into international problems, such as meltdowns in Southeast Asia to Russian debt defaults.
Deviation from the status quo on this issue is likely to be minimal. The massive outsourcing of
U.S. manufacturing jobs that began decades ago continues today. White collar jobs, such as call
center workers, medical technicians and accountants, have also joined the outsource parade,

55 leaving many to argue that those profiting from the arrangement have little incentive to change it, while those most impacted by it are virtually powerless.

Finally, globalization often encourages a country to focus on industries which are already successful. These countries develop expertise and increase their share in the international market. In contrast, those countries which continue to support all their industries usually do not develop
 60 expertise in any one. Consequently, these countries do not find a world market for their good and do not increase their gross domestic product (GDP) or gross national product (GNP). Anti-globalists claim that there is a serious flaw in this argument for the specialization of industry. Countries which only focus on one or two main industries are forced to import other goods. These imported goods are frequently over-priced, and these countries, therefore, have a tendency
 65 to accumulate huge debts.

This debate will undoubtedly continue for some time. Until a better solution is found, education, flexibility and adaptability are the keys to survival. However, it would seem that a better balance between free trade and fair trade is the answer to the problems of globalization.

(Adapted from New Headway Academic Skills, Oxford).

Part A: Answer the following questions. Write all your answers in complete sentences.(16 marks)

1. According to the text, why is the gap between the rich and the poor expanding? (2marks)
2. What does the writer mean by saying that in the globalization battleground, outsourcing is a double-edged sword? (2marks)
3. Explain in your own words the expression “*homogenization of the world*” as used in the passage (line 47 paragraph 6). (2marks)
4. Which sentence in the passage indicates that globalization will cause local issues and problems of a country to become international issues. (2marks)
5. What are the **TWO (2)** benefits of globalization according to the proponents of the arguments? (2 marks)
 - i)
 - ii)

6. Provide **THREE (3)** examples of what the critics say about globalization? (3 marks)
- i)
- ii)
- iii)
7. In your opinion, based on the passage, is globalization good or bad? Provide your reasons. (3 marks)

Part B: Vocabulary (5 X 1 mark = 5 marks)

For **questions 8 – 12**, find in the given passage, a **word/phrase** that has a similar meaning to the following phrases given in the table below. Write your answer in the answer sheet.

		<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Word/Phrase</i>
8.	People who advocate for a cause.	2	
9.	The authority in the decision-making process of the state.	3	
10.	Embedded or firmly fixed.	5	
11.	A motivating influence.	6	
12.	An imperfection which mars a substance.	7	

Part C: TRUE or FALSE statements. (4 X 1 mark = 4 marks)

For **questions 11 – 14**, determine whether each statement given in the table below is **true** or **false**. In your answer sheet, write **T** for true statements and **F** for false statements.

	T or F
13. Critics argued that many countries are becoming richer due to the growth in world trade.	
14. Supporters of globalization stated that everyone in a country gets more money from international trade.	

15. Generally, two-way trade results in commercial development in both countries.	
16. The writer of the article is in favor of the benefits of globalization.	

Question 2: Letter writing (25 marks)

You and a friend saved for a year to take a cruise during a break. You contacted a reputable travel agency and purchased a five-day luxury cruise for RM6,000.00 per person. However, to your dismay, the cruise was not as advertised in the brochure. You and your friend did not fully enjoy the cruise due to numerous problems and poor customer service.

Write a complaint letter to Mr. Robert, the manager of the travel agency, to highlight the problems and to demand an explanation. Provide other relevant details.

You are encouraged to create specific details and your **letter** should be around **120 words**. The letter should be written in full block method using open punctuation style.

Question 3: Essay writing (25 marks)

Choose one of the topics below and write a complete essay of not more than 250 words.

1. Discuss the effects of the increasing cases of video games addiction among teenagers.
2. Compare or contrast between shopping online with shopping in-store.

Question 4: Report writing (25 marks)

Mr. James Steward, the General Manager of Universal Electronics is very concerned about the high turnover of staff for the past six months. As the Human Resources Manager, you have been tasked to look into the various issues which have caused numerous operational problems to the organization. You have surveyed the various departments in your company and have gathered the necessary data.

Based on the analysis of the data, prepare a brief informal analytical **report** of about **200 words** for Mr. James Steward. Inform him of the findings and provide relevant recommendations pertaining to the problems. Include any necessary details.

~THE END~