Edexcel Geography A-level

Health, Human Rights and Intervention
Essential Notes

Measuring Development

There are many different ways and factors to **measure** development and quality of life of a country.

A **simple measure** only considers only **one** factor. Simple factors are good for **easy comparative** purposes. However, only using one factor may not give an accurate consideration of the country's 'big picture'.

Simple measures include:

- Life expectancy
- Death Rate and Birth Rate
- GDP per capita

A **composite measure** will consider a **variety** of factors. These can can include:

- **The Happy Planet Index** - considers life expectancy, wellbeing, ecological footprint and level of equality. However, it does not consider any economic factor, which could be considered the most important factor of a country's development.
- **Human Development Index** - considers literacy levels, life expectancy and wealth.
- **The World Happiness Index** - considers life expectancy, corruption, government support of the public and individual's freedom.
- **The KOF Index** - considers economic, social and political factors of globalisation. This may be considered an indicator of development as the most globalised countries tend to be the most developed, as they can afford to invest in infrastructure, business incentives and educating its working population.

Health & Development Across the Globe
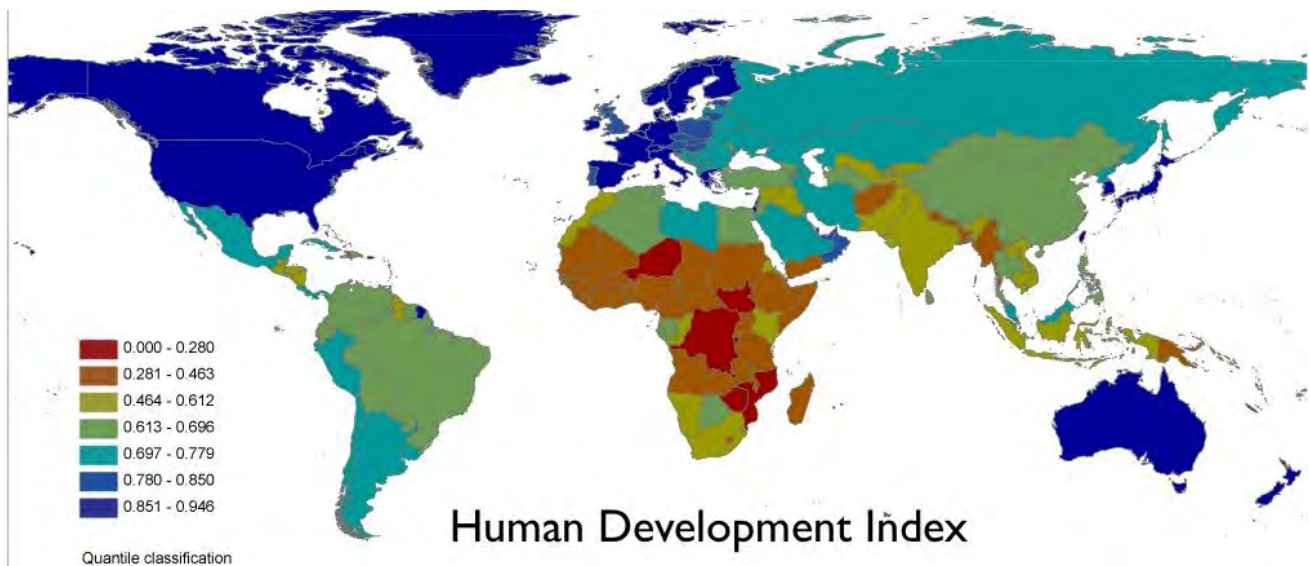
Source: www.geocurrents.info

Of course, global development patterns depend on how you measure development. Using the **Human Development Index**, the most developed countries (dark blue) include: Northern America, Europe, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Australia & New Zealand. This may be because:

- These nations have **large economies** and advancing technology (**quaternary**) industries, resulting in a high GDP per capita.

- Cities and towns are **well structured**, with strong infrastructure and transport links, excellent supplies of clean water, electricity and food to households.
- Most of these nations have **free education systems**, with opportunities to progress onto further education (universities) or into employment & apprenticeships.

Source: www.weforum.org

However, considering a different measure of development, the global rank of most developed countries shifts.

From the graph above, high scoring countries on the **Happy Planet Index (HPI)** aren't countries that score highly on the Human Development Index: Mexico (2nd), Costa Rica (1st), Thailand (9th), Vietnam (5th), Norway (12th). These trends in HPI are more complex to explain as each country largely varies in lifestyle, physical and human geography, and government styles.

