

# AQA GCSE Geography

## The Changing Economic World Detailed Notes

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## Measuring Development

**Development** is the idea of what **21st Century life** should consist of - essentials (such as access to clean water and electricity), access to services and opportunities.

Development can be measured in lots of different ways using **indicators**, depending on how you view development. For example, if you think wealth is important for development, you can measure a country based on its **economic indicators**. Whereas if you think the health and welfare of a country's population should determine their development, you could measure using **social indicators**. The table below lists and explains different kinds of indicators:

<b>Economic Indicators</b>	<p><b>GNI per capita</b> - The total amount of money earned by people and businesses within a country. This total is then divided by the population, to find an average earning per person.</p> <p><b>Poverty Line</b> - The number of people earning less than \$1.90 per day. In the UK, 0.2% of the population earn less than \$1.90 per day whereas in Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Madagascar, over 70% of the population live under the poverty line.</p>
<b>Social Indicators</b>	<p><b>Life Expectancy</b> - Measuring lifestyles and health. Life expectancy is an estimate of how long a person will live, made when they're born, based on predicted advances, current services and the risk of diseases.</p> <p><b>Literacy Rate</b> - Quality of education which correlates to economic output. A well-educated workforce tends to earn higher wages.</p> <p><b>Infant Mortality Rate</b> - Quality of healthcare and attitudes towards children. Infant mortality is important since infants are some of the most vulnerable people of society, so are more likely to catch disease and infection or suffer from malnutrition.</p> <p>More social indicators include: access to safe water, birth rates, death rates, the ratio of people per doctor.</p>
<b>Environmental Indicators</b>	<p><b>Pollution Levels</b> - The volume of pollution in the air and water will show how wasteful a country is. It also shows whether a country has developed its technology to become more efficient and less polluting.</p> <p><b>Area of Woodland/ Green Space</b> - The more open land a country has, the more pleasant it is to live there. The proportion of woodland lost or gained can reflect the government's attitude to the environment.</p>

Developments through **technology** have changed the way we measure development. We have also learnt that development can be **interpreted differently** for different societies; some countries value particular factors more than other countries do.

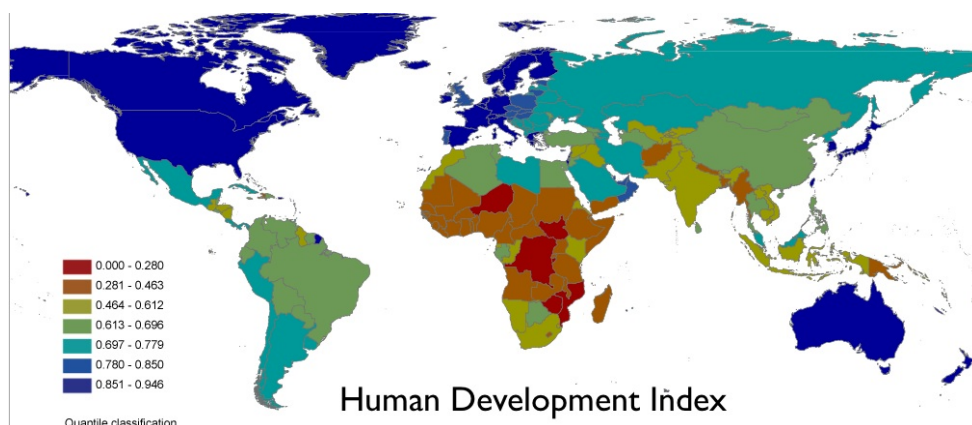


Using different measures and indices can result in countries ranked differently for development.

