

WP Eng – Welz

Task 1:

Read the text and summarize it in no more than 200 words.

Task 2:

Discuss the effects that the Coronavirus has/will have on globalization. Explain if those aspects will have a rather positive or negative impact on current globalization. Use information from the text and search for further arguments on the internet. Use the structure sheet for a discussion and follow the three-step argumentation rule when writing the discussion. Include at least two arguments for each side.

You will get feedback, if you send me your written discussion. → welz@fritz-reuter-oberschule.de

Will globalization fall victim to the coronavirus?

As travel restrictions curb the flow of people and goods, we're starting to see the fragility of global supply chains¹.

By Sean Speer; in: National Post (Canadian newspaper)

20.03.2020

The coronavirus pandemic has already produced thousands of casualties² around the world. One of the most far-reaching may ultimately be globalization itself.

Globalization, which refers to the globalized flow of goods, people and capital, has prevailed³ as a basic assumption of economic policy-making in most countries since the end of the Cold War.

Governments across the political spectrum have come to broadly agree on the benefits that derive⁴ from global economic integration.

It's hard to argue that globalization hasn't produced significant benefits. Various reports, for instance, have documented how globalized trade in the past quarter century has substantially reduced poverty around the world. Just consider that the share of the world's population living in extreme poverty (defined as living on less than US\$1.90 per day) has fallen from 36 per cent in 1990 to 10 per cent in 2015. That is, by any measure, a remarkable achievement that's mostly a result of the trend toward globalization, free trade and open markets.

¹ supply chain – Wertschöpfungskette, Produktions- und Zuliefererkette von einzelnen Produkten

² casualty - Opfer

³ to prevail - vorherrschen

⁴ to derive – von etwas herrühren, ableiten

But globalization has also produced some negative side effects. The earliest sign was the rise of global terrorism at the beginning of the century, which was enabled by a combination of soft borders and the globalized reach of information and communications technology. Next was the global financial crisis in 2008-09 that extended around the globe due to the interconnectedness of our financial systems. And, of course, there have been concentrated job losses in developed countries due to a combination of offshoring and global competition. One estimate, for instance, finds that the “China shock” in the form of rising imports from China led to a net loss of 105,000 Canadian manufacturing jobs alone between 2001 and 2011. The often problematic working conditions in developing countries and environmental issues should also not be forgotten here as a downside of the globalization process.

These adverse⁵ developments have caused some revisiting⁶ of the underlying assumptions of globalization. Populist politicians have started to question whether the economic trade-offs⁷ are worth it. Economists and other scholars are analyzing how “hyper-globalization” can be reformed to permit greater room for national sovereignty and self-determination. And the general public across the Western world has grown increasingly skeptical about the broad-based benefits of global integration.

As these debates unfold, the coronavirus has exposed another possible shortcoming of the globalized model: the fragility⁸ of global supply chains.

The old model of production occurred within national or continental borders. Supply was mostly for a domestic⁹ market. This system of economic organization was inefficient and relatively costly, but it was generally resilient¹⁰. The effects of global geopolitics or economic changes were minimized on domestic production or a jurisdiction’s¹¹ ability to meet its own needs.

The new model of global supply chains spreads the production process around the world. Specialization is the name of the game. Production is now fragmented¹² with different stages occurring in different countries in order to increase productivity and minimize costs. Think of the iPhone for instance. Apple works with suppliers in 43 countries and six continents to make its products.

Global supply chains have certainly enhanced¹³ economic efficiency. But the coronavirus experience is a reminder that they can also come with the cost of new and unpredictable¹⁴ vulnerabilities¹⁵. Many countries stop or limit their international trade.

⁵ adverse – nachteilig, negativ

⁶ to revisit - überdenken

⁷ trade-off - Austausch

⁸ fragility – Zerbrechlichkeit, Brüchigkeit

⁹ domestic – heimisch, inländisch

¹⁰ resilient – belastbar

¹¹ jurisdiction - Rechtssprechung

¹² to fragment - aufteilen

¹³ to enhance - verbessern

¹⁴ unpredictable - unvorhersehbar

¹⁵ vulnerability – Verletzbarkeit, Verletzlichkeit

As domestic quarantines shut down individual firms and travel restrictions curb the flow of people and goods, we're starting to see the fragility of global supply chains in such key products as pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. But it won't stop there. This disruption¹⁶ is soon bound to extend to other parts of the economy.

