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Global politics

Higher level and standard level

Paper 1

19 May 2025

Zone A afternoon | Zone B afternoon | Zone C afternoon

1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[25 marks]**.

Unit 3: Development

Read all the sources carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

Source A Adapted from "Global inequality in living conditions", a chart published on *Our World in Data*.



¹ GDP: Gross Domestic Product, the value of the goods and services produced in a country

Source B Adapted from “Factors affecting economic development”, an online article by Tejvan Pettinger.

The main factors affecting development include:

Levels of infrastructure—e.g. transport and communication. In recent years, economic development in Central Africa has been improved due to increased investment in roads, railways and seaports. Part of this investment has come from Chinese companies who have a vested interest in transporting raw materials from Africa to China. Countries that spend significant funds on infrastructure as a percentage of their GDP tend to be better developed.

Education—Levels and standards of education have a significant influence on productivity. Without basic knowledge of reading, writing and mathematics, it is difficult for an economy to develop. For example, good levels of education in India have given opportunities for growth in service industries, such as IT and call centers. Countries where people spend more time in higher education institutions tend to score better on indices like the HDI².

Political stability/Law and order—Political stability and the protection of private property is the most important factor for encouraging investment in developing economies. Any sign of instability increases the economic and personal risk of investing in developing countries. New Zealand, with regular elections and due processes of democracy, tends to do well on indices of political stability.

All of these different factors need to work together to achieve development.

² HDI: Human Development Index, defined by the World Health Organization as a summary composite measure of a country’s average achievements in three basic areas of human development: health, knowledge and standard of living

Source C Adapted from “GDP is not a measure of human well-being”, an article published in the *Harvard Business Review* (2019).

GDP is a measure of economic activity which has no scope for including the positive or negative effects created in the process of production and development. It remains the most widely used method of measuring development. Environmental damage is a significant consequence that the measure of GDP has failed to reflect. The production of more goods adds to an economy’s GDP irrespective of the environmental damage suffered because of it. As these environmental damages are not measured there is no policy focus on addressing them. GDP is also not a good measure of inequality—something increasingly important in today’s world.

We need alternative measures in addition to GDP to get a broader view of development. It ensures policy making doesn’t only prioritize economic growth. We’re seeing some efforts already, such as Bhutan’s attempt to measure Gross National Happiness (GNH), which considers factors like equitable socio-economic development and good governance. Another example is the Human Development Index (HDI), which includes health and knowledge in addition to economic prosperity.

In an economy with well-being at its heart, economic growth will simply be another tool to guide it in the direction that society chooses. In such an economy, the measure of GDP is less important, as it hardly affects the lives of average citizens.

Source D

Removed for copyright reasons

1. Outline what Source A says about inequality. [3]
 2. With explicit reference to Source B **and one** example you have studied, explain how one factor promotes development. [4]
 3. Compare and contrast the views of Source C **and** Source D on measuring development. [8]
 4. “An effective measure of development should prioritize well-being.” Discuss this claim using all the sources **and** your own knowledge. [10]
-

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References:

- Source A** Roser, M., 2019. Global inequality of opportunity. *Our world in data*, [online] 28 August. Available at: <https://ourworldindata.org/global-inequality-of-opportunity> [Accessed 8 April 2024]. Source adapted.
- Source B** Pettinger, T., 2021. Factors affecting economic development. *Economics help*, [online] 5 June. Available at: <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/147654/economics/factors-affecting-economic-development/> [Accessed 8 April 2024]. Source adapted.
- Source C** Kapoor, A. and Debroy, B., 2019. GDP is not a measure of human well-being. *Harvard Business Review*, [online] 4 October. Available at: <https://hbr.org/2019/10/gdp-is-not-a-measure-of-human-well-being> [Accessed 8 April 2024]. Source adapted.