## Human Development Index

The human development index measures a **mixture** of factors, ranking each country between 0 to 1 where 1 is the most developed country. The index takes into account:

- **Income** & Inequality between the highest and lowest earners
- Levels of **education** - how many years that children will spend in school
- **Life expectancy**



Source:  
[www.geocurrents.info](http://www.geocurrents.info)

Top 5 Countries on HDI	HDI Score	Bottom 5 Countries on HDI	HDI Score
Norway	0.953	Niger	0.354
Switzerland	0.944	Central African Republic	0.367
Australia	0.939	South Sudan	0.388
Ireland	0.938	Chad	0.404
Germany	0.936	Burundi	0.417

### Reasons for trends in top 5:

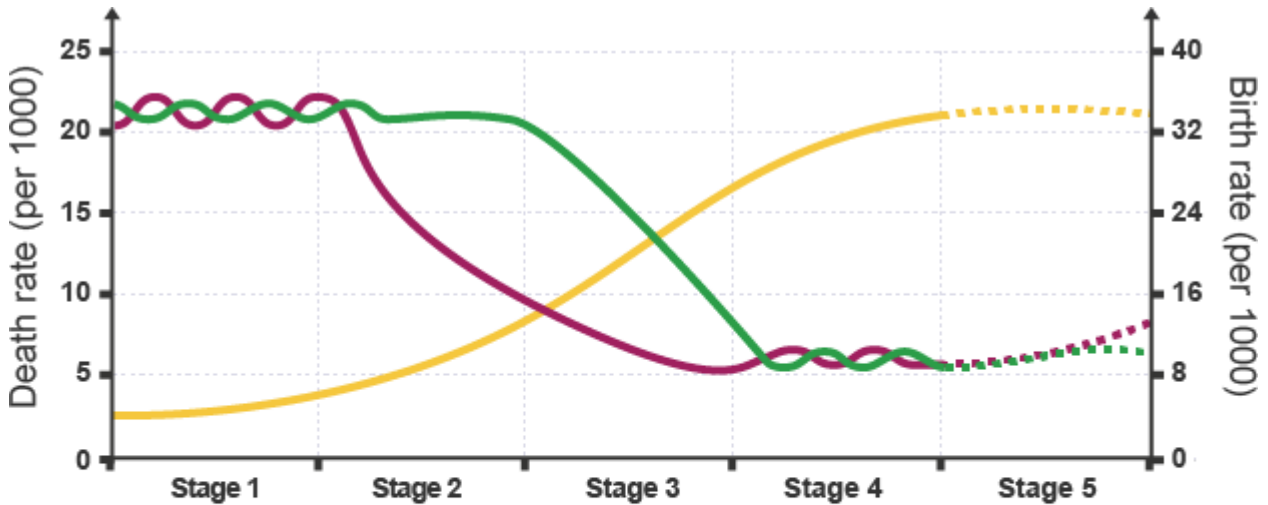
Using the **Human Development Index**, the most developed countries (dark blue) include: Northern America, Europe, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Australia & New Zealand. This may be because:

- 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.



## Demographic Transition Model





Populations are expected to **rise and fall** 'naturally' due to increasing development. Populations will grow if the **birth rate** (number of babies born per 1000 people) increases and the **death rate** (number of deaths per 1000 people) decreases. The **demographic transition model** describes how the population will change as a country develops:



Source: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



There are four stages to the **Demographic Transition Model**:

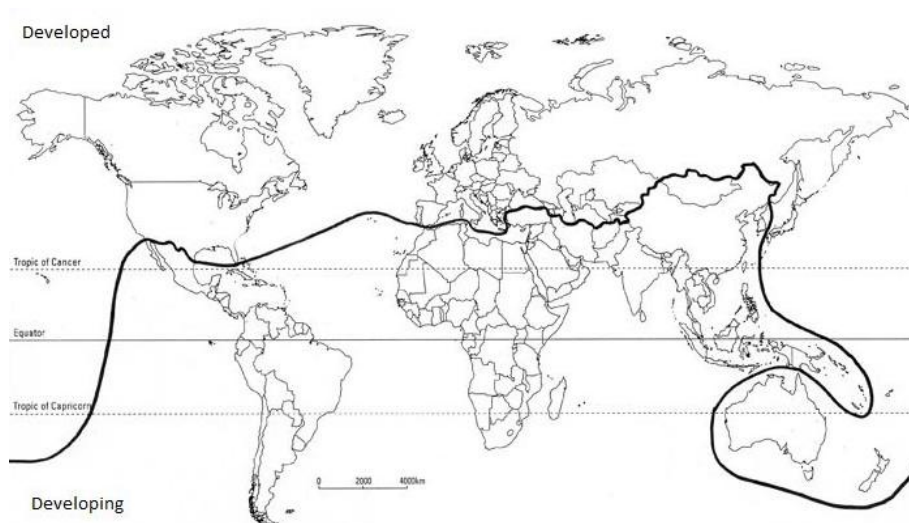
 <p><b>Stage 1 - Small Population</b></p>	 <p><b>Stage 2 - Hospitals</b></p>	 <p><b>Stage 3 - Baby Rate</b></p>	 <p><b>Stage 4 - Large Population</b></p>
<p>The population of the country is <b>small</b>, because the <b>death rates</b> are high. The country is <b>developing</b>, so the health services aren't invested into and many people work in <b>hazardous jobs</b>.</p>	<p>The <b>death rate</b> will decrease first, as the government <b>invests</b> money into its hospitals and doctors. Families also can <b>afford food</b> and <b>clean water</b>, as they get more high paying jobs.</p>	<p>As life becomes safer and families earn more money, more people decide to have <b>children</b>. This will increase the population even more! The improving hospitals reduce <b>infant mortality</b>.</p>	<p>The population continues to grow and the country <b>develops</b>, and most families earn more money and <b>live safer</b> lives. Birth and death rates will still vary, but on a whole they stay <b>low</b>.</p>