New analysis in the Harvard Business Review anticipates that the full impact will be felt later this month and will eventually cause "thousands of companies to throttle down or temporarily shut assembly¹⁷ and manufacturing plants" in North America and Europe. Companies that rely heavily on factories in China are most vulnerable.

This is already starting to raise questions about the inherent¹⁸ risks of our dependence on global supply chains. U.S. Republican Senator Marco Rubio, in particular, has been active in recent days on the need to repatriate¹⁹ parts of critical supply chains in order to minimize future disruptions and to re-establish productive capacity in strategic sectors of the economy.

His calls are bound to resonate²⁰ with policy-makers and the general public in light of current circumstances. That China has shown itself to be such an unreliable partner in managing the coronavirus will only serve to accelerate²¹ the "decoupling" of the U.S. and Chinese economies. The upshot could be a long-term reversal²² of the forces of globalization and a restoration of what policy scholars Robert Atkinson and Michael Lind call "national developmentalism."

It's too early to tell and the short-term priority is controlling the virus in any case. But one gets the sense that geopolitics are shifting under our feet. There's a good chance that we will eventually look back on the past couple of weeks as the end of globalization as we've come to know it.

¹⁶ disruption - Störung

¹⁷ assembly – Fertigung, Montage

¹⁸ inherent – innewohnend, angeheftet

¹⁹ to repatriate – zurückführen, heimbringen

²⁰ to resonate – im Einklang sein

²¹ accelerate - beschleunigen

²² reversal - Umkehr

Task 3:

Read the following guideline about how to work with cartoons. Also use the internet for more information about analyzing a cartoon (Google, YouTube, ...).

TIP

Analyzing cartoons

- A cartoon is a special kind of visual text. It usually combines a drawing with a text. Cartoons often pick on one current news event and criticize people, institutions or developments in society and politics by making fun of them. The following devices are often used to achieve this aim: exaggeration • irony • contrast between picture and text • symbols
- In analyzing a cartoon, you should consider its context (e.g. when it was drawn, where it first appeared, who the author and the target group are) before you talk about what is being criticized. Sometimes, however, you won't always have all the information you need and may have to do further research.

► S29 Working with cartoons

*Cartoons are humorous or satirical drawings that often deal with a topical event or issue. They usually do not state the point they are supposed to make directly. The following steps will help you to describe and analyse a cartoon systematically.

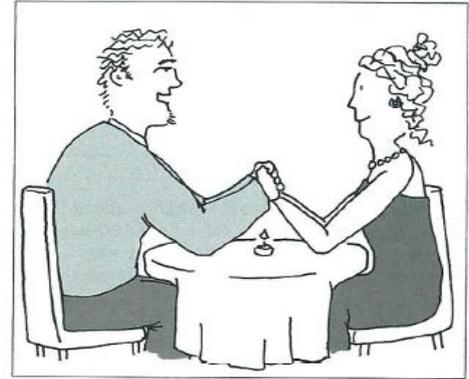
Step 1: Topic / First impression

Note down your first impression. What is the cartoon (which you can also see on p. 43) about?

Two people – a man and a woman – are sitting at a table.

LANGUAGE HELP

This cartoon is about/shows/provides proof of/deals with ...
What is striking/captivating/... when first looking at the cartoon is the fact that ...
The most prominent feature is ...



'I'm so glad you agreed to meet in person. There are some things that just can't be said in 140 characters.'

Step 2: Description

Describe the cartoon systematically. What people, events or trends does it refer to? Mention any labels, speech bubbles or captions.

The man and the woman are holding hands. They are looking into each other's eyes and are smiling happily, ...

LANGUAGE HELP

In the centre/foreground/background, at the top/bottom of ...
On the left/right of the cartoon ...
Underneath there is ...
The caption reads ...

Step 3: Analysis

Analyse the cartoon. Does it have a caption? Are the *characters or the issues presented in a positive or negative light? How is this done? What point is the cartoonist trying to make?

The cartoon mildly criticizes the widespread use of modern media, i.e. mobile phones and social networking sites, in personal relationships. The cartoon conveys its message through humour and exaggeration.

