# My revision planner

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Answers to Now test yourself questions

Exam practice answers at www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes
The world is developing unevenly

What is development?

The term development can be used to describe the progress of a country as it becomes more economically and technologically advanced. It can also be applied to improvements in people’s quality of life – educational opportunities, increased incomes, human rights and healthy living conditions.

Key terms

Social development: Improvements in people’s quality of life, for example literacy, health care and life expectancy
Economic development: Improvements in wealth, for example GNI and GDP
Environmental development: Improvements in the quality of the natural world, for example, air pollution and water quality
Sustainable development: Meeting the needs of the present while protecting the needs of those in the future, for example, the development of renewable energy

How are countries classified?

Countries have been classified by global organisations such as the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). A range of economic and social indicators are used to split the world up into groups that are broadly similar.

The OCR, GCSE and A level specifications use the IMF classification: Advanced Countries (ACs), Emerging and Developing Countries (EDCs) and Low-income Developing Countries (LIDCs).

Figure 1 is a development map of the world based upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF) definitions. Notice that most LIDCs are in Africa, with a few in the Middle East, Asia and South America.

Key terms

Advanced Countries (ACs): well-developed financial markets, diversified economic structure with rapidly growing service sector, for example, UK, USA, Japan, Australia
Emerging and Developing Countries (EDCs): do not share all the characteristics required to be an AC but are not eligible for Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, for example, South Africa, India, China, Brazil
Low-income Developing Countries (LIDCs): countries eligible for Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust from the IMF, for example, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Afghanistan

Revision activity

Draw a summary table to define each of the IMF development categories and use Figure 1 to include a selection of countries for each category.

Now test yourself and exam practice answers at www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotes
How can development be measured?

There are several economic and social measures of development.

- **Economic measures** – these are to do with money and include **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, **Gross National Income (GNI)** and various monetary measures of poverty and standard of living.

- **Social measures** – these are to do with people and include infant mortality, life expectancy, access to doctors and educational attendance and achievement.

Whilst there are significant similarities between the global patterns produced, there are subtle variations and some indicators tend to be more reliable than others.

It is important to remember that measures are averaged for a whole country. There will often be significant inequalities of wealth and social development within a country particularly between major cities and remote rural areas. In fact, inequality is a good measure of the lack of development of a country!

### Advantages and disadvantages of different development indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure of development</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Gross national income (GNI)** | - When mapped, GNI can show clear patterns and variations between countries  
- It can be used to help prioritise aid payments  
- It is easy to calculate using official government figures | - These average figures can be misleading – a few very wealthy people in a country can distort the figures  
- In poorer countries, many people work in farming or in the informal sector, where their income is not taken into account by official GNI records  
- Data about income is sensitive and people may not always be honest |
| **Human Development Index (HDI)** | - In common with GNI, maps can show clear patterns and differences between countries  
- HDI provides a composite measure of index, including social aspects as well as wealth  
- It can be used as a measure of improvement following development initiatives | - It only takes into account a selection of measures and doesn’t take account of other important indicators  
- It can hide variations and inequalities that exist with countries  
- Data from some countries can be unreliable |
| **Internet users** | - Useful as it relies upon other infrastructural improvements, so is a proxy measure for electricity, satellite access and disposable incomes | - Does not take account of variations within countries  
- Can hide inequalities, especially regarding the use of internet by poor people |

**Key terms**

- **Gross domestic product (GDP)**: the total value of the goods and services produced in a country

- **Gross national income (GNI)**: measured as GNI per capita; this means the total income divided by the number of people

- **Human Development Index (HDI)**: composite measure using data on income, life expectancy and education to calculate an index from 0 to 1

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OCR GCSE (9–1) Geography A
Figure 2 is a topological map showing US$GNI per capita. Notice that the area of each country is proportional to the country’s GNI. Such maps are visually very powerful and show disparities very clearly.

Figure 2 Topological map showing US$GNI per capita

Figure X is taken from www.worldmapper.org, which uses a consistent colour scheme in all of the maps it produces. They divide the world into twelve separate regions (North America, South America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Northern Africa, Central Africa, Southeastern Africa, Middle East, Southern Asia, Eastern Asia, Japan and Asia Pacific) and use twelve colours that vary in shades to identify territories within regions.

The twelve regions are coloured in order from poorest to richest by the Human Development Index, with shades of dark red to show the poorest regions, going through the rainbow spectrum of orange, yellow, green and blue, with a shade of violet for the most well-off regions.

Figure 3 shows global development according to the widely used Human Development Index (HDI).

Key
HDI (based on data for 2015 and 2016)
- 0.900 and over
- 0.850–0.899
- 0.800–0.849
- 0.750–0.799
- 0.700–0.749
- 0.650–0.699
- 0.600–0.649
- 0.550–0.599
- 0.500–0.549
- 0.450–0.499
- 0.400–0.449
- 0.350–0.399
- 0.349 and under
- Data unavailable

Figure 3 Global development according to the Human Development Index (HDI)
What are the consequences of uneven development?

- **The ‘development gap’** – half of the world’s wealth is owned by just 1 per cent of the population, a sign of the huge development gap that exists between rich and poor. Whilst theoretically the LIDCs should be showing signs of improvement, in the last 50 years only 9 countries have moved from LIDC status to the emerging economies category.