Of course, there are a few exceptions to the **Demographic Transition Model** - some countries don't follow this model. For example, new countries like the UAE or countries devastated by **conflict** or **natural disaster**.

## Global Inequality

Neighbouring countries can have very different levels of development, but the world on a whole can be split into half: developed and developing countries.



Source: Laura Geography

This line is called the **Brandt Line** and it divides developing and developed countries into their groups. On the whole, the **northern hemisphere** is more developed than the **southern hemisphere**. There are many factors that can explain why this is the case:

### Social Causes of Inequality

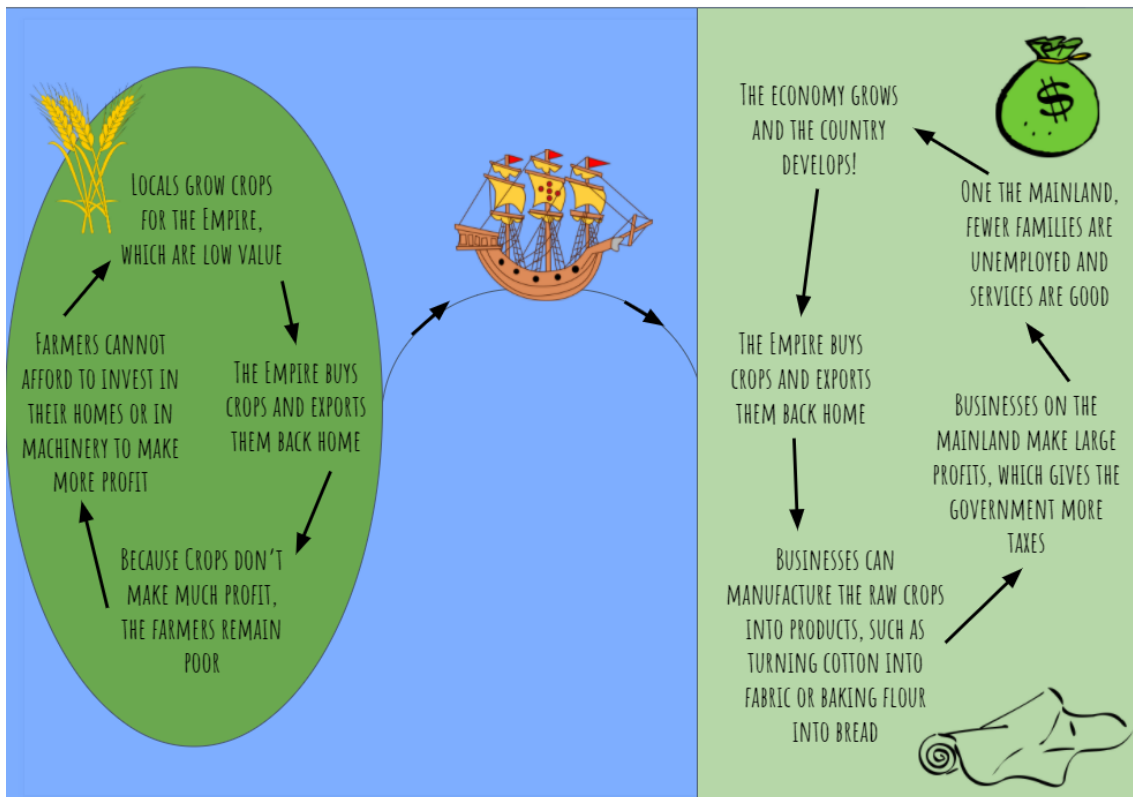
- **Education** - Education is important to the development and **economy** of a country. If someone cannot read or doesn't have the right **qualifications**, they might not be able to get a well-paid, dependable job. This means a person is more likely to do unskilled, low paid work which means they will be stuck in a cycle of poverty.

