Y8 Revision Guide - Development

Exam Week May 2025

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FOPIC 2: Development Dilemmas







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What to expect in the exam...

Exam Week May 2025

When and where?

The exam will be held in your classroom during March and will be approximately 50 minutes long. You may only take your pen, pencil, and ruler into the exam. No revision material, devices, or smart watches are allowed. . Style of guestions:

The exam will consist of a series of short response questions and one extended response question (7-mark case study required).. Below are some sample answers and examiners comments. It is very important that you remember to BUG every question and really focus on the command word, so you know what the examiner wants you to write. Have a look at the table below to remind yourself of the command words to expect then read the sample answers and comments.



What is development? Studying development is about measuring how developed one country is compared to other countries, or to the same country in the past. Development measures how economically, socially, culturally or technologically advanced a country is. The two most important ways of measuring development are economic development and human development.

Economic development is a measure of a country's wealth and how it is generated (for example

agriculture is considered less economically advanced then banking).

Human development measures the access the population has to wealth, jobs, education, nutrition,

health, leisure and safety - as well

as political and cultural freedom. Material elements, such as wealth and nutrition, are described as the *standard of living*. Health and leisure are often referred to as *quality of life*.





What factors affect levels of development?

Factors which influence the rate at which a country may develop can be physical or human. Understanding the reason why a country may be in poverty is important, as it helps to understand what may help the country to develop.

Physical factors:

1. Climate

The Sahel region in Africa suffers from a lack of rainfall. This means that droughts are common. The result is that crops may suffer. There are certain diseases which thrive in *tropical climates*, such as malaria and yellow fever, because of the hot and humid conditions.

2. Natural hazards

Floods, droughts and tectonic activity can limit future growth and destroy buildings and agricultural areas. This also means a country may divert income to help recover from these events.

3. Landlocked countries

15 countries in Africa are landlocked. This means it is more difficult to trade as goods have to be driven through other countries to get to the coast for shipping. It is also more difficult for new technology to reach a *landlocked* country, as the fibre optic cables are laid under the ocean.







PHYSICAL FACTORS: THESE ARE THE NATURAL FEATURES OF EARTH THAT AFFECT DEVELOPMENT. HUMAN FACTORS: THESE ARE THE SOCIAL INFLUENCES OF PEOPLE AND CULTURES ON DEVELOPMENT



4. Natural resources Natural resources such as minerals, gas and oil can help improve a country's level of development. However, this is closely tied in with the ability to exploit the resource for the benefit of the country. There are also countries, such as Japan, which are low in natural resources, but have based their development on human factors such as education and skills. Human factors 1. Historical development Colonialism hindered a developing country's level of development. A colony helped supply food and minerals to countries like Britain and France. There was investment in colonies, but this was focused on things that would help the trade between the countries. Borders of some colonial countries were set without attention to tribal and cultural differences, causing tensions and instability.



2. Political factors Poor governance does not help a country to develop. Money that could be spent on development may be used to fund military weapons or an affluent lifestyle of an elite group of people. 3. Economic factors

World trade is often not fair. *LEDCs* tend to sell primary produce. LEDCs have to compete with each other to win the trade - which lowers the prices farmers get. A poor harvest means less income. There is more money to be made in processing goods, which *MEDCs* tend to do.

Foreign investment can help a country to develop. Africa receives less than 5 per cent foreign direct investment. It has 15 per cent of the world's population. Europe receives 45 per cent of foreign direct investment, and only has 7 per cent of the world's population. Who controls world trade is also important, and it is developed countries that control the most trade. Many LEDCs are in debt to MEDCs. Some of their income has to pay off these debts.

4. Social factors

A poorer country finds it more difficult to invest in education. The problem is made worse because many countries have a high *dependency ratio*. Having money to invest in a healthcare system is important for a country to develop. That is because it is difficult for sick people to work hard.

Clean water is essential for health. One in six people do not have access to safe water. If water is not safe, people may be unable to work or care for their families because of illness.





Remember you should be able to PEE factors that affect development. POINT, EVIDENCE, EXPLANATION.

How can development be measured? Development indices A development index measures a country's performance according to specific development indicators. Some countries may appear to be developed according to some indices, but not according to others. One of the most widely used development indices is the Human Development Index. The HDI (Human Development Index) is a way to measure well-being within a country. The HDI measures each of these factors between 0 and 1, one being the best. The HDI is a very useful measure of development because it includes economic and social indicators which reduces any anomalies Remember HDI use three indicators:

- Literacy Rates 1.
- Life expectancy 2. 3. GDP



Problems with indices... Development indices can be misleading and need to be used with care. For example: Many indices are averages for the whole population of a country. This means that indices do not always reveal substantial inequalities between different segments of society. For example, a portion of the population of a highly developed country could be living below the poverty line. In some countries, the data used in indices could be out of date or hard to collect. Some countries do not wish to have certain index data collected - for example, many countries do not publish statistics about the number of immigrants and migrants.



