Your notes

GCSE Geography: revision notes

The changing economic world

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Measuring development

- Development is an improvement in people's standard of living and quality of life.
- Economic measures include gross national income (GNI) per head. Social measures include the birth rate, death rate, **infant mortality**, **life expectancy**, literacy rate, access to safe water and the number of doctors per 1,000 people.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) combines **life expectancy**, education and income into a score from 0 to 1.
- A single measure can be misleading: an average hides inequality within a country, and the data may be out of date or unreliable.
- Countries are often grouped as high-income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs, such as Brazil, India, China and Nigeria) and low-income countries (LICs).

The Demographic Transition Model

- Stage 1: high birth and death rates, so the population grows slowly. Stage 2: the death rate falls (better healthcare and clean water), so the population grows quickly. Stage 3: the birth rate falls (contraception, and more women working), so growth slows.
- Stage 4: low birth and death rates, so the population is stable. Stage 5: the birth rate falls below the death rate, so the population slowly shrinks.
- Many LICs are at stage 2, many NEEs at stage 3, and HICs such as the UK at stage 4.

Uneven development

- Physical causes: being landlocked, extreme climates, natural hazards, few resources and disease. Economic causes: poor trade links, relying on low-value raw materials, and debt. Historical causes: colonialism and conflict.
- Consequences: differences in wealth and health, and international migration as people move to richer countries for work.
- Reducing the gap: investment (such as by TNCs), industrial development and tourism, aid, intermediate technology (simple technology that local people can afford and maintain), **fair trade**, debt relief and **microfinance** (small loans to start businesses).
- Tourism in Jamaica brings a large share of the country's income and many jobs, but some of the money leaks out to foreign companies, and many jobs are seasonal and low-paid.

Case study: Nigeria (an NEE)

- Nigeria, in West Africa, has the largest population in Africa (over 200 million) and one of Africa's biggest economies. It is rich in oil.
- Its economy has shifted from farming towards manufacturing and services, such as telecoms, banking and Nollywood, one of the world's biggest film industries.
- **Transnational corporations** (TNCs) such as Shell bring jobs, taxes and investment, but profits go abroad, and oil spills in the Niger Delta have polluted land and water.
- Aid, such as anti-malaria bed nets, has improved health, although corruption can stop aid reaching the people who need it.
- Quality of life has improved for many people, such as longer **life expectancy** and better access to water, but poverty and inequality remain, especially in the north.

Economic change in the UK

- **Deindustrialisation**: coal mining, steel and shipbuilding declined because of cheaper goods and labour abroad, mechanisation and globalisation.
- The UK now has a post-industrial economy based on services, finance, information technology, research and the creative industries. Science and business parks, such as Cambridge Science Park, group high-tech firms together.
- Other changes include cleaner industry, commuter villages growing while some remote villages lose services, new transport links such as London's Elizabeth line, and a north–south divide in wealth, health and jobs.

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Trade, tourism and aid (Eduqas)

- Eduqas Component 2, Theme 6. Development is a continuum, not just rich and poor. GNI per person compares countries' wealth but hides inequality within them. The **development gap** is the difference between the richest and poorest countries.
- Trade: countries import and export, often within trade blocs such as the EU. Protectionism shields a country's own industries using **tariffs** (taxes on imports), **quotas** (limits on imports) and subsidies (payments to home producers), which can hold poorer countries back.
- Multinational companies (MNCs) locate in many countries for cheap labour, markets and resources. They bring jobs and investment but can pay low wages and send profits abroad.
- Tourism is a growing global industry. It brings jobs and income but can cause over-dependence on tourism, damage to the environment and culture, and **enclave tourism**, where all-inclusive resorts keep money away from local people.
- Responses: emergency aid after disasters; long-term development aid from governments and NGOs; the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (targets for 2030); and **fair trade**, which gives producers a fairer, more stable price.
- In the UK, the **north-south divide** is the gap in wealth, jobs and health between the richer South East and much of the north, linked to the loss of heavy industry.

Key terms

GNI per head	The total income of a country divided by its population.
HDI	The Human Development Index, which combines life expectancy, education and income.
Infant mortality	The number of babies who die before their first birthday, per 1,000 live births.
Life expectancy	The average number of years a person is expected to live.
Demographic Transition Model	A model showing how birth and death rates change as a country develops.
NEE	A newly emerging economy, whose industry is growing quickly.
Fair trade	Trade that guarantees producers a fair price for their goods.
Microfinance	Small loans to help people start their own businesses.
Deindustrialisation	The decline of manufacturing industry.
Transnational corporation	A company that operates in more than one country.
Development gap	The difference in wealth and well-being between the richest and poorest countries. (Eduqas)
Tariff	A tax on imported goods. (Eduqas)

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Quota	A limit on how much of a good can be imported. (Eduqas)
Subsidy	Money a government gives its own producers to keep their prices low. (Eduqas)
Enclave tourism	Tourism in self-contained resorts, so little money reaches local people. (Eduqas)
North-south divide	The gap in wealth, jobs and health between the south and north of the UK. (Eduqas)

Your notes

Quick questions

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

1. What does the HDI combine?
2. What is infant mortality?
3. Why can GNI per head be misleading?
4. What happens in stage 2 of the Demographic Transition Model?
5. Which of these is a physical cause of uneven development?
6. What is intermediate technology?
7. What is microfinance?
8. How does fair trade help farmers?

Answers

1. Life expectancy, education and income
2. The number of babies who die before their first birthday, per 1,000 live births
3. It is an average that hides inequality
4. The death rate falls, so the population grows quickly
5. Being landlocked
6. Simple technology that local people can afford and maintain
7. Small loans to help people start businesses
8. They get a fair, guaranteed price for their products

What to do next

Practise 16 questions on this topic

Try 5 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.