

Year 9 Geography Autumn 2 – Globalisation

Key Word	Meaning
Carcinogen	A substance capable of causing cancer.
Child labour	Underage children working
Economies of scale	Cost-savings as a company grows, e.g. bulk buying.
Fairtrade	A system which ensures people are paid fairly for their work.
Global product	A product that is marketed throughout the world using the same name, e.g. a can of Coke.
Globalisation	The way in which the world has become more interconnected and interdependent.
Goods	Items that can be bought and sold.
Gross National Income (GNI)	The total income earned by a country within a year.
Gross National Income (GNI) per capita	The total income earned by a country within a year, divided by the population.
HIC (High Income Country)	A wealthy country (more than £10,300 GNI per capita)
Host country	The country where the factory is based.
Industrialisation	The process of a country moving from a focus on farming to manufacturing.
Interdependent	Reliant on each other.
LIC (Low Income Country)	A less wealthy country (less than £850 GNI per capita)
Life expectancy	The average age people live to.
Minimum wage	The legal minimum hourly rate which a worker can be paid.
Multiplier effect	The 'snowballing' of economic activity that means countries get richer and richer.
NEE (Newly-Emerging Economy)	A country rapidly developing and getting richer (£850-£10,300 GNI per capita)
Outsourcing	When a smaller company in a cheaper location is hired to provide goods and services to larger companies.
Primary sector	Jobs that extract raw material, e.g. farmer, fisher, miner.
Quaternary sector	Jobs in research, development and IT.
Secondary sector	Jobs that construct or manufacture, e.g. factory worker.
Services	Acts that help people which can be bought and sold.

Stakeholder	A person or group with a vested interest.
Sweatshop	A factory with very poor working conditions, where workers are exploited for cheap labour.
Tax	Money collected by the government to pay for public services.
Tertiary sector	Jobs that provide a service, e.g. teacher, doctor, bus driver.

Homework

- Geography homework will be set every two weeks.
- Homework will comprise of:
 - Retrieval questions based on content covered in lessons.
 - Questions based on a news article related to topics in lesson.

Homework 1 - Adapted from The Financial Times, 29th August 2024

Could T-shirts be the way to industrialise an African nation?

A simple cotton T-shirt might seem ordinary, but for the country of Benin in West Africa, it represents a big change. Benin is trying to start an industrial revolution by turning its raw materials, like cotton, into finished products right at home.



Ramakrishnan Janarthanan, a leader at Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms, explains their plan called "farm to fashion." This means that cotton grown in Benin will be processed and turned into clothing all within the country. This project is part of a larger investment of €550 million, aimed at helping Benin become a manufacturing hub.

Benin has about 13 million people and is the largest producer of cotton in Africa. But instead of making clothes, it has mostly sold its raw cotton to other countries. By doing this, Benin misses out on a lot of money—experts say it only keeps about 10% of the value of its cotton when it's sold raw.



Ramakrishnan believes that developing a strong clothing industry can help lift people out of poverty. When factories open, they create jobs and bring workers from rural areas into cities, improving lives and boosting the economy. Many successful countries have started their growth through textiles, like Bangladesh and South Korea.

In a large factory near Benin's capital, Cotonou, thousands of workers are already making fabrics and garments. The factory is about the size of 22 football fields and uses advanced machines from countries like Switzerland and Japan. Workers there earn around \$140 a month, which is competitive in the textile market.

The government of Benin, led by President Patrice Talon, aims to transform the economy by increasing its manufacturing capacity. This includes making not just clothing, but also products from cashew nuts, soybeans, and even hair for wigs. They want to reduce reliance on importing finished goods and create more jobs locally.

Despite the ambitious plans, there are challenges. Many African countries struggle with manufacturing due to global competition, poor infrastructure, and corruption. However, Benin is focused on making changes, like improving roads and power supplies to support new factories.

Experts warn that while Benin is making strides, it won't be easy to reach its goals. The country is trying to learn from other nations that successfully developed their manufacturing sectors.

The hope is that with determination and investment, Benin can create a thriving industrial base. If successful, it could set a positive example for other African countries looking to boost their economies and improve living conditions for their people.

Homework 2 - Adapted from The Guardian, 18th December 2022

Workers tell of sweatshop conditions at Thai factory used by Tesco, as supermarket says it knew nothing of claims about VKG

In Mae Sot, Thailand, many Burmese workers at a factory called VK Garment (VKG) made jeans for Tesco. They have shared troubling stories about their working conditions, including very long hours—up to 99 hours a week—with only one day off per month and pay below the legal minimum wage.