2

The Millennium Development Goals



Improving Development: The MDGs

In 2000, the United Nations agreed on some Millennium Goals. Every country and all the world's leading development organisations agreed to these. The aim was to achieve them by 2015.

- To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 1.
- 2. To achieve universal primary education
- To promote gender equality and empower women 3.
 - To reduce child mortality

4.

- 5. To improve maternal health
- 6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- 7. To ensure environmental sustainability

Improving Development: Part 2 The Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals (see below) build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. The goals came into effect in January 2016 and the target for progress is to be review in 2030.



MDG Progress

The graph below shows the progress that was made for the MDGs. There is still a lot of work to be done in improving development in the world.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Many of the SDG's are interconnected and are all important. However, if you were to rank them in order of importance, which would you put at the top and why?

Improving Development:

Fair Trade The result of the pattern of world trade is that the workers in primary industries in LEDCs often lose out. They receive low wages and often have poor standards of living. They cannot afford education for their children and many children are required to work to help their families earn a living. Fair trade means that the producer receives a guaranteed and fair price for their product regardless of the price on the world market. This means their quality of life should improve, as well as the long-term prospects for their children.



Fair trade products sometimes cost more in supermarkets in MEDCs, but many consumers consider this a small price to pay for the benefits they bring. Fair trade sets minimum standards for the pay and conditions of workers. The Fair Trade Organisation promotes Global Citizenship by guaranteeing a fair, minimum price for products. In this way, they support producers in improving their living conditions.

About 5 million people benefit from Fair Trade in 58 countries. Fair trade products are becoming more widespread and include tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate and cotton.

Improving Development: Top-down VS Bottom-up

In order to help a country develop a number of different approaches can be taken. Two contrasting approaches are a top-down approach and a bottom-up approach.

Top-down development schemes are usually very expensive and a country often has to borrow money from large organisation like the World Bank or from companies in developed countries. The decisions related to any top-down scheme will usually be made by the government and any external groups involved. Local people who will be affected by the scheme will have little say in the process and had little influence in the project. An example is the Akasombo Dam in Ghana.

Bottom-up development schemes are projects that are planned and controlled by local communities to help their local periphery area. They are not expensive because they use smaller, more appropriate technology, which the local people will have to pay for. Because the project is on a smaller scale compared to a top-down project, the environmental damage is often much less. An example is the Hand Dug well project by Water Aid in Ghana.

WaterAid







Always remember to give examples from real case studies to support your ideas if you can!

TEST YOURSELF



WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TOP-DOWN AND BOTTOM-UP DEVELOPMENT?

CASE STUDY ALERT Case Study: The Akosombo Dam, Ghana The Akosombo dam is a 124m tall, 340m wide dam in Southern Ghana that dams the mighty River Volta. The River Volta empties into the Atlantic Ocean and drains an area that spans 6 West African countries. The damming of the Volta created Lake Volta, at 850,000ha the world's largest artificially created lake. The Akosombo dam is an example of top-down development project. The main reason for the dam was to produce Hydro Electric Power for the Aluminium Industry in Ghana. However, the flooding that created the Lake Volta reservoir displaced many people (over 80,000!) and had an impact on the environment. The dam was funded by an American company, Valco, and also from loans from the World Bank, the UK and the USA. Valco benefitted from exemptions from government tax and got a guarantee of cheap electricity for 50 years. The cost of the project was estimated at \$258 million and was built between 1961 and 1965. Valco actually had the rights to 80% of the electricity produced, whilst the Ghanaians only got 20% despite putting up 50% of the money for construction costs. However, Ghana does get to process its valuable Bauxite into Aluminium, generating money. Valco does not always buy Ghanaian Bauxite though, it often sources its bauxite from lamaica.



The lake produced has generated small lake transportation, increased fishing, new farming activities along the shoreline, and tourism. The electricity is sometimes sold to neighbouring Togo and Benin, but only when there is an excess. This is becoming less often as there has been a noticeable drop in lake levels. The dam has also provided space for the water weeds which provide the necessary habitat for black-fly, mosquitoes and snails, which are the causes of water-borne illnesses such as bilharzia, river blindness and malaria. There has also been a loss in the river based fishing industry. Traditional farming practices have also been lost as the fertile soils of the River Volta are now under the Lake.

Case Study: Water Aid Hand Dug Wells, Ghana

Advantages of hand-dug wells

- ✓ Cheap materials can be used
- \checkmark Can be constructed by local people so communities can build themselves
- ✓ Generally good yields
- Disadvantages of hand-dug wells
- X Can be time-consuming to construct
- ✗ Risk of collapse if not supported properly

X Depth of well is limited ✗ Unless capped or protected, hand-dug wells can be open to contamination



Topic 2: Sample questions

Practice Questions:

- 1. Identify the three development indicators used in the HDI? (3) Describe two
- 2. problems with using development indicators. (2) Explain what physical factors
- 3. can affect a country's level of development. (4) Explain what human factors can
- 4. affect a country's level of development. (4) Describe the difference between
- 5. bottom-up and top-down development. (2) Using a country you have studied,
- 6. compare and contrast two development projects they have implemented. (7)



Key words...