

Markscheme

May 2025

Global Politics

Higher level and standard level

Paper 1

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Unit 3: Development

Bulleted lists in this markscheme indicate likely points that candidates may include in their answer: they are not exhaustive, and examiners should credit other valid points not listed.

Factors that may promote or inhibit development

1. Outline what Source A says about sustainable development. [3]

Possible answers include:

- Sustainable development must take economic, ecological and social sustainability into account.
- Social and ecological factors have to be considered and balanced to develop a society that is bearable.
- Social and economic factors have to be considered and balanced to develop a society that is equitable – unequal development cannot be sustainable.
- Ecological and economic factors have to be considered and balanced to develop a society that is viable.
- Ignoring one or several aspects of sustainable development will not work – they are all interdependent.

Award [1 mark] for each relevant point up to a maximum of [3 marks].

Other relevant points not listed can also be rewarded.

2. With explicit reference to Source B **and one** example you have studied, explain how environmental factors can inhibit development. [4]

Answers from Source B may include:

- If we fail to overcome environmental challenges related to climate change, we will fail to tackle poverty, thus inhibiting development.
- Poor people struggle to recover from extreme events as they have fewer resources available to them, thus environmental factors such as natural disasters can inhibit development.
- Environmental factors such as sea-level rise, land and forest degradation and desertification increase the vulnerability of poorer people, inhibiting development.
- It is in the inaction on adverse environmental factors such as climate change that undermines and sets back equitable development.

Answers from own knowledge may include, but are not limited to:

- Examples of less developed states with environmental vulnerabilities, e.g. Haiti's earthquake and hurricane issues, desertification in the Sahel region, small island nations such as Fiji or the Maldives struggling with rising sea levels, more frequent droughts in North America and Europe.
- Examples of environmental factors that lead to violent conflict which inhibits development, e.g. conflicts over limited arable land in the Sahel, conflict over mineral resources in Peru and the DRC, deforestation and violence against indigenous populations in the Amazonian rainforest and South East Asia.
- Examples of environmental factors that lead to mass displacement, inhibiting development, e.g. hurricane and tropical storms in Puerto Rico and Haiti, earthquakes in Syria and Morocco, severe flooding in Pakistan and South Africa.

- Examples where geographic location inhibits development, e.g. landlocked countries, states surrounded by conflict and instability in neighbouring countries.

Other relevant points not listed can also be rewarded. Candidates are not expected to make four separate points in order to achieve full marks. For each valid point a maximum of [2 marks] may be awarded, up to a total of [4 marks]. If there is no reference to another example studied award a maximum of [3].

3. Compare and contrast how Source C **and** Source D view approaches to developing the economy.

[8]

Potential points of comparison:

- Both Source C and D agree that there are risks presented by pursuing economic development through natural resources, namely the “resource curse.” Source C says that the abundance of resources is often a burden and Source D focusing on Africa makes the same point highlighting Africa’s abundance of resources.
- Both Source C and D agree that governments cooperate with MNCs to develop their economies, but often struggle to create transparent and non-corrupt relationships with them. Source C says that corruption is rampant where governance is shady, and Source D highlights its importance in terms of associations which need to be developed keeping in mind the global energy transition.
- Both Source C and D agree that an over-reliance on resource extraction can distract from other sectors of the economy and that wealth needs to be re-invested in other sectors. Source C says that often governments rely on funds from resources and neglect other sectors of the economy and source D endorses this by highlighting that to African countries need to ensure that the wealth is invested in new sectors to develop the economy further.
- Both Source C and D agree that natural resources can create challenges such as Source C mentions that “different groups to compete for control”, while source D states that “Africa’s governments will have to navigate fierce competition.”

Potential points of contrast:

- While Source C is pessimistic about the ability of government to manage resource-based growth, citing “mismanagement” and “corruption”, Source D proposes that governments in the future could be able to “engage in the extraction of these resources in a way that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.”
- Source C is sceptical of resource-based development due to the “lack of transparency”, while Source D posits that governments can “manage environmental risk” and “develop regulation.”
- Source C mentions civil war as a risk of the resource curse, while Source D is more optimistic about the opportunities presented by the energy transition and the capacities of African governments to manage it.