Now, 130 former workers are suing Tesco, claiming the company was negligent by using VKG as a supplier from 2017 until 2020. Tesco has responded by saying that if they had known about the workers' conditions, they would have stopped using the factory.

Many workers have come forward with personal accounts of their experiences. For instance, Win Win Mya, a cleaner, earned around £3 a day, far less than the Thai minimum wage. After she asked for a raise in 2019, she lost her job along with others who had made similar requests. She has struggled to find work since then, relying on her children for support.



📷 Burmese migrant worker Win Win Mya says she lost her job in 2020 when she asked to be paid the minimum wage. Photograph: Jack Taylor/The Guardian

Another worker, Win Soe, injured his finger on an outdated machine while making jackets. He described the harsh treatment from supervisors who often yelled at the workers, making them feel disrespected and trapped in their jobs.

Thant Sin Aung started working at the factory when he was only 15, using a fake ID. He often skipped meals to meet demanding targets, and when he lost his job, he was blacklisted from other factories, which made it hard for him to find work.

San San Aye, a mother of three, came to Thailand hoping to earn enough money to support her family but found herself in a cycle of debt instead. She worked long hours for little pay and eventually had to bring her son to work alongside her, further limiting their opportunities.



📷 San San Aye looks out in front of her home in Mae Sot. Photograph: Jack Taylor/The Guardian

Hla Hla Tay, a quality control supervisor, stood up against the poor conditions in the factory. After confronting management about unfair wages, she lost her job and has since struggled to find work, now living in a monastery.

Other workers shared similar stories of injuries, low pay, and being blacklisted after speaking out. One worker, Aung Tun, received serious injuries but was told to lie about how they happened to avoid the factory's responsibility.

VKG's managing director dismissed the allegations as hearsay, while Tesco acknowledged the seriousness of the claims and stated they would have acted against VKG if they had known. The situation raises important questions about workers' rights and corporate responsibility in global supply chains.

Homework 3 - Adapted from Fashion United, 11th June 2018

The Darker Side of Nike & Adidas World Cup sponsorships: Poverty Wages

As the World Cup kicks off this week, two major sportswear brands, Nike and Adidas, are competing to be the top football apparel company. They sponsor 22 out of the 32 teams in the tournament, making this a prime opportunity for brand exposure. However, a recent report called "Foul Play" reveals a serious issue: while Nike and Adidas pay football players large sums of money, they do not provide fair wages for the female workers who make their shirts and shoes.



Over the years, Nike and Adidas have significantly increased their spending on marketing and sponsorships. For example, Adidas recently signed a deal with the German national team worth 65 million euros per year, which is three times their previous contract. Nike has also secured lucrative sponsorships, such as a 50.5 million euro deal with the French national team. Despite these massive investments, the companies continue to pay many female garment workers who produce their products very low wages.

The "Foul Play" report highlights that even as Nike and Adidas invest more in sponsorships, while working conditions for the workers making their products remain poor. The share of the price that workers receive for making shoes has dropped by 30% since 1995. Many companies have shifted production to countries like Indonesia, Cambodia, and Vietnam, where labour costs are lower, but these regions often report serious human rights violations and wages that fall far below what is necessary for a decent living.

For instance, in Indonesia, where a significant number of garment workers are women, many earn between £82 and £200 month. This is insufficient to cover basic living expenses, as a living wage is estimated to be around £363. Many workers do not even receive the legal minimum wage.

Unions and activists are urging Nike and Adidas to ensure that all workers are paid fairly. The report suggests that if these companies had maintained their sponsorship budgets at 2012 levels, they could have paid living wages to workers in their factories for a year. Despite generating substantial profits, the financial benefits do not reach the workers.

Adidas has responded to the report, stating that they aim for fair wages and safe working conditions in their factories. They emphasize that while they cannot directly dictate wages, they require suppliers to at least meet legal minimums.

Unions are calling for improved practices and a new agreement on wages that has been overdue for years. They argue that since the labour cost for producing a t-shirt is only about 1% of its retail price, brands should increase wages to help workers earn a living. Adidas claims that their workers in Indonesia earn more than the minimum wage.

This situation underscores a troubling reality: while sportswear companies profit from major events like the World Cup, the workers who create their products often struggle to survive.