Your notes

GCSE Geography: revision notes

Development and human welfare

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Start here: measuring development

- **Development** is improving people's lives: their income, health, education and freedom. Economic indicators include gross domestic product (GDP) per head and gross national income (GNI) per head. Social indicators include life expectancy, literacy rate, infant mortality, calorie intake and doctors per person.
- The **Human Development Index** (HDI) combines income, education and life expectancy into one number from 0 to 1.
- One indicator alone can mislead: an average income hides inequality, so geographers use several. Quality of life (how happy and healthy people are) isn't the same as standard of living (wealth and possessions).

Why the world is developing unevenly

- Countries are grouped by the World Bank as low-income (LICs), middle-income (MICs) and high-income (HICs). Most LICs are in sub-Saharan Africa; most HICs are in North America, Europe, East Asia and Australasia.
- Physical causes: landlocked countries, natural hazards, poor soils, drought and disease. Economic causes: reliance on primary products whose prices go up and down, debt, and unfair trade. Historical and political causes: colonialism, conflict and corruption. Social causes: low levels of education and health.
- The gap between the richest and poorest countries is the **development gap**.

Closing the gap

- **Sustainable development** meets the needs of people today without stopping future generations meeting theirs.
- Aid: help given by governments (bilateral or multilateral) or charities. Short-term emergency aid saves lives after disasters. Long-term **development** aid builds wells, schools and clinics. Aid can be wasted or come with conditions.

- Trade: fair trade gives farmers a guaranteed fair price. Selling manufactured goods instead of raw materials earns more.
- Debt relief: cancelling debts frees money for health and education.
- Small-scale projects using appropriate (intermediate) technology, such as hand pumps, can be run by local people. Microfinance gives small loans to start businesses.

A named example: Ethiopia

- Ethiopia is a low-income country in East Africa. Most people work in farming, droughts are common and it is landlocked, which makes trade more expensive.
- Strategies to raise **development** include building roads and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam for electricity, attracting factories to industrial parks, and programmes to improve farming and health care. Life expectancy and school attendance have risen, but many people still live in poverty.

Key terms

Development	Improvement in people's lives, including income, health, education and freedom.
GNI per head	The total income of a country divided by its population.
Infant mortality rate	The number of babies who die before their first birthday, per 1,000 live births.
Human Development Index	A measure combining income, education and life expectancy.
Development gap	The difference in development between the richest and poorest countries.
Sustainable development	Meeting today's needs without stopping future generations meeting theirs.
Appropriate technology	Simple technology suited to local skills and money, such as a hand pump.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Which is a social indicator of development?
2. What does the HDI combine?
3. Why should several indicators be used together?
4. Where are most low-income countries?
5. Which is an economic cause of low development?
6. What is the development gap?
7. Which kind of aid helps straight after an earthquake?

Your notes

8. What does fair trade do for farmers?

Answers

1. Literacy rate
2. Income, education and life expectancy
3. One indicator alone, such as an average, can hide differences
4. Sub-Saharan Africa
5. Relying on primary products with changing prices
6. The difference in development between rich and poor countries
7. Short-term emergency aid
8. Gives them a guaranteed fair price

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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