Sample HL brainstorm/essay-plan From November 2011 Exam

Discuss the interrelationships between global interactions and changes in technology. [15 marks]

Resistance to globalization

Anti-globalization protestors use facebook and twitter to organize protests EG Libya and Northern Africa.
Greenpeace shows Youtube videos of Tar Sands etc.

Inter-relationship?

Show how TNC's responsible for global interactions are the ones that invent the technology in the first place EG Apple and Microsoft!

Technology

EG ICT, Mobiles, containerization Easy-Jet, Fiberoptics etc

<u>Cultural and social</u> <u>interactions</u>

Facebook networks, global village idea. Fiberoptic broadband important for getting music and images around the world. Internet helps migrants stay in touch. Also helps migrants find jobs and become aware of opportunities.

Multi-governmental Organizations MGO

All kinds of technology helps the growth of EU and mergers of European companies, banks, housing markets etc. Easy Jet allows EU travel easily Financial Flows and FDI, TNC's, growth of economic globalization (EG Marks and Spencer using automatic emails to order beans from Kenya). BRIC's and out-sourcing EG India call-centers

Band C/D

Unsubstantiated/assertive final evaluation

Band E

Proper substantiated final evaluation grounded in conceptual thinking / evidence-based reasoning

"Global interactions are mainly driven by the actions of transnational corporations (TNCs)."

Discuss this statement. [15 marks]

Having looked at both sides of the question, on balance I believe that nowadays TNCs are most powerful and are driving global interactions. They have more money than many LEDCs and can make their products sell in almost any country using glocalization. However, technology is important too though, especially the internet, so it is not just TNCs that are important to making global interactions happen.

In conclusion, TNCs act alongside other forces. I do not agree that TNCs drive political interactions, this is more the job of the UN, EU and the IMF (in terms of harmonizing different governments' trade policies). Powerful governments like the USA are also driving geopolitical changes that make it easier for their TNCs to increase economic global interactions. Finally, technology as well as TNCs drives social interactions (through online networks) on a global scale. So while the statement is largely true for economic interactions I have shown that other forces are driving political and social interactions globally.

"Globalization is unstoppable." Discuss this statement. [15 marks]

On the one hand, yes, globalization is unstoppable because TNCs are so powerful. On the other hand, no it is not, because North Korea has cut itself off from globalization. But on balance I think globalization is unstoppable.

Finally, I think that the answer to this question depends on what we mean by globalization. It is hard for any country to reject economic globalization if it wants to develop through trade, and for this reason globalization will continue. But barriers to the cultural changes that globalization brings are being maintained by countries like China and France, as I have shown. So some aspects of globalization may be unstoppable, but not all.

"Global interactions result in some form of environmental damage being experienced everywhere." Discuss this statement. [15 marks]

In conclusion, environmental damage is worst in LEDCs such as Ghana where e-waste is sent and where polluting factories are built. MEDCs no longer suffer from this pollution any more so I do not agree that environmental damage is experienced everywhere.

In conclusion everywhere is subject to some harm at a global scale, due to the planetary-wide impacts of global warming and oceanic pollution. However, even more extreme localized impacts sometimes take place too, at a local scale, due to weak local governance attracting polluting TNCs, such as Ghana's government allowing harmful and damaging e-waste processing.