- **Costa Rica** - Abolished its army, instead spending its **defense budget on education, health** provisions and **pensions**. Government taxes all fossil fuel use, spending taxes on protecting its **tropical rainforests**. In 2015, 99% of its electricity was produced using **renewable sources**.

- **Vietnam** - Relatively **high life expectancy** for a developing country; people from Vietnam live 17 years longer than people from Gambia, despite having similar sized economies. Large **education and public service** provisions have reduced **inequality** within the population, with large reductions in population living in poverty.

- **Norway** - The highest scoring European country on the Happy Planet Index. Norway provides **free education, public pensions and healthcare**. There is **low unemployment**, and individuals **work reasonable hours** in a workplace with a strong sense of **community**. However, Norway's ecological footprint (consumption of resources, greenhouse gas emissions, protection of habitats and wildlife) is **three times** a sustainable footprint.

Health in Developing Countries

Developing countries tend to face different health-related problems than developed countries, they also tend to have a lower life expectancy. This is due to lots of different factors:

- **Poor healthcare** - low levels of development mean countries don't have money to invest in their healthcare. Low education levels also mean they don't have as many healthcare professionals as developed countries. People may have to travel a long way to access healthcare (hospitals are mainly in big cities and may be poorly equipped). They may not have the money to invest in things like vaccines.
- **Poor access to food** malnutrition leaves a population more open to diseases.
- **Poor access to clean water** - Waterborne diseases such as cholera are prevalent in developing countries.
- Climate - many developing nations are situated within Africa and South Asia, which have **tropical or semi-arid climates**. The warmth and moisture typical to theses climates promote **tropical diseases** such as Malaria, which needs specialist medical attention and nets to protect families from mosquito carriers (both are expensive).
- **Overcrowding** will also increase the spread of tropical illnesses, since contagion can pass easily between houses. Diseases tend to affect the more **vulnerable** members of society (young children, elderly people, pregnant women) which means **infant and maternal mortality** rates tend to be high for developing nations.

Health in Developed World

Successful development of a country is often dependent on their populations' **good health** - if a person is prone to illness or weak due to malnutrition, they are less productive, and so earn less for themselves and their business.

- Most developed countries have **excellent access to clean water**, some countries rarely experiencing severe drought.
- Most populations have **disposable income**, which they can spend on improving their lifestyle and wellbeing: central heating, fitness/ gym membership, dishwashers. This will reduce their risk of illness and injury, promote healthy living and so **extend their life expectancies**.
- Japan has some of the longest living people, who would argue that the Japanese **lifestyle and diet** is one of the reasons for the longevity. European countries have become conscious of their diet, especially since most Europeans have office-based jobs so burn less calories.
- Developed nations have good healthcare access, life insurance and can afford advancing medical procedures and medicines.

However, developed nations do face some health issues:

- ➔ **Lifestyle choices** - including smoking, alcohol consumption and excessive saturated fats - limits developed nations life expectancy. Especially in America and the UK, **obesity, type 2 diabetes and cancer** affect a large proportion of the population and have added strain to their healthcare systems within the last few decades.
- ➔ Large cities such as London, Paris and New York are still **susceptible to infectious disease**, due to their large population density and high net movement of people daily. They are also prone to **extreme weather events** (long- period heatwaves, blizzards) that can heighten illness, isolate vulnerable individuals and put pressure on supplies of water and food.

GapMinder

GapMinder is a **graphical** representation of the life expectancies for all countries.

- There appears to be a **direct positive correlation** between the **wealth** of a country and its **life expectancy**.
- Africa has the lowest wealth and life expectancies, whereas America and Europe have high wealth and high life expectancy.
- Any **anomaly** countries have high wealth but low life expectancy. This can be explained by **conflict, famine** or **natural disaster.**

Health and Human Rights - Goals

Ultimately, all countries wish to achieve a **good standard of living** and **wellbeing** of their population. This can include a variety of goals and targets:

- Access to **clean, reliable water** and a varied diet, suitable for the populations' type of work. Reducing **malnourishment** and **food insecurities**.
- A **varied economy**, with a mixture of primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary employment. **Workers aren't exploited**, work in safe environments or take necessary precautions (Health and Safety regulations).
- Good **education** provisions for all (not gender or ethnicity specific). Education provides opportunities for **employment and further education**.
- Limited damage to the environment and low air and water **pollution**.
- Reducing **mortality rates** and extending life expectancy.
- Protection of **human rights**. Individuals are treated fairly by the Police and Government. **Ethnicity minority** groups face limited persecution and **hate crimes**.

