
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

8987/12

Paper 1 Written paper

October/November 2014

1 hour 30 minutes

RESOURCE BOOKLET

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Resource Booklet contains Documents 1 and 2 which you should use to answer the questions.

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the documents before attempting to answer the questions.
This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

The documents below consider the role of women in the economy. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the question paper.

Document 1: adapted from: “Remarks at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Women and the Economy Summit” in San Francisco, USA in September 2011, by US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

I believe that we are entering the participation age, where every individual, regardless of gender or other characteristics, is poised to be a contributing and valued member of the global marketplace.

In some Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies, this transformation has been underway for a while. In others, it has begun more recently, but, in all, progress has been too slow and too uneven. There is no doubt that the increasing numbers of women in the economy and the rising productivity gained from their talents and skills has helped fuel significant growth everywhere. Economies that are making the shift more effectively and rapidly are dramatically outperforming those that have not.

If we are serious about wanting to achieve parity for women in the workforce, both that they participate and how they participate, then we must remove structural and social impediments that are against them. I don't urge this because it is the right thing to do, though I believe that it is, but for the sake of our children and our nations, it is necessary to do. A rising tide of women in an economy raises the fortunes of families and nations.

My husband* often says, in making the argument that everyone should be involved, that we don't have a person to waste. I think that's true. When it comes to systematically and relentlessly pursuing more economic opportunity in all our lands, we don't have a person to waste, and we certainly don't have a gender to waste.

So let's look at the evidence. The case for unlocking the potential of women and including them more fully in the economic life of our nations begins with how women already are driving growth. The 21 economies of APEC are among the most dynamic in the world. Together, we represent more than half of total economic global output, and more than 60% of women in APEC economies are part of formal workforces. They're opening stores, running businesses, harvesting crops, assembling electronics, and designing software.

The *Economist* points out that the increase in employment of women in developed countries during the past decade has added more to global growth than China has, and that's a lot.

If women are already making such contributions to economic growth, why do we need a major realignment in our thinking? Well, because the rate of progress for women in APEC varies widely. Laws, customs, and the values that fuel them provide roadblocks to full inclusion. What is unhealthy is for women to be denied the chance to contribute fully to that growth, because that denies everyone, especially their families, a chance at greater prosperity.

In the US and in every economy in APEC, millions of women are still side-lined, unable to find a meaningful place for themselves in the formal workforce. Some who enter the workforce are confined by very clear signals to a lower rung on the job ladder with a web of legal and social restrictions limiting their potential. Or they are confronted with a glass ceiling that keeps them from the most senior positions. Only 11 of the Chief Executive Officers of the Fortune Global 500 companies are women. That's less than 3%.

However, some companies are eliminating barriers: Goldman Sachs is training the next generation of women business leaders in developing countries, Coca Cola aims to support 5 million women entrepreneurs by 2020 and Wal-Mart will double the amount of goods it will buy from women owned businesses to \$20billion by 2016.

*Former US President, Bill Clinton.

Document 2: adapted from an article, “Women at Work: Good for the Economy, the Family, and the Future” by Reid Hamel, an associate with The Asia Foundation’s Economic Development Program, March 2012. The Asia Foundation has a stated aim of developing a peaceful, prosperous, just and open Asia-Pacific region.

The United Nations declared the 2012 International Women’s Day theme, “Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty.” According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, 578 of the world’s 925 million chronically hungry people live in the Asia-Pacific region. In fact, two thirds of the globally undernourished live in just seven countries – Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, India, and Pakistan.

Despite such daunting figures, there are grounds for optimism. The Asia-Pacific region has made the greatest progress of any region toward reducing poverty and food insecurity in the past three decades. In 1981, 77 percent of people in the region lived on less than the equivalent of \$1.25 per day, but by 2008, the latest year for which data are available, that figure had fallen to just 14 percent.

There is ample evidence that, given modest opportunity and support, women are extremely efficient providers for their families, insulating against the threats of poverty and hunger. Several well-known economics studies have found that women are more likely than men to spend extra income on the health and education of their children, thereby reducing the inter-generational transmission of poverty. Duncan Thomas pioneered this research in 1990 with a study showing that mothers in Brazil invested more than fathers in children’s health.

The extensive academic research in this area is the basis for the Mexican social assistance program “Oportunidades,” through which poor mothers receive cash payments when their children attend school regularly and take advantage of preventative healthcare. Mothers, rather than fathers, are explicitly targeted to maximize the effectiveness of this program which has been greatly successful not only in spurring higher educational attainment throughout the poorest areas of Mexico, but also in reducing teen pregnancy and improving childhood health and nutrition. The triumph of this program has inspired similar national initiatives around Latin America as well as in Malawi and Zambia.

At The Asia Foundation, we support women’s employment opportunities. To do this most effectively, we strive to understand the hurdles to women’s labor force entry and success, whether related to education and training opportunities, access to credit, availability of information, aspects of the regulatory environment, availability of childcare, safety concerns, or corruption.

While women are prominent micro-entrepreneurs throughout Asia, as businesses grow into national and international markets, women are disproportionately left behind. As women’s earnings can be directly traced to the reduction of hunger and poverty in their communities, improving gender equity in business is good for the economy, good for the family, and good for the future.

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Copyright Acknowledgements:

Document 1 © adapted: Hillary Clinton; *Remarks at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Women and the Economy Summit*; www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/09/172605.html; 11 Sept 2011.

Document 2 © adapted: Reid Hamel; *Women at Work: Good for the Economy, the Family and the Future*; www.asiafoundation.org/in-asia/2012/03/07/women-at-work-good-for-the-economy-the-family-and-the-future/; March 2012.

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