

International Futures Chap. 1:

1. Why do the authors compare our contemporary global society to the period of European exploration between the 15th and 18th centuries?
2. Describe the three sets of values which the authors claim it is important to focus on when determining what kind of future we want for ourselves.
3. What are the differences between extrapolation and causal analysis and what are the positive and negative aspects of each method?

International Futures Chap. 2:

4. The author mentions seven subsystems that are included in the *human development system*, and used to help organize the discussion of trends in Chapter 2. Name the subsystems and indicate why they are important.
5. Name and explain the different patterns of change. Why is it important to have specific patterns of change?
6. Give an argument for why the “absolute GDP of developing countries is now growing considerably faster than that in more developed countries”.
7. What common arguments and/or factors are used to explain why the rate of global increase may be slowing or even stopping in the near future?
8. Explain how a country’s income can affect one’s daily diet. What do the authors consider to be the main reasons behind malnutrition?
9. What are the 3 main environmental concerns discussed in Chapter 2?
10. What are some of the negative aspects of advanced technology?
11. What are some of the sociopolitical changes that affect the lives of individuals? Changes in social organization?

Global Issues Article 1:

12. How does rain create soil erosion?
13. What were the international catalysts that led to the dramatic shrinking of grain stockpiles?
14. What is the leading cause of global warming and how is it turning our earth into a “new planet”?

15. What is the “hundred-year-storm”?

Global Issues Article 9:

16. What is our planet’s biggest problem in the future and how does the author say we should react towards it?

17. What is meant by a “bubble economy”?

18. What does the author suggest we do to prevent the bubble bursting?

19. How does the economy affect the ecology in the “bubble”?

20. What are some methods/new technologies that various nations are implementing for energy consumption regulation?