A poor education system can impact services and facilities. For example, if children can't get a good education, they may not be able to progress onto **university** and get their degree. This means jobs that require degrees - for example doctors, teachers - might suffer from **shortages of workers**. This will impact the availability of healthcare or the quality of teaching for future generations.

- **Health** - A limited number of doctors or **unsubsidised healthcare** (treatments aren't paid for by the government) might lead to low-income families having a poorer health. Some countries are more **vulnerable** to **diseases** and poor health than other countries, for instance:
  - **Mosquitoes** prefer hot, humid climates such as in South America and Africa. Mosquitoes transfer diseases such as **Malaria**.



- Countries that rely heavily on mines or have **intensive industries** will have populations with poor health. Miners develop **respiratory** conditions whereas factory workers can develop **cancers** from the chemicals they use.
- **Historically Disadvantaged** - Countries that have been ruled in the past by another country can be disadvantaged. For example, countries that were part of the British Empire have smaller economies than the UK's economy. This is because, during the British rule, the British government would take **more than it gave to its ruling empire**. This is explained in the diagram below:



If the farmers earn a low wage, the government earns **less tax** and so local schools and healthcare won't be **invested** into. Alternatively, farmers with little savings are more vulnerable to **crop failures**, which can result in families losing their jobs and going **hungry**, increasing the **poverty** for a country.

There are many countries that Britain took **advantage** of during the British Empire (17th - 20th century) including many **Caribbean** countries as well as some **African** nations. This allowed Britain (as well as other European countries that had empires at the time) to develop ahead of its colonies, which has remained the case till the present day.



## Think Further: Neocolonialism

**Colonialism** is the direct control over a country by another, for power, money and to take resources. However, some countries can be controlled and **influence indirectly**. This is **neocolonialism**. Nowadays, countries aren't ruled by another country as part of an empire, but they are still influenced and sometimes exploited.

For example, influential countries (e.g China, USA) could **influence** ally countries through trade agreements or politics to agree to what they want. Here are some examples of neocolonialism in the world today:

- **China** pays for **fishing rights** off the coast of many East African countries. China is able to feed its growing population legally, but may **overfish** which damages the African coral reefs.
- Many **UK** businesses pay **foreign manufacturers** to build their products - sew their clothes, construct phones and technology, etc. In other countries, **workers' rights** may be less strict and wages could be lower, which means the UK business might earn minimise costs and so earn **more profits**.



Source: BBC






Source: IB Times

## Environmental Causes of Inequality

- **Climate** - The climate of a country (the annual characteristics in weather patterns) can affect whether a country has many **resources** to trade. Climate can impact whether farmers can grow **crops**, because the weather and seasons are closely linked with **agriculture**. Some crops are suited to wetter or hotter climates (for example, olives are grown best in mediterranean climates). On the other hand, certain countries have larger **oil** supplies than other countries. This is because the country's climate in the past was **warm and moist**, which is optimum for forming **fossil fuels**. So some resources can only be found in countries with particular climates.



Countries with a large amount of resources to sell will have **stronger economies**, so they tend to be more developed as the community improves and the government can **invest**.

