
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND RESEARCH

9239/12

Paper 1 Written Examination

February/March 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

INSERT (RESOURCE BOOKLET)

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Resource Booklet contains Documents 1 and 2 which you should use to answer the questions.

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the documents before attempting to answer the questions. This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

The documents below consider issues related to migration and work. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document 1: adapted from *The Economic Causes of Migration*, an online article written by Dr Branko Milanovic in 2013. The author has a PhD in economic inequality from Belgrade University, Serbia. He is a leading world scholar of global income inequality between individuals.

The best way to look at the issues of migration is in the context of globalization. Three things have changed since the 1980s, and these are causing the most recent waves of migration.

Firstly, rich countries have experienced higher economic growth rates than poor countries. The gap in wealth between rich countries like the United States and poor countries like Madagascar was 10 to 1 in 1960. Today it is 50 to 1. The US New Immigrant Survey tells us that there is also a gap between migrant countries themselves. For instance, a high school graduate in South Korea earns ten times as much as one in India.

Although people in Europe today worry about money, they forget how much richer Western Europe is compared to most of Asia and Africa. The Union Bank of Switzerland “Prices and Earnings” report shows a bus driver’s hourly wage rate (adjusted for the cost of living) is \$20 in Amsterdam and only \$3 in Mumbai. Also the poorest 1% of the Danish population has a higher income than 95% of those in Mali, Madagascar or Tanzania. It follows that people from poor countries can dramatically increase their standard of living by migrating to a richer country.

Secondly, people in poorer countries are much more aware of these income gaps. Professor Andrew Clark and Claudia Senik, two researchers, claim that this is not only the result of the globalization of communication including TV, the internet and social media. It is also the result of greater political openness of countries like the former Soviet bloc, China and Burma. So, people today realize the difference in living conditions elsewhere, which is a magnet for migration.

Finally, the cost of transportation has decreased, but it is still not cheap. It is not the poorest of the poor who migrate but the slightly better off. For them, the costs of migration, however hazardous the conditions may be, have gone down. As a result, the opportunity to migrate has increased.

These three changes explain the migration pressure, but the question is: What can be done to manage it, or slow it down? The present policy of rich countries is to create barriers to immigration at the global level, as in the building of a “fence” between the US and Mexico. Other less well-known examples are Saudi Arabia’s fence against Yemen, India’s against Bangladesh and Spain’s ports on the Moroccan coast being entirely fenced in against African migrants. This defensive approach is tough, costly and only moderately controls migration. It produces tragedies like the one at Lampedusa, where more than 300 Africans died trying to cross to Europe. This raises uncomfortable questions about the right to stop the free movement of people.

However, a better alternative would be for rich countries to allow much greater, managed immigration through temporary programs for workers. Fairer migration policies would allow foreigners from poor countries to apply for and get jobs in rich countries. So, the answer to managing migration is to change from a national view to a global view, with more generous and targeted migration policies.

Document 2: adapted from *Environmental Migrants: More than Numbers*, an article written by Professor Jacob Park in 2013. The author has been global environmental policy advisor to Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. He has also been a United Nations (UN) research specialist on Asian environmental and urban development issues.

The political disorder in Syria, Egypt and other countries in the Middle East has caused global migration problems. Syria's political difficulties have led to a stream of refugees fleeing to the Turkish border. But what rarely gets reported is the serious drought affecting Syria since 2006. This has forced more than 1.5 million people to migrate in search of food and economic stability.

Ahmed Abdullah, a Syrian farmer, lives in a ragged fabric and plastic tent with his wife and 12 children. He reports, "I once had 400 acres of wheat, and now it's all desert. We were forced to flee. Now we are at less than nothing – with no money, no job, no hope". Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Reporter on the Right to Food, observed: "1.3 million Syrians have been affected, especially small-scale farmers and small-scale herders, who have often lost 80–85% of their livestock". The same drought is also affecting 10 million people across Africa in such countries as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

The situation in Syria is a small-scale version of an issue that the international community will have to deal with in the future. According to a report by the international charity CARE, climate change is already contributing to migration. Mexico and Central American countries are already experiencing negative impacts of climate change. They have less rainfall and more extreme weather, such as hurricanes and floods. Rainfall in some areas is expected to decline by as much as 50% by the middle of this century. This will make local farming impossible and dramatically raise the risk of chronic hunger.

The International Organisation for Migration estimates that there are several million "environmental migrants", and that this "number will rise to tens of millions within the next 20 years, or hundreds of millions within the next 50 years". So, as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of cyclones, floods, and droughts, the number of migrants will rise.

The term, environmental migrants, is not a new one. Mostafa Tolba, former Executive Director of the UN Environmental Programme, wrote in a Bioscience journal article in 1989 that "as many as 50 million could become environmental refugees, if the world did not act to support sustainable development".

What can be done about migration caused by climate change and concerns about water shortages? The answer is twofold. Firstly, we need to improve our understanding of the complex relationship between environmental conditions and human migration.

Secondly, we need to act on this understanding. There is strong evidence that climate risk management techniques could have worked in Africa. These should have been introduced as early as 2007 before the drought problem caused widespread famine in the Horn of Africa. The international community should concentrate less on emergency food supplies and more on sustained development. This would help farmers like Ahmed Abdullah and those in Africa to be self-sufficient in food resources. The answer to environmental migration is therefore recognising the problem early.

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