# Teacher Resource 8 (suggested answers)

## The changes and trends in legal services 2 - the impact of globalisation

Along with technology (see Activity 7) one of the main drivers of change in relation to the future of legal services is termed *globalisation*.

Consider the information in the following links in relation to globalisation, and any other research you can undertake, then answer the questions that follow.

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/documents/Future-of-legal-services-pdf/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/documents/Future-of-legal-services-pdf/)

<https://clp.law.harvard.edu/assets/Shroff_Blue_Paper.pdf>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/Globalisation-and-legal-education/article14810280.ece>

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/legal-affairs/globalisation-changes-the-legal-service-business/news-story/0cd6c60bb158de6ac2e473cf096d8e07>

1. Explain the term *globalisation* in relation to the legal profession.

| *Answers could include:*   * Law firms show a willingness to deal with international disputes. * Law firms pool their resources and expertise to expand into global markets. * Trade barriers, which used to complicate the trade of goods and provision of services, have been reduced or removed. * Advancements in technology allow law firms a greater opportunity to communicate and provide online or virtual services. * The encouragement of a more global culture and less national or border controlled isolation. |
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2. Discuss how legal education will be affected by the globalisation of the legal industry.

| *Answers could include:*   * An increase in funding of legal research and training will be seen as demand for lawyers could increase. * Law students will have to appreciate how law operates in an international context. * Legal education could have to factor in teaching the legal system of, for example, India or China. * Law students will have to have an understanding on how certain laws, e.g. contract law, are comparable within different jurisdictions. * Law students will have to have knowledge of different legal systems. * Law students will have to appreciate difference in legal ethics and cultural diversity. * Law students will have to understand other languages and methods of communication – specifically electronically. |
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3. In what ways will globalisation benefit the legal profession?

| *Answers could include:*   * Allows (large) law firms to expand internationally – ‘increase their global footprint’. * Could be easier for UK firms, rather than its European neighbours like France, to expand into emerging common law countries such as India. * Law firms can expand into new, potentially prosperous emerging markets such as China and India. * UK Law firms are required to provide advice for businesses from these emerging economies who wish to set up bases here. * Law firms must adapt and change to demand and the needs of changing international markets. * Lawyers must be aware of international law and of that of other countries domestic laws to operate. * Mergers between law firms in different countries allow the pooling of resources and expertise which can reduce the operating costs and, in consequence the costs to the consumer. * England is seen as having a truly impartial judiciary and international companies are keen to settle disputes, where possible in the UK. * Shared laws such as those affecting terrorism, trade and climate can be address in a homogenous way so firms can tackle global issues together. * There will be an increase in the wages for lawyers from firms in emerging economies as they will be required to liaise with those from UK firms in greater numbers. |
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4. In what ways will globalisation be a detriment to the legal profession?

| *Answers could include:*   * Smaller firms find it difficult to expand into existing economies such as the USA due to trade restrictions and large UK firm dominance. * Smaller UK law firms will find it difficult, if not impossible, to expand into the new and emerging markets as the markets will prefer larger, established firms. * The uncertain, unpredictable and volatile nature of emerging economies may leave some firms overcommitting to unstable markets. * Language and cultural barriers along with legal differences between legal systems could make the expansion of UK law firms into emerging economies difficult. * Brexit will encourage firms wishing to invest in the EU bypassing the UK to use continental law firms instead. * Leaving the EU would diminish the pool of talent that firms could attract and would likely diminish the attractiveness of the City of London, and of the legalprofession as a whole. |
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