



Cambridge International AS & A Level

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & RESEARCH

9239/11

Paper 1 Written Examination

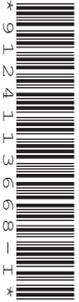
May/June 2021

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

The following documents consider issues related to quality of life. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document 1: adapted from *In Latin America, Looking at the Positive Side of Child Labor*, written by Jean Friedman-Rudovsky in 2011. The article was published in 'Time', an online global news website. The author is an independent journalist in El Alto, Bolivia, who has won several awards for her investigations in social justice.

Child labor is an urgent global issue. According to the Switzerland-based International Labour Organization (ILO), there are currently more than 215 million child workers worldwide, 14 million of them in Latin America. They work in agricultural fields, city markets and mines. More than 150 nations have adopted the ILO's rules, establishing legal minimum working ages and promising to abolish the "worst forms" of child labor.

However, Bolivia, Latin America's poorest nation, still has the highest rate of child labor on the continent. Victor Chipani started working when he was 10 years old. For a few hours each day, he rounded up passengers to fill public minibuses in the impoverished city of El Alto, Bolivia. Now at 15, he does the job from 7am to 7pm, earning less than a dollar an hour. His tiny wage helps feed his eight siblings and pay for his night school. He hopes to attend medical school.

Chipani doesn't want anyone's pity. He is part of a movement spreading across Latin America, where more than 100,000 children have organized unions to defend their right to work. They are demanding government protection and improved job conditions. He says: "United, we as child workers can achieve anything." Noemí Gutiérrez, a 17-year-old leader of Bolivia's union UNATSBO, which represents 15,000 children, says: "We'd all like a world where kids don't have to work, but our current economic situation means we work illegally to help our families, and our rights ought to be protected."

In Bolivia, there are as many as a million child workers. They spend a few hours a day tending crops, shining shoes, wheeling loads through markets or assisting in carpentry shops. Most also attend school. However, although most are not frightened and abused, UNATSBO and its partner unions say there's a problem. Hundreds of millions of children worldwide are working without legal protection. This makes them the world's most vulnerable labor force. Someone, they insist, has to stand up for them. 16-year-old UNATSBO president José Guillermo Mamani says: "People pay us less because we are young. We are discriminated against, and no one is held accountable."

However, governments like Bolivia's argue against regulating child labor, because regulation would essentially mean making child labor legal. Mabel Duran, Head of the Office for Child Labor Eradication, says: "We are not going to go in that direction. We are honoring our international commitments." She adds that the government will continue to follow the ILO's rules and not lower the working age.

Therefore, unions like UNATSBO say they have to do what the government should do but won't – protect child workers. The first child labor union was founded in Peru in the 1970s. Today these unions are present in eight Latin American countries. They receive financial support from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), often with adult social workers as advisers. All these unions require their members to stay in school. They set up projects to improve working conditions. In Ecuador, the union has organized cooperatives that provide better-paying jobs for children. Venezuela's union has made agreements with buyers to pay fair prices for agricultural products farmed by children. In Bolivia, newspaper boys even held a strike to increase their pay.

So, being realistic, while we cannot end child labor, we can and should protect children in work.

Document 2: adapted from *Child Labour Derails the Youth Advantage*, written by Rasheeda Bhagatin in 2016 for 'thehindubusinessline.com', India's leading website for business and financial news. The author is an editorial consultant with 'The Hindu Business Line' and she was formerly in charge of child labour elimination in the government of India.

The Child Labour Act prohibits hiring children younger than 14-years-old for any work and prohibits hiring 14–18-year-olds to work in hazardous conditions. This Act is backward-looking and one of the least effective pieces of legislation in India. It cannot be enforced. It definitely hasn't restricted, let alone eliminated, child labour. The prosecution and conviction rate is laughably low. This must change. The Act must be scrapped and the responsibility to eliminate child labour must be taken away from the ill-equipped Ministry of Labour.

The Act was passed thirty years ago and it is now time to recognise that millions of young people continue to work, because of a declining and dysfunctional educational system. The poorest Indian has the clear-sightedness to see the low value of what is on offer in education. Consecutive reports from the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Pratham have revealed how abysmal the education situation is in reality. Almost half of all children in Class 5 across India barely have the language and calculation skills that they should have gained by the end of Class 2. In such circumstances, parents putting children to work appears more meaningful than sending them to government schools, with absent teachers and rotten classrooms.

In 2014, the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), estimated that 130 million children enrolled in primary school, but only 65.7 million enrolled in upper primary school and a mere 36.9 million pupils enrolled in secondary school. Compare that to the US, where 4 out of 5 students finish high school.

There is a lot of hype around the Right to Education Act, Skill-India and the Indian government programme for universal elementary education. However, the MHRD statistics unquestionably show that millions of India's children continue to leave education far too soon every year. This adds directly to the number of working children, especially in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, with high dropout rates at primary and upper-primary levels. Dropouts by Class 8 were over 36.3 million in 2013–14, providing better-off states such as Maharashtra and those in the south with an inexhaustible supply of cheap manual labour. We are heading for a major crisis with millions of dropouts increasing the number of under-educated, under-skilled and highly exploitable children. We must therefore accept that only accessible and affordable quality education can tackle child labour. The need for that is self-evident.

China has been effectively investing nearly 2% of its GDP in education. To match this, India should commit at least 10%–15% of its GDP to educate the young. Instead, it has been investing less than 5%. The result is that we have an enormous child labour problem. There is no country in the world where sustained high-quality mass education has not led to dramatic improvements in the life and well-being of its people and yes, the elimination of child labour as well.

To tackle child labour we must now take charge of our children and put each through 10 years of compulsory, high quality education.

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