



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
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**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

**8987/13**

Paper 1 Written paper

**May/June 2012**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

INSTRUCTIONS (Resource Booklet)

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**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.



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



The documents below consider India's emergence as a Great Power. Read them **both** and answer **all** the questions on the question paper.

**Document 1:** adapted from an article in *The Economist*, 'India's surprising economic miracle' published in September 2010.

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**Document 2:** adapted from *In Spite of the Gods* by Edward Luce (published 2006). Luce was a correspondent for *The Financial Times* and was based in India between 2001 and 2005.

Powerful new images have emerged of India in the last decade or so, fed by its successes in information technology and offshore call centres, the growing reach of Bollywood abroad and by India's much-analysed nuclear-weapons programme. India's economy is changing rapidly. But the nature and scope of the changes are sometimes exaggerated. Indians have got into the habit of counting their chickens before they are hatched. In recent years it has become commonplace in India to talk of the country as being on the verge of superpower status.

In 1991, India sharply altered its economic course when it dismantled its tight system of controls and permits that had been in place since independence. Since then, India has clearly been on the economic ascent, capturing an ever greater share of software markets in the United States and Europe and starting to develop a manufacturing sector that can compete in world markets. The country has also acquired the military trappings of an aspiring superpower: its elites openly debate when – not whether – India will develop intercontinental nuclear missiles. And its urban, English-speaking middle classes are soaking up consumer brand culture as if it were a new religion.

However, India's rise is also unusual. It remains home to more than a third of the world's chronically malnourished children and has a life-expectancy and literacy rate that lag pitifully behind many other developing countries, most glaringly China. Roughly 750 million of India's 1.1 billion people continue to live in its 680,000 villages, almost half of which lack access to all-weather roads, and countless numbers of which are not in reach of effective primary healthcare centres or competent elementary schools.

India's economy is now expanding rapidly without having gone through a broad-based industrial revolution. The vast bulk of the workforce remains in the villages. Its economic engine is powered not principally by its factories or by the manufacture of physical products but by its competitive service industries. India's rise is also unusual because of the volatile and sometimes harsh nature of its politics. No other democracy has to operate with twenty-four party coalitions. The corruption and administrative cynicism that are the result of this ought to be slowing India's development. And yet, India over the last twenty years has been expanding at a rate exceeded only by China. India's rise is also unusual because it is explicitly desired – and to some extent – facilitated by other countries, most noticeably the USA. Whether it likes it or not, its role as a potential counter-balance to China is a key element in the calculations of policy makers in the West and elsewhere.

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

Document 1 © ADAPTED; *India's surprising economic miracle*; The Economist; September 2010.

Document 2 © ADAPTED; Edward Luce; *In Spite of the Gods*; Doubleday; 2006.

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