Education and Development

Education is one of the **most influential factors** in a country's development, because being educating can have implications on many other factors:

- A **workforce** will have to be skilled to **attract high-income opportunities** and technical TNCs. Locations can build a **reputation** for their skilled workforce, such as Bangalore's growing IT industry where workers can speak multiple languages (especially English) to communicate with customers in call centres.
- Education can improve the **health** of a population. If someone can read, they can educate themselves on illnesses, new technology or their rights. This may improve their **decisions** made on **family, contraception and employment**.

However, education may not be available to all, even in the 21st Century. **Gender inequality** is the predominant reason why many children don't attend primary or secondary education. Some interpret their **religion or traditions** to deem that girls aren't capable or shouldn't mix with boys. Many families in developing countries prevent their children from attending school, instead **sending them to work** from an early age. Other factors - **epidemics, conflict or corrupt governments** - can also restrict school attendance and the ability for schools to provide education.

Governance of Development

There are several key players in encouraging the development of a country: The Government, IGOs, NGOs, and other governments.

Below is a table of how these key players can influence a country, and the impacts of their involvement:

Key Player	How do they encourage development?	Impacts of their involvement
The Country's Own Government	They are the primary players to create change, set initiatives or policies into action and monitor the wellbeing of their population.	However, some governments may be scared of economic restructuring or industry loss, which could make them lose their next election (if democratic government!). If their actions aren't significant or fair, a government may face anger from their people. Can be susceptible to corruption. Some governments simply don't want to improve their development, often totalitarian regimes that spend more on defense than healthcare and education.
IGOs (such as the UN, IMF, WTO)	Set goals for the country to try to achieve, with potential funding and political assistance available.	The IMF and WTO have been criticised for worsening country's debt and forcing them to privatise their economy. The UN has been successful in improving some countries, *as discussed below.*

NGOs (such as Amnesty International, Red Cross)	Highlight governments who aren't protecting or providing for their population. They may provide development aid to try to improve the local people's standard of living.	Shaming governments can be effective in promoting a government to improve. Aid has many benefits and weaknesses (*discussed later in these notes!*)
Other Governments (such as UK, USA)	Provide aid, military or political support to allies trying to develop. Often, trade or military alliances are wanted in return.	Actions may be for the benefit of the developed nation, not for the developing. Also, aid and provisions will be sent to a country's allies, not necessarily those who need it the most.

Corruption

Corruption can hamper the development of a country. Funds which could be used to improve living conditions and develop a country may be squandered by those in power. This may be because officials **steal government funds**, create policies that ensure they **remain in power** or sell resources to other nations or institutes unsustainably.

The **Corruption Perception Index** and other measures are starting to identify nations with corrupt governments. This is a **qualitative measure**, based on how people think their government is being transparent (Is this the best way to measure corruption? Could governments be wrongly accused?). Despite many nations agreeing that corruption should be eradicated, it is difficult to do.

Political corruption can lead to:

- Limited growth and development - funds that should be used to improve healthcare, education or infrastructure are instead funding government officials.
- Unlawful persecution - In the aim of maintaining their power, corrupt governments may persecute potential threats - individuals gaining political influence, whistleblowers or journalists.
- Denying individuals their human rights - some corrupt governments disregard their duties to their people, so the population may live without essentials such as clean water, education or electricity. There is growing inequality between those the government favours (rich investors, businesses) and the rest of the population.

The United Nations (UN)

To improve **global health and development**, the UN created the **UN Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs). It consisted of 7 goals, which ran from 2000 - 2015.

Goals included:

- Eradicate **Poverty and Hunger**
- Universal Primary **Education**
- Combat **AIDs, HIV, Malaria** and other diseases
- Develop Global Partnerships for **Development**
- Promote **Gender Equality**
- Reduce **Infant Mortality**

- Improve **Maternal Health**
- Encourage Environmental **Sustainability**

The UN **monitored progress** of countries involved and **provided some funds** for projects. Despite some progress, the MDGs were unsuccessful in achieving its goals.

To continue their progress, the UN replaced the MDGs with **Sustainable Development Goals**,

which will run from 2015 - 2030. With more goals and more support, the UN aim to be more successful than their last goals. The 17 goals include:

Human Rights Protection
Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms which are afforded to every human being on the planet regardless of age, gender, sex, ethnicity etc. Despite there being **international framework** in place, human rights vary from country to country. This may be due to different government opinions or culture/religion of a state.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
The UN created the **UDHR** to bring **peace** and **international cooperation**. There are 30 articles, which include:
- Everyone is born free and equal.
- Everyone has the right to an opinion and freedom to express it.
- Everyone has the right to marry.
- Everyone has the right to a nationality and to belong to a country.

