

SECTION B

Read Figure 1 and the following extracts (A and B) before answering Question 6.

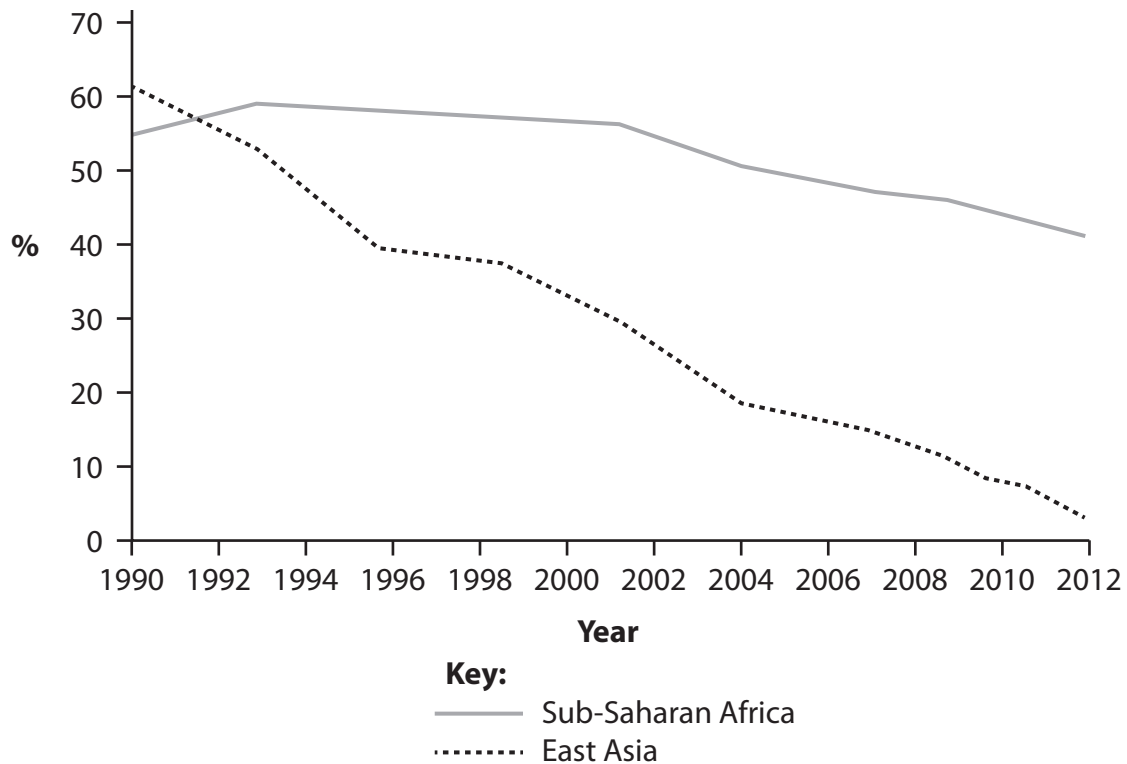
Write your answers in the spaces provided.

You are advised to spend 1 hour on this section.

Question 6

Globalisation and Inequality

Figure 1: Proportion of population in absolute poverty (US\$1.90-a-day 2011 PPP)



(Source: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/25078/9781464809583.pdf>)

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Extract A**Lessons from globalisation**

The past 25 years have seen a freeing up of trade. Capital has been free to move around the world. Formerly closed economies in Asia have been opened up and tariffs cut. In emerging economies, a billion people have been taken out of absolute poverty, but relative poverty remains a problem.

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In many advanced economies globalisation has come to mean, according to the Governor of the Bank of England, "low wages, insecure employment, stateless corporations and striking inequalities". His solution to these problems is threefold: an acceptance by economists that not everybody has gained from trade and technology; a better mix of monetary policy, fiscal policy and structural reform to boost growth; and more inclusive growth. In essence, this is the same conclusion that was reached in the past when there was a fear that market forces had to be moderated to prevent capitalism from destroying itself.

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The good news is that this moderation of capitalism included real policy changes: an extension of the right to vote, the growth of trade unions, the creation of welfare states, a move to more progressive tax policies, nationalisation of key sectors of the economy, and more activist demand management.

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The bad news is that this process took about 100 years and was not completed until the end of the Second World War. What's more, protectionism seems to be on the increase as countries seek to protect themselves from inequalities caused by rapid globalisation.

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(Source: adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/dec/05/mark-carney-globalisation-bank-of-england-capitalism>)



Extract B**Tackling inequality**

Despite decades of substantial progress in boosting prosperity and reducing absolute poverty, the world continues to suffer from substantial inequalities. For example, the poorest children are four times less likely than the richest children to be enrolled in primary education across developing countries. Among the estimated 780 million illiterate adults worldwide, nearly two-thirds are women. Poor people face higher risks of malnutrition and death in childhood and lower chances of receiving key healthcare. Such inequalities result in high financial costs, limit economic growth, and generate social and political burdens and barriers.

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These consequences highlight the importance of directing attention to the problem of inequality. There are other reasons to tackle inequality. Most economies are struggling to recover from the global financial crisis that started in 2008 and the subsequent slowdown in global growth. The goal of eliminating absolute poverty by 2030 might not be achieved without accelerated economic growth or reductions in inequalities within countries, especially in those with large numbers of poor. Generally speaking, poverty can be reduced through higher average growth, a narrowing in inequality, or a combination of the two. Achieving the same poverty reduction during a slowdown in growth therefore requires a more equal income distribution.

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Some level of inequality is desirable to maintain an appropriate incentive structure in the economy or simply because inequality also reflects different levels of talent and effort among individuals. However, the substantial inequality observed in the world today offers great scope for reducing the gap between rich and poor. Policies to redistribute income from higher-income and wealthy households to those on lower incomes can be achieved without compromising growth, if done effectively. A trade-off between efficiency and fairness is not inevitable.

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(Source: adapted from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/25078/9781464809583.pdf>)