	<p>If it regularly rains, the population can collect fresh rainfall to drink. Countries with <b>regular rainfall</b> tend to suffer less from <b>water-borne diseases</b>, which is good for the people's health.</p> <p>Having a large amount of rainfall can be good for a country. If more rain falls than the population needs, a country could store and <b>sell</b> the excess water to a neighbouring country.</p> <p>Alternatively, countries with <b>temperate</b> climates (moderate levels of rain) tend to grow crops very well. So food can be <b>exported</b> and sold.</p>
	<p>Plants grow better in <b>warmer</b> climates, so countries with warm climates tend to have successful farms. This means they are less likely to be short of food or have a <b>starving</b> population.</p> <p>Countries that are too hot (near to the <b>Equator</b>) suffer from <b>droughts</b> and soil erosion (<b>desertification</b>), so farmers often have crop failures and the population aren't well fed.</p> <p>On the other hand, cold <b>Arctic climates</b> (countries found near to the Poles) cannot grow crops throughout the year because of the low temperature. So they must rely on <b>food imports</b> to survive, which can be <b>expensive</b>.</p>
	<p>If a country frequently experiences <b>extreme weather</b> - e.g. hurricanes, flooding - it may be difficult to develop. Every time a storm happens, there is some <b>damage</b> to the buildings, which must be replaced &amp; <b>repaired</b> in the future, which costs money. Also, if people can't go to work during the storm, the <b>economy</b> will be impacted. This limits the development of a country.</p>





## Political Causes of Inequality

- **Governance** - Governments have different **aims and styles** of leadership that can affect the growth of the economy and the lifestyle of its people. On a whole, the **most developed** countries tend to have **capitalist** governments, whereas countries with **communist** governments tend to be **less developed**. However, the **inequality** between the wealthiest and poorest households is greater for capitalist governments.

### Think Further: Types of Governments

Here is a summary of the types of governments and reasons why they lead to inequality (or not!):

- **Capitalist Governments** - Governments who focus on economic growth, by allowing businesses to run themselves (private businesses).  
E.g. UK, USA, Germany
  - 😊 **Highly developed** as businesses encourage jobs and the population tends to be wealthier on average. The government receives **business taxes**, which they invest in local services such as schools and healthcare.
  - 😞 **Inequality** is very large between the richest and poorest, as businesses can take **advantage** of the poorest families to make money (e.g. using factory workers on zero hour contracts or minimising their wage).
- **Communist Governments** - Governments who try to equal out the spread of money, so everyone in the country has a fair access to resources.  
E.g. Russia, China, North Korea
  - 😊 There is little **economic inequality**, since everyone in the country is on the **same wage**. Businesses are owned by the government, so workers are less likely to be exploited.
  - 😞 There is **political inequality** for many communist governments, as people in power can get better access to services or can become **corrupt** and take more money. Sometimes, communist governments stay in power and limit the voice of the people.

But, it is important to remember that not all governments follow this trend - some communist governments can be more developed than capitalist!

