

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Section A

Are we entering an era of deglobalisation?

Global trade, which galloped at 17 percent growth per year between 2000-2010, slowed to half its previous rate in the second decade of the 21st century. From America First to Atmanirbhar Bharat, experts and critics of globalisation are heralding a new dawn - the era of deglobalisation. But is their fear (or euphoria) justified?

In this essay I will argue that it is highly premature to write the obituary of globalisation. Marshaling arguments and evidence from a variety of quarters - and looking at the term 'globalisation' holistically - I show that the events of the last

decade are more of a slip than a long-term shift. I also address several objections that might be launched against such a view and towards the end show how the current status of globalisation can be modified to increase its appeal and win back the naysayers to its folds.

GLOBALISATION - MEANING AND HISTORY

Joseph Stiglitz defines the term as the rapid increase in flow of goods, services, capital, ideas, people, and to some extent, labour, brought about by improvements in technology and reduction in costs of transportation. The high mark of such a withdrawal of national boundaries happened during 1870-1914. Invention of steam engines, telegraph and the rapid progress of railways around the world brought about this shift.

After the World Wars, globalisation again picked up speed, this time relying on developments in computing technologies.

Finally, the 1990s and the 2000s (until 2007-8) is the period best described by

Some as 'globalisation on steroids' -

Capital flows, trade in goods and services, and even labour movement increased exponentially during this phase.

WHY DEGLOBALISATION?

However not everyone got an equal share in its rewards. Wages in America and Europe stagnated due to competition from cheap Chinese goods. Even the skilled workers lost jobs to the Indian outsourcing industry. Developing countries complained about the lack of national sovereignty while all countries

were nostalgic of their original cultural identities, pressured by the homogenising influence of globalisation.

The election of Donald Trump in the US, Brexit, the rise of populist leaders around the world, and increasing barriers to trade and immigration soon reversed the globalising marsh. India launched the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign earlier this year and also opted out of the RCEP trade agreement. International agencies like WTO, UN or the World Bank are being sidelined and replaced by nationalistic alternatives. All of this has made many people convinced that we are entering a new era.

GLOBALISATION FIGHTS BACK

If globalisation is properly defined as the free movement of goods, services, capital, ideas, people and labour,

it would be improper to focus on the first alone. Indeed, as I show below, trade in goods may have slowed but free movement of the rest is alive and kicking and promises to increase even further in the future.

To start with the amorphous flow of ideas around the world, there is simply no reversing this trend of closer integration brought about by developments in ICT. This year alone, protest movements enveloped Nigeria, Hong Kong and many other nations, prompted by the flow of liberal ideas and thoughts from over the globe.

Trade in Services received a booster shot from the Covid-19 pandemic - Indian IT giants like Infosys and TCS

added billions of dollars in revenues as demand for outsourcing and technical consultancy services rose with the trend towards work-from-home.

India also benefited from booming capital inflows - our foreign exchange reserves swelled to \$578 billion at the peak of the pandemic. FDI inflows stood at \$285 billion over the past five years of supposed deglobalisation - up by fifty percent over the 2009-2014 figures.

Global tourist flows picked up as the pandemic ebbed in some countries. Barbados offered a 'work-from-beach' visa scheme for rich Westerners who lepped up the opportunity. Even India, which added \$240 billion to its GDP from tourism in 2018, is hoping to

increase its share in global tourists to
3 percent by 2022.

Although tourists are welcomed
with greater enthusiasm than immigrants,
and Trump's H1B visa restrictions might
reflect the de-globalising tendencies of
our world, it can only be a short-term
blip. Population in the Western World is
ageing rapidly, leading to a higher dependency
ratio and a spiralling pension bill.
Countries are responding with survival
instincts - even the infamously restrictive
Japan is easing norms to welcome
immigrants by easing restrictions. Clearly,
this is a long-term trend and other
countries, also behind on the ageing
cycle, will respond soon enough.

