

AQA Geography GCSE

Svalbard

Case Study Flashcards

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Where is Svalbard?



Where is Svalbard?

Group of islands located between Norway and the North Pole in the Arctic Ocean.



How many people live in Svalbard?



How many people live in Svalbard?

Around 2,700.



What is the climate like in Svalbard?



What is the climate like in Svalbard?

The climate is extremely cold. Summer temperatures average 3 to 7°C and winter temperatures average -13 to -20°C.



What is the environment like in Svalbard?



What is the environment like in Svalbard?

Glaciers cover 60% of land, and rock or tundra covers the rest. There are no trees as it is too cold.



What has historically been the main economic activity in Svalbard?



What has historically been the main economic activity in Svalbard?

Coal mining.



How many people are employed from coal mining activities?



How many people are employed from coal mining activities?

Over 300.



How has the coal mining industry recently changed?



How has the coal mining industry recently changed?

After the opening of a new mine in 2014, the price of coal dropped and many mines were shut down indefinitely. Only one coal mine still functions.



What energy source could potentially be a new opportunity for energy supply in Svalbard?



What energy source could potentially be a new opportunity for energy supply in Svalbard?

Geothermal energy.



How does Svalbard have opportunity for development in the fishing industry?



How does Svalbard have opportunity for development in the fishing industry?

South of Svalbard is the Barents sea, which contains over 150 species of fish and the largest stocks of cod in the world. Svalbard could trade fish stocks with other countries for profit.



How has the tourism industry created opportunities for Svalbard's development?



How has the tourism industry created opportunities for Svalbard's development?

Many people want to visit Svalbard for the wildlife, landscape and northern lights, creating 300 jobs in this sector.



How many people visited Svalbard's capital, Longyearbyen, in 2011?



How many people visited Svalbard's capital, Longyearbyen, in 2011?

70,000, 30,000 of which were cruise passengers.



How has the extreme temperatures in Svalbard make development difficult?



How has the extreme temperatures in Svalbard make development difficult?

People have to dress up in warm layers, and food cannot be grown so must be imported.



How has the accessibility of Svalbard caused problems for its development?



How has the accessibility of Svalbard caused problems for its development?

Svalbard is difficult to get to and hard to travel around due to its remote location and the presence of glaciers and mountains.



How do the roads cause challenges to development in Svalbard?



How do the roads cause challenges to development in Svalbard?

There is only 50km of road in Longyearbyen, and no other communities in the whole of Svalbard are connected by roads.



How do people travel around in Svalbard?



How do people travel around in Svalbard?

Either by boat in summer, or snow mobiles in winter.



How can you get to Svalbard from other countries?



How can you get to Svalbard from other countries?

Planes from Russia or Norway, or boats (provided the sea ice does not make the area inaccessible).



What issues is climate change presenting for buildings in Svalbard?



What issues is climate change presenting for buildings in Svalbard?

Permafrost is melting, which is causing buildings to sink into the waterlogged ground and become damaged.

More frequent avalanches are also making many areas unsafe to live in.



What percentage of the population is having to be evacuated due to the risk of avalanches?



What percentage of the population is having to be evacuated due to the risk of avalanches?

10%



How are the utility systems designed to prevent cold-related issues in Svalbard (e.g. water and sewage systems)?



How are the utility systems designed to prevent cold-related issues in Svalbard (e.g. water and sewage systems)?

Pipes are above ground rather than underground to prevent freezing, and water is heated before it enters homes.