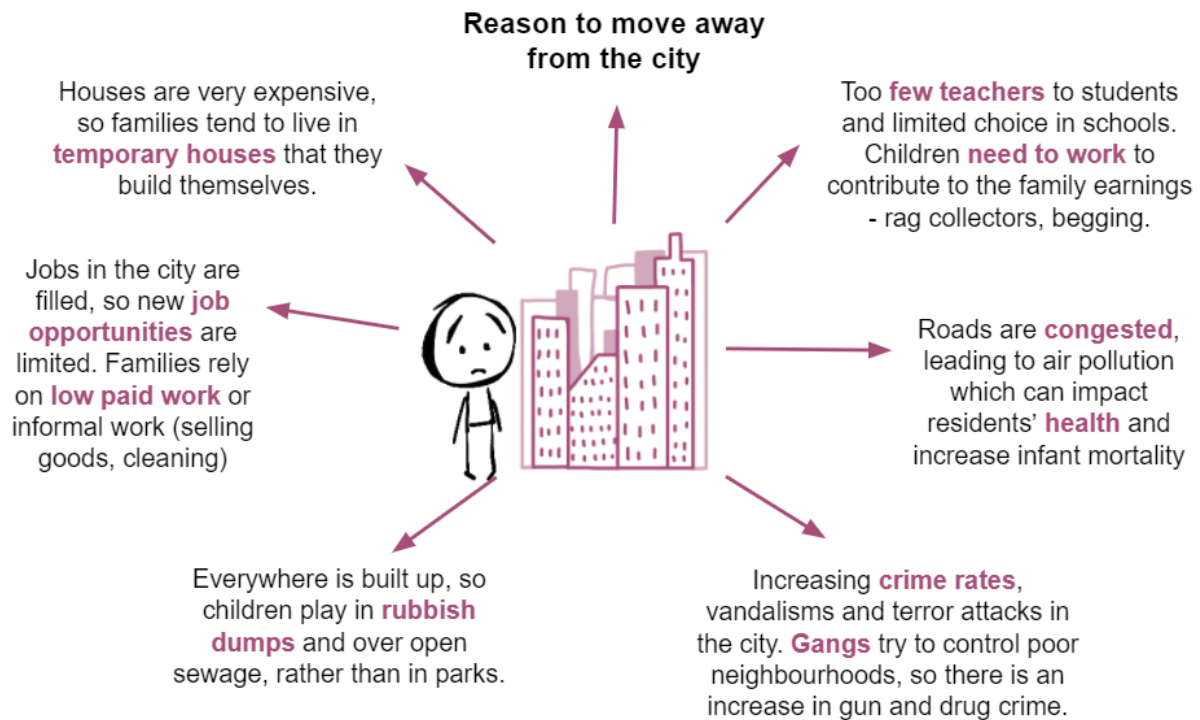
- **International Relations** - If a country has a positive relationship with another then they are known as **allies**. Countries with allies have more opportunities to **trade**, and so can earn more **profit** which enables their economies to grow. Alternatively, if one country is in need, allies can provide **aid** in the form of money, water, food or emergency supplies. Therefore countries with better international relations are often more **developed** than others.



## Consequences of Uneven Development

### Health & Wealth

As the inequality between the richest and poorest communities increase, the lifestyle of residents will change. There are many different impacts of inequality, but they are worse impacts for the poorest families:



### International Migration

**Inequality** within a country can push people to move out of the country to find somewhere nicer to live. This may be because:

- ❖ They are **poor** and want a better life for their family. They struggle to find work and want a **reliable job** that isn't too **labour intensive**. Their children want to attend school, rather than working to earn money for the family.
- ❖ They are **rich** and don't want to live so close to a poor settlement. They wish to migrate to somewhere with **luxury apartments** and a **modern city lifestyle**.

The majority of **international migrants** are poor, hoping to live a better life in a different country:



### PUSH

- Rural jobs are mainly in **farming**. This is **intensive** work and not well paid.
- **Climate change** is making farming more difficult. The soil is becoming poorer quality (through **desertification**) and **droughts** are more common, leading to frequent **crop failures**.
- In rural towns and villages, **access to services** is limited. Families may have to travel far to their local hospital or school.
- Rural towns tend to be **isolated** because they are far away from a nearby city. This means electricity, water and food supplies are limited and the town must rely on themselves rather than import supplies in.



### PULL

- In the city, there are **higher paid jobs** and more opportunities, since there are many more businesses located here.
- Better **education** for children, as many colleges and universities are located in cities rather than rural villages.
- **Public transport** allows residents to be more mobile, even if they can't afford a car!
- Residents don't need to travel as far for **hospitals** and **medical care**.
- City life is more **entertaining**, with more shops, cinemas, clubs and restaurants than in rural villages.

However, not all pull factors are as they seem. People can decide to migrate based on a **dream** or **reputation**. Sometimes, when they arrive in the city, the reasons that they moved away from home for aren't true.

International migration can **worsen inequality** and cause problems for a city:

- ☹️ Poor migrants move to their new city with no money, and so cannot afford anywhere to live. They have to build their own temporary house out of **salvaged materials**, which is called a **shanty settlement**.
- ☹️ The area they moved away from **loses workers**, which might mean businesses cannot find enough workers and must move or shut down. Services will decline as less people use them, this makes the area less appealing to live in so more people will wish to move away and outwards **migration** will increase. Overall, the **economy** will decline.

## Improving Development

Countries might want to improve their development to grow their economy and improve the population's lifestyle. Schemes can be planned by the government - which we will call **investment development** - or by small **non-government organisations** (NGOs) - which we will call **aid development**. These different schemes will be targeted at different groups of people, with benefits and disadvantages.