But what about talks of increasing political nationalism? Even there, a bipartisan consensus seems to be emerging - Trump was replaced by a darling of the globalists, Joe Biden, in November US Presidential Election. Supporters of Brexit want a close trading relationship with the EU, lest it wreck havoc on the fragile British economy. And closer home in India, the government has been at pains to clarify that 'Atma-nirbharta' does not mean closing off to the world.

While the very individualistic responses to the Covid-19 pandemic might have shown the fall in value of global cooperation, it also presented opposing evidence. Countries learnt from each other on how to protect their citizens - South Korean officials conducted tours

abroad, Indians delivered medicines to 55 countries in April, and even China shared the virus' genome with the global community back in January.

A NEW GLOBALISATION

While trade in goods has suffered post the financial crisis, free movement of other equally important things has galloped forward. International alliances are still being built to address global challenges - India's move towards QUAD and away from strategic isolation is the biggest example of how we are turning our face towards the world, and not our back.

Although globalisation, free trade and capital flows, along with the exchange of ideas, has helped reduce poverty in developing countries and allowed the people

around the world to mingle with each other, it does not mean that globalisation is without its defects. Stagnating ways in the West, charges of cultural appropriation and reduction of national sovereignty are fair charges that must be addressed with empathy.

A new globalisation would invite countries to integrate with the world but at their own pace. Better safeguards against dumping of cheap goods that hurt poor local producers must be developed. Alliances should be made to further common goals, instead of pushing back against certain 'enemies' as was the case in the Cold War. Finally, to put a lid on various critics of globalisation, free movement should also extend to immigration in rich countries, which requires a reversal of their often racist

immigration policies. As long as
globalisation is seen as a means for
increasing national prosperity, instead of
being an end in itself, there will be
less cause to consider whether
deglobalisation can indeed ^{replace} ~~follow~~ its
predecessor regime.

Section B

Tourism in India: a potential game changer

Last year, on a flight to Delhi, I met a young British girl who was travelling to India in her gap year. As she told me about her plans to visit Varanasi, spot tigers in Jim Corbett, and circumambulate the Stupa in Sanchi, her eyes were filled with excitement and wonder - the same curiosity, one imagines, that occupied the minds of explorers to this ancient land over thousands of years.

From the time of gifted travellers like Fa Hsein, Ibn-e-Batuta, and Tavernier, the tourism industry in India has expanded a great deal - the country attracted over 1 crore tourists per year before the pandemic. However, this

is still less than what we are capable of. In this essay, after tracing the numerous opportunities of tourism - both internal and foreign - I show how it can have many salubrious effects for the country, much beyond its economic potential. Later I highlight some of its weaknesses that have held the sector back, and while identifying certain threats of unregulated tourist inflows, I offer a roadmap for adequately leveraging its potential.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOURISM IN INDIA

India's geography is to its biggest advantage here, situated as it is at the centre of the economically dynamic Asian region. Our art and architecture too has presence of central Asian and typical South Asian elements, but also resplendent Hindu art and architecture (Ajanta and

Thanjavur come to mind immediately),
Buddhist stupas and viharas, Indo-Islamic
constructions (in the North such as those
in Agra and Delhi) and even colonial
architecture with European elements.

Besides a rich variety of cultural
places to visit, India has an unparalleled
diversity in wildlife, having over 80 percent
of the world's tigers. Add to that a
multi-lingual population, weak exchange
rate and a respectable reputation around
the world, making India a potential
tourism hotspot.

HOW TOURISM CONTRIBUTES TO A VARIETY OF SECTORS

If we leverage our vast
potential, the biggest gains shall accrue
to our economy. In 2018 the sector

added \$ 240 billion to our GDP,
employing about 9 percent of our workforce.
In an era of jobless growth, the high
employment intensity of tourism - catering to
both low-income shopkeepers selling
handicrafts to five-star hotels - is a
beacon of hope.