Award [2 marks] per effective point of comparison and contrast up to a maximum of [8 marks].

For an [8 mark] response expect detailed contrast and comparisons but do not expect all of the points above and allow other valid points.

Points of comparison and contrast do not need to be balanced, as long as each command term is addressed at least once in the answer.

4. “Development depends mostly on institutional factors.”
Evaluate this view, using all the sources **and** your own knowledge.

[10]

Question 4 is assessed according to the markbands that follow, in conjunction with these marking notes.

Source material may include, but is not limited to:

Source A

- If development is seen holistically, sustainable development is a complex interplay of social, ecological and economic factors—institutional factors are but one of many elements driving sustainable development.
- Sustainable Development is complex and needs careful management of its different aspects, which requires strong institutions at the national and international level.
- To make development equitable, institutional factors are significant as they address redistribution.
- To protect the ecological aspect of sustainable development, strong protective and regulatory frameworks are needed, which rely mainly on institutional factors.

Source B

- Action on climate change is needed to decrease the vulnerability of poor people and achieve development, and this action requires strong institutions.
- Institutions are powerless in grappling with challenges as big as climate change—development is mostly at the mercy of environmental factors.

Source C

- Environmental factors, such as the existence of resources, are more important to achieve development.
- The mere presence of an environmental factor such as natural resource endowment will not guarantee development—institutional factors determine how well it can be used.
- It depends on how you define and measure development. Development defined as resource-based growth can to some extent be achieved without strong institutions, but it takes a strong state to increase transparency in contracts and protect the environment, which would be a more holistic definition of development.
- Volatile prices can derail a country’s development and institutions may not have much impact on global commodity price shocks.
- Civil war would negatively impact development—it takes strong institutions to avoid it.

Source D

- Africa is full of transition metals, and these are needed for a global move away from unsustainable fossil fuels, so environmental factors such as resource endowment are most important for sustainable development.
- Natural resource extraction presents environmental risks and needs careful regulation through strong institutions.
- Countries in the past have fallen victim to the resource curse because of insufficient institutional strength and need to be careful.

Own knowledge could include, but is not limited to:

- Examples of cases where institutional factors were instrumental in achieving certain aspects of sustainable development, e.g. social and economic sustainability in Norway with strict environmental regulation, policies in Gulf states to move away from fossil fuel dependency, Botswana’s sovereign wealth fund.

- Examples of cases where institutions were not strong enough to advance development, e.g. Syria, DRC.
- Examples of cases where environmental factors have a bigger impact on development, e.g. natural disasters such as earthquakes and tropical storms in Haiti, repeated droughts and desertification in the Sahel.
- Examples where economic factors such as foreign investment have a bigger impact on development, e.g., higher levels of FDI contributing to development.
- Examples that illustrate the interdependence between different factors of development and how being unbalanced on one can damage the others as well. For example, cities with well-developed institutions in Asia do not seem to be managing their pollution well.

If only source material or only own knowledge is used, the response can only be awarded a maximum of [6]. To achieve the maximum [10], responses must refer to all four sources.

Do not expect all of the above, and reward other relevant points not listed.

Markbands for question 4

Marks	Level descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little relevant knowledge and a very limited awareness of the demands of the question. • There is little or no attempt to synthesise own knowledge and source material. • Responses at this level are often largely descriptive and contain unsupported generalizations.
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited awareness of the demands of the question or the question is only partially addressed. • There is some knowledge demonstrated, but this is not always relevant or accurate, and may not be used appropriately or effectively. • Responses at this level are often more descriptive than evaluative.
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers show some awareness of the demands of the question. • Knowledge is mostly accurate and relevant, and there is some limited synthesis of own knowledge and source material. • Counterclaims are implicitly identified but are not explored.
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers are focused and show good awareness of the demands of the question. • Relevant and accurate knowledge is demonstrated, there is some synthesis of own knowledge and source material, and appropriate examples are used. • The response contains claims and counter claims.
9–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers are clearly focused and show a high degree of awareness of the demands of the question. • Relevant and accurate knowledge is demonstrated, there is effective synthesis of own knowledge and source material, and appropriate examples are used. • The response contains clear evaluation, with well balanced claims and counter claims.
