

GLOBALISATION

LESSON 1: EXPLAINING GLOBALISATION

Lesson aim:

- ↘ Provide opportunities for students to understand the meaning of globalisation.
- ↘ Encourage students to explore some key areas related to globalisation.

Learning objectives:

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- ↘ explain their understanding of globalisation;
- ↘ identify the key areas associated with globalisation; and
- ↘ present and defend their understanding and position on globalisation.

Lesson outline:

In-class activity: Opening discussion

Write the word “globalisation” on the blackboard and ask students what is the first thing they think about when they see this word. Use the following to stimulate discussion which should inform learning to enable students to complete activities throughout this module:

- ↘ What is your understanding of globalisation?
- ↘ What other words or concepts do you associate with the term globalisation?
- ↘ What is your opinion of it?
- ↘ Do you think it is a good or bad thing for a) you b) workers c) society? Explain.
- ↘ What do you think is the aim of globalisation?

Group activity: Research and presentations

Students should form small working groups to explore globalisation further. The following should be covered:

- ↘ Definition of globalisation.
- ↘ What it means.
- ↘ Advantages OR disadvantages to a) workers b) young people c) society in general (this depends on allocation by teacher).
- ↘ Students should put together a five minute presentation and prepare for questions by the class.

(NOTE: Each group must take a position on globalisation (it is either a positive or negative) and conduct their research on that basis. Each group should prepare a five minute presentation, dependent on availability of resources, giving this perspective. Each presentation should be followed by a presentation from the opposite perspective. The class should then be allowed to vote on the presentation that was most persuasive.)

LESSON 1: EXPLAINING GLOBALISATION (CONTINUED)

Individual student activity: Essay or report

To reinforce their learning, encourage students to think through their position on this topic and to explore it in more detail. Students should be encouraged to write an essay outlining their position. The following are provided as suggestions only. If they wish teachers and students can decide their own topic:

- “Globalisation: the rights and wrongs.”
- “Globalisation means the loss of power of the nation-state and its sovereignty.” Discuss and evaluate this statement.
- “Globalisation can’t be singularly defined as it means different things to different countries.”
- “Globalisation is the cause of the decline of heterogeneous cultures and the rise of a globalised homogeneous one.” Discuss.
- “Globalisation is just another word for Americanisation.” Evaluate and discuss this statement.
- “The world would be better off if it were governed by one international institution as it would bring about world stability and a better quality of life.” Discuss drawing your own conclusions on this statement.

In-class activity:

Ask students whether they believe globalisation has more costs or benefits? Discuss the reason for their answers. Then ask students, based on their initial answer, to provide the material to back-up their position. Their position can be outlined in a) a report b) class presentation, however, each exercise must contain the key issues involved.

Additional resources

Students may wish to explore this topic in more detail. The internet has a wealth of information and below are some useful links to assist with their research and presentation projects:

www.johnpilger.com

www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/globalisation

www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/oct/31/globalisation.simonjeffery

www.economist.com

www.globalisationguide.org

www.ilo.org

www.oecd.org