## Investment Development Projects

These projects tend to be **large-scale**, **expensive** constructions that try to improve a fundamental need: generating more electricity, collecting more clean water, etc. These decisions are agreed by the **government** and large international businesses (**TNCs**), and can take many years to complete.



Some examples include:

		
<p>Source: Yangtze River Cruises <b>Three Gorges Dam (China)</b> - A major dam to store clean water and produce electricity</p>	<p>Source: BBC News <b>Favela Replacement (Brazil)</b> - Constructing new houses for the residents of Shanty Towns</p>	<p>Source: Infrastructure Intelligence <b>The HS2 Railway (UK)</b> - Building railway lines to improve commuting</p>

	
<p>Source: cladglobal.com <b>Eden Project (UK)</b> - Tourist attractions provide new jobs and profits for regions that might have limited industry</p>	<p>Source: Construction Kenya <b>Egypt's New Capital City</b> - Replacing the overflowing current capital, Cairo, large construction is taking place.</p>

These schemes can have a mixed impact on the country:

- 👍 These schemes tend to be **large scale**, so will benefit a large community of people.
- 👍 Due to the large construction, many **job opportunities** are created to build the project - from unskilled labourers to civil engineers.
- 👍 **Tourism** attracts visitors to areas of low industry or small economy, therefore building the economy for small areas. In addition, tourism could attract **new migrants** to live here or more investment into the area with new businesses, so the benefits can **snowball**.
- 🗣️ Locals have **little voice** in the project and some small villages may be **evicted** against their will. Their homes need to be **demolished** to clear room for the project, and often it is the poorest families that are forced to be evicted.
- 🗣️ These projects cost **millions of pounds**, which could be spent directly on communities. The benefits take a long time before they are felt by locals, since these projects tend to take decades to complete.









🗨 Large scale construction projects such as dams and train lines involve a large quantity of **concrete**. Concrete produces **carbon dioxide** when manufactured, so these projects contribute largely to **global warming**.

🗨 Tourism can be **seasonal**, so workers don't have a **reliable job** throughout the year. The town can become overcrowded during summer, and then struggle to afford to live during winter.

## Aid Development Projects

These projects tend to be **smaller projects**, focused at helping small **families** and communities rather than a region or country. Aid is organised by **non-government organisations** (NGOs): charities, universities, etc.

Some examples of aid projects include:

		
<p>Source: Heifer <b>Heifer</b> - A charity that gives a family a goat for milk for food and to make money.</p>	<p>Source: BBC News <b>Water Aid</b> - Constructing water pumps to provide a small village with water.</p>	<p>Source: University of Manchester <b>Team Uganda</b> - University-led team of student volunteers that work to improve a community.</p>
		
<p>Source: dandb.com <b>Debt Relief</b> - Struggling countries have their debt wiped out by international banks, so they can afford to invest and develop.</p>	<p>Source: The Lakes School <b>Fairtrade</b> - A charity that pays farmers a fair wage for their crops and sells them to the UK. They also try to improve local communities lifestyles.</p>	<p>Source: Exchanger Zone <b>Microfinance loans</b> - Small loans to individuals and small businesses with T&amp;Cs, with the hope that more new businesses will be created.</p>

Once again, aid has **advantages** and **disadvantages**:



👍 These projects tend to focus on helping the **poorest families** in a country. The project could reduce **poverty** and so reduce the **inequality** between the poorest and wealthiest countries.

👍 Relatively **cheap** so NGOs can help a large number of families in different countries. The families that can benefit from NGOs work are spread across the globe!

🗣️ NGOs rely on **voluntary donations** rather than government funding, which limits the amount of people that charities can afford to help.

🗣️ Without proper **training & planning**, charity projects could be unsuccessful. For example, cows given to families in hot climates may die of dehydration if the family doesn't take care of it. Also, if there are no engineers in the village, if the water pump breaks it cannot be repaired.

The **costs** and **benefits** of each scheme should be carefully considered by the **key players** (governments, charities, etc) that organise them. A country trying to improve their levels of development should look at a **mixture** of investment and aid schemes, to try to benefit a large proportion of their population.