There is inconsistencies in how countries **interpret** the UDHR. This may be because the UDHR is largely based on **Western morals and values**, so doesn't account for some alternative religions or governance styles. Not all countries - as a result - have signed the UDHR.

Human Rights Report (2016)
Besides IGOs, some **governments** are trying to improve global human rights. The British Government created the **Human Rights Report**, which identifies 30 human rights priority countries (HRPCs) as having inadequate rights or intentional persecution of its people.

Both the UDHR and Human Rights Report are successful in **creating awareness** for states with bad human rights records. It enables
- Foreign Office to discourage **tourists**, where they are likely to cause conflict or be arrested.
- NGOs such as **Amnesty International** to direct their efforts in lobbying governments for change.
- Other governments may put **sanctions** in place against countries who don't take their human rights seriously.

The Geneva Convention
The **Geneva Conventions** protect the human right of **civilians**, **wounded soldiers** or **Prisoners of War** during war and conflict. Every country in the world signed the conventions, making it the most successful international laws.

However, despite signing, some countries or militant groups have **broken the conventions**:
- British Soldiers (during the Afghanistan & Iraq occupation) tortured prisoners and killed wounded Taliban.
- ISIS rape and assault civilians - Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad received the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for the efforts in combating sexual violence as a war weapon, demonstrating that it is still an issue of today.
- Any ethnic cleansing is considered breaking the accords. Myanmar's recent treatment of its Muslim Rohingya minority is considered to be ethnic cleansing.

Geopolitical Interventions

Superpowers and **developed countries** can assist developing countries and those in crisis through a variety of intervention strategies:

- **Development Aid** is usually provided to poorer countries in the form of a **subsidy** to support growth and development.
- **Trade Embargos** are restrictions on a specific country against the movement of **goods or people.**
- **Military Aid** usually supports a country through **direct defence** or **full military support** to help construct infrastructure, rebuild after conflict or train domestic forces. International intervention can be driven by a lack of human rights.
- **Disaster Aid** is the most common form of intervention, and can be given following a **natural disaster** or threats due to **climate change**. Donations can be made from a government or NGO.

Aid is not necessarily good, nor successful. The table below considers whether intervention helps or hinders a country:

Helps Development:	Hinders Development:
-UN peacekeepers can help build infrastructure, schools, hospitals, etc. -Political stability after military intervention can lead to reconstruction and economic growth. -NGOs work to combat life-threatening diseases (malaria, HIV, ebola) have successfully reduced cases in developing countries.	-Governments may become reliant on help, and won't invest in their own interventions. (dependency on other nations) -Conflict will destroy facilities & infrastructure, increasing a country's debt. -Economic development aid can compromise efforts to protect a country's environment. If the environment has close ties to a minority or indigenous group, damaging their natural environment can infringe on their human rights too.
Helps Human Rights:	**Hinders Human Rights:**
-Direct Military action can remove authoritarian powers, hence enabling to improve and develop. -Immediate medical support will reduce fatalities and improve wellbeing. -Some conflicts can be avoided and threats reduced by military presence	-Military influence is limited in how they can influence a population's culture or ideology - they can't stop arranged marriages or discrimination. -Direct military intervention can lead to a loss (permanent or temporary) of protection of human rights.
Helpful/ Effective:	**Unhelpful /Ineffective:**
-Some NGOs run self-help schemes and localised efforts, which are successful in improving development. - Intervention can lead to improved safety, development and quality of life for a population. - Government intervention tends to be far more effective than NGO charity programmes, as they have more authority and international influence.	-Aid and intervention is often based on Western ideology. Countries who don't share these views can be seen as undeveloped - UN Security Council determine the UN's aid. There is a lack of attachment to the country in need during decision making. - Often, those who need the aid don't receive it. Governments are bias towards ally countries and IGOs only give aid to their members. - NGOs may provide insensitive supplies, such as breast implants in Tsunami first aid kits or beef to a Hindu country.

To conclude, it is often the case the **short term gains** do not match the **long term costs** that aid and intervention can cause.

Make sure to read the Interventions & Aid Case Study, whilst doing your own research. There are many examples of aid and intervention, each having different levels of success. What makes an IGOs or government's efforts successful?