



## Model answers to Section 1 end-of-chapter review questions

The review examination questions at the end of each chapter in *Geography for the IB Diploma: Global Interactions* are based on the style of question found in Paper 3. Model answers to selected questions are given here.

Questions in Paper 3 are in two parts: part **a** carries 10 marks and part **b** carries 15 marks. The markbands for Paper 3 are found on pages 58 and 59 of the IB Geography Guide. For part **a** the level descriptors range from A (0 marks) to E (9–10 marks). For part **b** the level descriptors range from A (0 marks) to E (13–15 marks).

### 1 Global participation, page 13, question 1

Following the syllabus, candidates will choose either the KOF Index of Globalisation or the A.T. Kearney index. The KOF Index is used here as an example.

- a** The KOF Index of Globalisation is one of the major measures of global interaction measuring economic, social and political dimensions of globalisation. Measurement is on a scale of 1 to 100. The 2009 index showed two countries with a score of over 90: Belgium and Ireland.

Answers should make the point that the overall index is an amalgamation of indices of economic globalisation, social globalisation and political globalisation, and that the position of individual countries on these indices can differ markedly.

There should be some discussion of the factors included in each of the three measures of globalisation:

- Economic – subdivided into actual flows and restrictions. Actual flows include data on trade, foreign direct investment and portfolio investment. Economic restrictions on trade and capital include hidden import barriers, mean tariff rate, taxes on international trade and capital controls.
- Social – measures of personal contacts, information flows and cultural proximity.
- Political – the measures here are membership of international organisations, embassies in the country, and participation in UN Security Council missions and international treaties.

Better candidates will note that each individual factor is given a weighting according to its perceived importance.



**b** The index provides rankings of all the countries in the world for the three individual measures (economic, social and political) and for the overall composite measure. It allows direct comparisons between countries and can illustrate changes over time. The index is relatively easy to understand. However, while the KOF Index is a generally respected measure of globalisation, certain limitations have been pointed out:

- It seems to be easier for relatively small nations to achieve higher scores than larger countries. For example, in the 2009 KOF Index the first countries of significant population size to appear in the ranking are France (16th) and Germany (22nd). Thus larger countries may be being undervalued in terms of their true contributions to globalisation.
- Some critics argue that the wide variation of economic, social and political ranking of some countries is down to poor selection of the individual criteria. However, supporters of the index say that this is only to be expected for some countries due to different government priorities.
- Measures can only be used for data that is widely available. Thus some potentially more useful measures cannot be used because of this limitation.
- The weightings given to individual measures have been the subject of a degree of criticism – some see these weightings as being very subjective in nature.
- Some economists have argued that economic measures should be given more prominence than social and political factors – but experts from other disciplines often have alternative viewpoints.

Answers may also include other relevant arguments.