

Edexcel Geography GCSE

Development Dynamics Glossary of Key Terms

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Glossary of Definitions - Development Dynamics

Brandt Line - A line that divides developed and developing countries on the world map.

Bottom-Up Project - A small scheme, organised by an NGO or charity, that aims to help the poorest families.

Capitalism - An economic and political system where trade and other sectors of the economy such as manufacturing are run by private companies for profit. They believe that the richer the country, the more developed it can be.

Colonialism - The act of getting control over another country, this involves occupying their land and results in exploitation of people and the country's resources.

Communism - A system which believes that the population should be classless and equal financially. Goods and the means of production are owned communally (often by the state) instead of being owned by private companies so everyone has access to what they need.

Corruption - Governments that are dishonest or steal money to remain in power or for financial gain.

Economic Inequality - The difference in wealth between the richest 10% of a country's population and the poorest 10%.

Frank's Dependency Model - Describes neo-colonialism and how a country can gain control over a neo-colony through exploitation and economic dependency.

GDP - The value of all produce and spending within a country. GDP stands for Gross Domestic Product.

GDP per capita - The value of all produce and spending within a country, divided by the population.

Governance - The management of a place or group of people.

Human Development Index - A measure of several indicators including life expectancy, inequality and education.

Indicator - A way of measuring development, which focuses on the social, economic or environmental development.

Infant Mortality Rate - The fraction of children under 5 years old that die compared to the total number of births.

Informal Work - Self-employed or temporary work, which provides a small wage and limited health regulations.



Life Expectancy - The average number of years an individual is likely to live, determined at birth.

Literacy Rate - The percentage of the population that can read and write.

Lower Income Country (LIC) - A country of low wealth and a limited level of development.

Middle Income Country (MIC) - A country of sufficient wealth and a good level of development.

Non-Government Organisation (NGO) - A company or organisation that operates separate from the government, but doesn't aim to make a profit (e.g. charities, universities).

Pollution Levels - The volume of pollution in the air or water.

Poverty Line - The minimum amount of income a person needs to live adequately.

Quality of Life - The standard of living of a person or a community. Many factors can affect this including health, comfort and access to services.

Respiratory Conditions - Illnesses that affect your breathing, for example asthma or lung disease.

Rostow's Modernisation Theory - The development of a country takes five stages of growth: Traditional Society, Pre-Conditions for Take Off, Take Off, Drive to Maturity, Mass Consumption.

Social Inequality - The difference in quality of life between the highest income family and lowest income household.

Squatter Settlements - Clusters of temporary housing which migrants or low income families live in, often built on unfavourable land.

Top-Down Project - A large-scale scheme to improve development, organised by the government or a large TNC. The benefits of the scheme should trickle down to poorer families in the community.

Topography - The shape and relief of the land ie. mountainous, low-lying, flat, etc.