International tourism has an
added advantage as far as economic
development is concerned - it also brings in
precious foreign exchange that helps
insulate the country from adverse shocks.

Tourists from across the world,
when they visit India, take home
memories of ^{our} warm hospitality, and an
amalgamation of ancient and modern
cultures that defines the country. This
helps generate goodwill abroad and boosts

our soft power. At present we rank 27 (and below China, UAE and Saudi Arabia) on the Global Soft Power Index but this can improve significantly with greater tourist flows, ultimately contributing to a strengthened international relations ~~go~~ regime.

When tourists return home, they also take and imbibe some of our culture and habits. Indian food, yoga and Bollywood, already quite popular in the neighbouring countries, has potential to expand even further. One of the ways China spreads its culture is through opening Confucius institutes around the world - we can get similar benefits through greater tourist engagement at ~~the~~ a fraction of the cost.

It is not just international tourist ~~at~~ arrivals that we must focus on. Increased intra-national tourism helps disseminate various cultures around the country and increases national unity. If more people from the North witnessed the magnificent sunset at Rameshwaram, or more people from the South toured the forts and palaces of Rajasthan, and both spent their vacations ~~increased~~ immersed in the beauty of Sikkim, Kaziranga or Arumachel, our country will be able to bridge many fissures.

Speaking of culture, it is imperative that our youth (and even adults) know more about India's glorious past through visiting museums and memorials. UK has waived off all charges from its own museums so that people of all walks of life can jointly bask in British greatness;

We can do the same to spread knowledge of our history far and wide.

CONSTRAINTS AND THREATS

Why India's tourism sector underperforms is anyone's guess. Many would put the annoying presence of cheats and frauds at tourist sites quite high on the list. Also of concern are lack of safety for women, high pollution levels in the North, weak connectivity and infrastructure around major destinations and at times, the unhelpful behaviour of local people.

Even if we are somehow able to meet these immediate challenges and increase our share of global tourist arrivals to 3 percent by 2022 (as mentioned in NITI Aayog's 7-year strategy).

We are not immune to the challenges of unbridled, unrestricted and disruptive tourism.

Many Western countries are facing onslaught by residents in tourist-friendly places (like Paris), who complain about noisy and waste-dumping merry-makers. Closer home, Bhutan has levied a cess on tourists to preserve its fragile ecology.

India too faces similar challenges in its ecologically sensitive Himalayan and North-Eastern region. Plastic waste dumping by callous trekkers has already reached crisis proportions in some areas of Himachal Pradesh.

THE WAY FORWARD

Paradoxically, some of the constraints mentioned above can further aid tourism's positive effects on other facts

of the country.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan also had in mind the frequent complaint by Western tourists that India was a 'pleasant yet filthy place'. Tackling air pollution in Delhi, crime around tourist places and generally investing in women safety, even if only to attract more international tourists with deep pockets, will have knockover effects for the local population.

Campaigns like Incredible India! increase our own awareness of the country's sheer beauty and diversity. Finally, raising consciousness about eco-tourism alerts the average person about the necessity of preserving our ecology.

Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Culture have carried out many programmes and unveiled initiatives to boost the tourism industry. These include Dekho Apne Desh scheme, Ez Bharet Shreshthe Bharet, PRASAD scheme, development of thematic Buddhist circuits and Swadesh Darshan among others.

These are much needed steps and must also be accompanied by initiatives to upgrade some of our ^{old} ~~over~~ and dilapidated museums that house remnants of our glorious history. Complementing the reforms to our museum architecture should be a mission-mode initiative to make India a hub of wildlife tourism.

This requires greater coordination across ministries but will yield superior results. Finally, returning to where we started from, the ghats of Varanasi may be a lot cleaner but the mission to clean Ganga is still incomplete. The importance of the tourism sector, and its various cross-cutting effects, should motivate us enough to pursue a holistic development strategy that both attracts tourists from India and around the world, and also improves the lives of our citizens.