- **Health** – low levels of investment in health care and nutrition account for high infant mortality and high birth rates amongst the very poor. These people become trapped in the so-called ‘cycle of poverty’ from which it is hard to break out.

- **Education** – access to education and improved literacy are vital for people’s development and job prospects. This is very patchy in the world’s poorest countries.

- **Standards of living** – in LICDs, many people have to endure a lack of clean water and poor sanitation. This can lead to disease and reduce life chances and earning potential, further trapping people in the cycle of poverty.

Now test yourself

1. What are the advantages of internet users as a measure of development?
2. What are the disadvantages of gross national income (GNI) as a measure of development?
3. The Human Development Index is a ‘composite’ index. What does this mean and why does it make the HDI one of the most widely used measures of development?

**Answers on p. XX**

Exam practice

1. What is meant by the term ‘development’? [2]
2. Study Figure 1. Describe the pattern of low-income developing countries (LIDCs). [4]
3. Examine how economic and social measures can be used to illustrate the consequences of uneven development. [6]

Exam tip

It is extremely likely that in an exam you will be given a map using social and/or economic measures to show global development. Make full use of the map when answering the question by referring to global regions and specific countries. Use the key to give specific values.
Causes of uneven development

Physical factors

The physical geography of a country or a region can create challenges for economic development.

- **Weather and climate** – heavy rainfall, droughts, extreme heat or cold and vulnerability to tropical cyclones hampers economic development. Vast parts of central and western Africa experience limited and unreliable rainfall. The Philippines and the Caribbean are frequently ravaged by *tropical storms*. In 2016, over 1000 people in Haiti were killed by Hurricane Matthew just six years after 230,000 people were killed by a powerful earthquake.

- **Relief** – mountainous regions, for example countries such as Nepal, tend to be remote and have a poor infrastructure. They are also subject to extreme weather conditions.

- **Landlocked countries** – countries without a coastline lack the benefits of sea trade, which has led to the development of most of the world’s most developed nations. A coastline acts as an international border providing huge opportunities for trading with other nations. Eight out of the fifteen lowest ranking countries according to the HDI are landlocked (Figure 1).

- **Tropical environment** – tropical environments (hot and wet) are prone to pests and diseases, which can spread rapidly. Malaria, spread by mosquitoes, and water-borne diseases such as cholera can devastate communities and reduce people’s ability to work.

- **Water shortages** – water is essential for life and for development. There are serious shortages of water in some parts of the world, for example in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

**Key term**

*Tropical storm (hurricane, cyclone, typhoon):* an area of low pressure with winds moving in a spiral around the calm central point called the ‘eye’ of the storm. Winds are powerful and rainfall is heavy.

**Now test yourself**

1. How can weather and climate affect economic development?
2. Study Figure 1.
   (a) Describe the distribution of landlocked developing countries.
   (b) Why does the lack of a coastline hinder economic development?

Answers on p. XX
Human factors

There are several human factors affecting development, including political stability, technology, health care and cultural traditions.

Poverty

The lack of money in a household, community or country slows development. It prevents improvements to living conditions, infrastructure and sanitation, education and training. Without the basics, developments in agriculture and industry will be extremely slow and an economy will simply fail to take off. Figure 2 shows the cycle (spiral) of poverty.

Trade

Trade between nations involves the import and export of goods and services. The vast majority of the world’s trade involves the richer countries of Europe, Asia and North America. Most of the world’s powerful international companies (TNCs) are based in the ACs. The poorer countries (LIDCs) have limited access to the markets. They have traditionally traded relatively low-value raw materials such as agricultural products or minerals rather than higher-value processed goods. The value of these raw materials (commodities) has fluctuated wildly, causing great uncertainty and instability as countries strive to become developed.

History

Many ACs have experienced a long history of development based upon agricultural and industrial growth and international trading. This has enabled them to become highly developed and relatively wealthy. In recent decades, rapid industrialisation has taken place in EDCs such as China, Malaysia and South Korea. The LIDCs have yet to experience significant economic growth.

Colonisation and exploitation of resources

Many LIDCs were colonised by powerful trading nations such as the UK, France, Spain and Portugal. They were exploited for their raw materials and made use of cheap labour. Over 10 million people were exported from Africa to North America to work as slaves. It was during this colonial era that global development became uneven. Most colonial countries became independent in the mid-twentieth century, for example India became independent from the UK in 1947 and Nigeria in 1960. They face huge challenges including poor infrastructure, lack of administrative experience and political instability.

Exploitation of natural resources

Raw materials such as agricultural products (for example, cocoa) and minerals (for example, copper) were exploited by colonial powers and exported to ACs to further their industrial development. LIDCs were paid low prices for the resources with most of the value adding (processing) taking place in the ACs. This exploitation contributed significantly to uneven development and, to some extent, still continues today.
Now test yourself

1. With reference to Figure 2, explain why 'poverty leads to poverty'.
2. How has colonialism hindered economic development in many LIDCs?

Answers on p. XX

Revision activity

Create a summary spider diagram to identify the main physical and human causes of uneven global development.

Figure 2 The cycle of poverty