LANGUAGE HELP

The cartoon may be meant to show ... It is very eye-catching because of its use of ... It speaks to the observer directly by ...
The layout / use of colour / ... is criticizing/ making fun of ...
The cartoon shows ...
It conveys its message through ... / brings its message across by ...

Step 4: Evaluation

Say whether you think the cartoon is effective or not and give reasons, using your background knowledge about the cartoon's topic.

The cartoon addresses an important aspect of our digital age and its influence on personal relationships. I think it does this quite effectively. The exaggeration is amusing, but despite the humour, the criticism of ...

Task 4:

Analyze the cartoon in a written text. Remember the three steps when analyzing a cartoon (1. Description, 2. Analysis, 3. Evaluation).

To die for new clothes



By Mariel & Araceli, Twitter 2016

Exemplary solution (60% language, 40% content):

Reminder: Do the tasks on your own first and then compare your answers with the exemplary solutions. These exercises are in preparation for the exam.

The answer section of task 4 "evaluation" is mostly not given in detail and precise because here you write about your own opinion of the cartoon and its effects. Therefore, your answers can be different. However, you always need to give valid reasons for your opinion/impressions (say why you think so).

If there are any questions: welz@fritz-reuter-oberschule.de (formulate your questions as precise as possible!)

Task 1:

- newspaper article „Will globalization fall victim to the coronavirus? by Sean Speer; in National Post; on the 20th of March 2020; is about the effects of the coronavirus on global supply chain of products
- an effect of globalization is that global supply chains have divided the production on many countries to maximize profits and productivity
- development of globalization is questioned by some people already; the coronavirus supports their arguments
- the coronavirus is risky for global supply chains of many products
- especially companies that put steps of the production of goods in many different countries are hit by the coronavirus because the trade between the countries is mostly shut down to stop the virus from spreading → global supply chains can be negative for companies and shows the fragility of globalization
- some people say that production should not be outsourced too much anymore but instead be placed in one country only because there are many risks in a fragmented global supply chain as the example of the coronavirus shows
- the coronavirus could change the way globalization works today

General aspects:

- use of own words
- no examples, quotes, numbers, direct speech
- simple present tense
- short text (max. 200)
- no own opinion + interpretation → no use of "I"

Task 4:

1. Description (What?; When?; Where?; Who?)

- Published on Twitter in 2016
- Cartoonists: Mariel & Araceli
- Headline: To die for new clothes
- The cartoon consists of two different situations that show two different locations/situations
- 1: A woman with a young child is holding a new dress in clothing shop; the woman and child are looking excited at the dress; it says "sale" in the background; the woman is saying "I would simply die for this dress!"
- 2: a garment factory in Bangladesh which has collapsed and is completely destroyed; it says "global sweatshops" on a sign in the foreground on the left side; "Bangladesh" is written on another sign that is attached to the building; the caption says "many have" → connected to the speech bubble of the woman on the left side (man have *died*)

2. Analysis (What is illustrated and criticized?; What stylistic devices are used?)

- Illustrates: the modern textile/garment industry and its two sides (ambivalence)
- Criticizes: the bad working conditions of the production of modern clothes; low safety regulations/standards in developing countries; difference between consumers of the garments and the producers (industrial and developing countries); the effects of globalization on workers in developing countries
- How/stylistic devices: **simile/contrast**: to die for something in literal sense = giving one's life vs. to die for something = feeling the need to have an object very strongly → contrast of the two meanings is additionally included the headline "To die for new clothes"; **symbol**: sign global sweatshops → outsourcing the production of goods due to globalization is (often) based on exploitation

3. Evaluation (Is it convincing and effective?; Do the stylistic devices suit?; Own opinion)

- Convincing: yes/no; why (not)? → reasons
- Effect: making aware of the bad working conditions and low safety regulations in developing countries → shows that nice and cheap clothes in the shops of industrial countries come at a high cost (people suffering and dying somewhere else on the world); showing the unawareness of people buying clothes without knowing under which conditions those goods were produced
- Stylistic devices: depiction of two sides (to die for something = two meanings) shows problem on first sight; symbol (global sweatshops) underlines the situation of the workers in developing countries
- Own opinion approving/critical/relevant for society or my life? → reasons

General aspects:

- Use of **simple present tense**; **present progressive** (when describing the situation in the cartoon, e.g. a man and a woman are sitting at a table)
- Use of **paragraphs** for each step of the analysis
- Use of **linking words**