

SIMULAZIONE DI COLLOQUIO IN LINGUA INGLESE

Di seguito proponiamo una **simulazione di colloquio d'esame** composta da una serie di **domande** accompagnate da alcuni **spunti di risposta**. Durante l'esposizione, arricchisci sempre i suggerimenti forniti con **argomentazioni** e **riferimenti precisi ai concetti studiati**. Le indicazioni che precedono i quesiti segnalano la principale operazione (contestualizzazione, analisi e interpretazione, confronto) oppure l'ambito di riferimento (Educazione civica, riflessione personale) che sei invitata/o a sviluppare nel formulare la risposta.

1. Globalisation

“Define globalisation and outline its main socio-cultural consequences, distinguishing between positive and negative effects on cultural diversity.”

CONTEXTUALISATION

Define globalisation as a process of increasing worldwide interconnectedness and interdependence. Distinguish between the benefits (greater access to information, cultural blending) and the risks (cultural homogenisation, loss of local identities, cultural imperialism).

2. The role of English as a Lingua Franca

“Consider the role of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) in the globalised world. Compare and contrast British English (BrE) and American English (AmE), focusing on key lexical and structural differences that might impact international business communication and commercial documentation.”

COMPARISON

When comparing BrE and AmE, emphasise that the two main varieties remain reference points for standardisation. Highlight differences relevant to business.

Commercial/technical vocabulary: *lorry* (BrE) vs. *truck* (AmE); *bill* (BrE) vs. *check* (AmE) for “the bill”; *trousers* (BrE) vs. *pants* (AmE).

Spelling (in reports and contracts): verbs ending in *-ise* (BrE, e.g., *organise*) vs. *-ize* (AmE, e.g., *organize*); *colour* (BrE) vs. *color* (AmE); *tyre* (BrE) vs. *tire* (AmE).

Grammar: the more frequent use of the present perfect in BrE for recent actions (*We have just sent you the report*) compared to the simple past in AmE (*We just sent you the report*).

Highlight the importance of being aware of these differences to avoid legal ambiguities or misunderstandings, especially given the prevalence of American English in many sectors (technology, global finance).

3. Historical events and impact on the world economy

“The history of the 20th and 21st centuries is marked by recurrent economic shocks, demonstrating the inherent instability of globalised capitalism and the evolving need for state intervention. Analyse and interpret one of the following historical events, focusing on the shift in the relationship between the free market and government regulation.

- a) The Great Depression (1929) and its impact on the laissez-faire ideology.
- b) Roosevelt's New Deal as a programmatic response to market failure.
- c) The 2008 crisis and the systemic risks posed by financial globalisation.
- d) The 2020 global recession (COVID-19), a non-economic shock that led to a worldwide downturn.
- e) The war in Ukraine and the global energy crisis as a geopolitical challenge to commodity supply chains.”

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

- a) Situate the Great Depression historically, analysing it as the definitive failure of unregulated liberal capitalism, which led to the acceptance of Keynesianism and the development of the Welfare State.

- b) Explain the New Deal as a radical turning point based on the three “R”s (Relief, Recovery, Reform), citing examples of social programmes or banking regulations that established the new interventionist role of the State.
- c) 2008 crisis: interpret this crisis as the result of a period of excessive financial deregulation (a renewed laissez-faire). Analyse how financial globalisation (the interconnection of derivatives and mortgage markets) transformed a local crisis into a global systemic risk.
- d) 2020 crisis: emphasise the novelty of the exogenous shock (the pandemic) and analyse how the speed of the recession was amplified by excessive dependence on global supply chains for essential goods (such as medical equipment).
- e) Interpret the event as evidence of the vulnerability caused by energy dependence. Analyse how a limited geopolitical conflict can have immediate global inflationary and recessionary effects due to the centrality of Russian gas and oil in the European energy system. Highlight Russia’s “weaponisation of energy” and the EU’s subsequent diversification strategies (e.g., regasification plants, agreements with African countries). Also underline the indirect impact on global food security, since the war severely disrupted the export of grain and fertilisers from the region, showing how geopolitical shocks quickly spread beyond the energy sector and affect food commodity prices.

4. Globalisation and sustainable development

“In a globalised world characterised by vast economic disparities, how can the principles of sustainability and fair trade be promoted, and what responsibilities do developed countries have towards developing ones?”

CIVIC EDUCATION

Focus on how sustainability and fair trade can reduce inequalities within global supply chains. Explain that sustainable development requires balancing economic growth with environmental protection and social justice. Highlight the role of fair trade in guaranteeing fair wages, safe working conditions, transparency, and long-term partnerships that protect small producers from market volatility.

Refer to **Article 3 of the Italian Constitution**, which calls for the removal of economic and social barriers, and connect this principle to global responsibilities: developed countries must support equitable development by promoting labour rights, environmental standards, and access to education and technology.

Discuss the importance of international frameworks (UN Sustainable Development Goals, WTO reform, climate agreements) in setting common rules and monitoring compliance. Mention how green policies, such as the circular economy, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture, help reduce the environmental impact of globalisation.

Finally, emphasise the role of consumer awareness and responsible consumption (ethical influencers, reduced waste, choosing sustainable products), which can influence companies to adopt fairer and more sustainable practices.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

“Is conscious consumption (choosing fair trade, reducing waste, supporting green policies) an adequate form of political engagement to fight world unfairness, or is direct involvement (activism, political participation) necessary to bring about real change? Express your personal point of view.”

You can start recognising that in a global economy, every choice you make as a consumer is a political act. Then, you can:

- analyse the pros and cons of ethical consumption. Buying fair trade products can encourage companies to act more responsibly (+), but it cannot solve bigger problems like unfair global trade rules (-). Example: buying fair trade coffee helps farmers, but it doesn’t change international coffee prices;
- stress the necessity of direct engagement. Activism and political engagement are needed to create new laws that protect workers and the environment. These laws force all companies to follow the rules, not just the ones that choose to;
- conclude by clearly stating your personal position. Both actions matter, as individual choices influence the market, but political action creates the laws needed for real, long-term change.