

## KSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENTRANCE TEST 2010

### Variant A

#### Task 1. Reading Comprehension. (5 points)

Read the following article and mark the statements as *True* or *False*

The main point of the globalisation argument is that trade liberalisation drives economic growth and economic growth raises living standards. Its supporters say that on a wide range of measures – poverty, the age to which people live, health, education – more people have become richer at a faster pace in the past 60 years than ever before. However, globalisation's opponents would claim that this success has had its negative sides: that the increases in prosperity have favoured the rich far more than the poor, that trade liberalisation has encouraged the growth of bad working conditions and child labour, that lifting the barriers to the free flow of international capital has increased financial instability, and so on.

Globalisation's enthusiasts are so good at cataloguing globalisation's benefits while ignoring its costs. And I am referring not just to the flight of jobs from developed countries to less developed ones or the environmental damage caused by the developing world's rapid industrialisation, but to globalisation's social and cultural effects.

After all, for those of us in the developed world, there is hardly a part in our lives that globalisation has not touched. On the plus side, for example, it has greatly increased consumer choice: Britons can now buy strawberries all year round from their local supermarket, drive a Czech-built Skoda, wear trainers made in Vietnam and spend their holidays in China. But while their power as consumers may have grown, their power as employees has probably diminished as globalisation has increased competition and work pressures, and heightened job insecurity.

What I would like to see, therefore, is an attempt to weigh up the costs and benefits of globalisation to decide whether, on balance, it is making the world a better place or a worse one – not just economically, but across a range of issues. Economically, it could start by asking whether globalisation is a good thing because it offers the hope of lifting millions out of poverty, or whether it is a bad thing because, as is often claimed, it is widening the gap between rich and poor. I would also have to ask whether the drive to increase living standards through ever-greater levels of industrialisation and consumption was making unsustainable demands on the earth's resources.

Personally, however, I would be more interested in reading its cost/benefit analysis of the social and cultural questions. Does globalisation, for example, increase our access to the arts, or are we suffering from a global pop culture easily sold everywhere? Does globalisation enable more people to experience the surprises and pleasures of cultural diversity or is it leading to the elimination of differences and the mixing of national and local cultures into a global, mainly American, stew? Are our lives made more interesting and exciting by globalisation's destruction of old traditions and communities or are we made more miserable by the loss of the cultural individuality that gives structure to our lives?

*From the Financial Times*

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|---|---|---|
| 1. The first paragraph talks about arguments for and against globalisation.                                 | T | F |
| 2. The second paragraph refers to some of the costs of globalisation.                                       | T | F |
| 3. The third paragraph gives some examples of the benefits of globalisation in a developing country.        | T | F |
| 4. The fourth paragraph is only concerned with the advantages of globalisation.                             | T | F |
| 5. In the fifth paragraph, the writer says he is mainly interested in the economic effects of globalisation | T | F |

**Task 2. Fill the gaps in the following text with only one word in each space (15 points)**

**Alcatraz**

Situated in the heart (0) of San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz Island is, of course, famous (1) \_\_\_\_\_ its maximum security prison, or “penitentiary”, which has been the subject of numerous books and films. Its inmates included some of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ most notorious criminals in recent American history, such as George "Machine Gun" Kelly, Alvin “Creepy” Karpis and Al “Scarface” Capone, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ spent a total of four and a half years on the island.

The huge concrete cellhouse on Alcatraz was only used (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a US Federal Penitentiary for 29 years, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 1934 until 1963, when the Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy, ordered it to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ closed down. Before that period it (7) \_\_\_\_\_ been home to some of the nation’s military prisoners. The cellhouse (8) \_\_\_\_\_ built between 1908 and 1911, and many of those who (9) \_\_\_\_\_ part in its construction – mostly unskilled inmates – became the first prisoners (10) \_\_\_\_\_ live in it.

During the island’s federal penitentiary days (11) \_\_\_\_\_ were never more (12) \_\_\_\_\_ 300 prisoners on Alcatraz at any one time. (13) \_\_\_\_\_ average, prisoners remained there for about ten years, until (14) \_\_\_\_\_ were no longer regarded as a danger. (15) \_\_\_\_\_ no one was ever executed in the prison, eight inmates were murdered and five committed suicide.