2.2 Thematic study: development and sustainability

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS development • sustainability • Sustainable Development Goals • Human Development Index • Gini coefficient

Objective

Study the thematic study **development and sustainability**: ways to define and measure **development**, the **Sustainable Development Goals**, the actors and policies that promote development, and the tension between growth and **sustainability**.

You must be able to:

- define development in economic and human terms
- calculate and interpret GDP per capita and other indicators
- explain the SDGs and the role of different actors in development
- compare market-led and state-led paths to development
- evaluate the tension between economic growth and sustainability

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Defining and measuring development

Economic development: growth in income and output (GDP, GDP per capita). **Human development**: wider choices and capabilities (Amartya Sen): health, education, freedom. The **Human Development Index** (HDI) combines life expectancy, years of schooling and income per head, on a scale from 0 to 1.

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Sustainable development (Brundtland Report, 1987): "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

indicator	what it shows	a limitation
GDP per capita	average income	hides inequality
HDI	health, education, income	hides inequality inside a country
Gini coefficient	income inequality, 0 (equal) to 1	says nothing about the average level

The SDGs

17 **Sustainable Development Goals**, agreed by all UN members in 2015, with targets for 2030: e.g. no poverty (1), zero hunger (2), quality education (4), gender equality (5), climate action (13). They followed the eight Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015).

Paths and actors

Market-led: free trade, privatization, foreign investment (the "Washington Consensus" of the 1980s–90s). **State-led**: the state plans and protects key industries (e.g. South Korea from the 1960s). Actors: governments, the World Bank and IMF, aid donors, NGOs, MNCs, local communities.

Worked example. A country has GDP of US$500 billion and 50 million people. GDP per capita = $500\,000\,000\,000 / 50\,000\,000$ = US$10,000. If GDP grows by 3 % and the population by 2 %, GDP per capita grows by only about 1 %.

2 Practice

2.1 Distinguish **economic development** from **human development**. [2]

2.2 Country X has a GDP of US$120 billion and a population of 40 million. Calculate its GDP per capita, and explain **two** limitations of GDP per capita as a measure of development. [3]

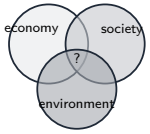
GDP ÷ population = per person

2.3 Explain **two** ways in which **non-state actors** can promote development. [4]

2.4 Compare **market-led** and **state-led** paths to development, with **one** example of each. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* To what extent is economic growth compatible with sustainability? [15]



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Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

economic development: growth in income and output, measured e.g. by GDP per capita; human development: wider choices and capabilities, e.g. health, education and freedom, measured e.g. by the HDI

2.2

$120\,000\,000\,000 / 40\,000\,000 =$ **US$3,000**; it is an average, so it hides inequality between rich and poor; it ignores health, education, unpaid work and damage to the environment

2.3

any two, explained: NGOs deliver services, e.g. Médecins Sans Frontières provides health care in crises; MNCs bring investment, jobs and technology, e.g. factories that train local workers; social movements and local communities campaign for rights and resources, e.g. land rights or clean water; foundations fund research and programmes, e.g. vaccine campaigns

2.4

market-led: free trade, privatization, foreign investment, a small state; example, e.g. reforms promoted by the IMF and World Bank in the 1980s–90s ("Washington Consensus"); state-led: the state plans, invests and protects key industries; example, e.g. South Korea from the 1960s; comparison: both aim at growth; they disagree on the role of the state and of markets; evaluation, e.g. most successful cases mixed both; market reforms sometimes raised inequality

3.1

Mark with the markbands: [13-15] clearly focused on the question, accurate and relevant knowledge and real-world examples used as evidence, concepts applied, well-developed critical analysis, different perspectives evaluated, a reasoned conclusion; [10-12] focused, mostly accurate knowledge, analysis with some evaluation; [7-9] some focus, relevant knowledge, mostly narrative or description with limited analysis; [4-6] little focus, limited knowledge, mostly narrative; [1-3] little understanding of the question. Points that may be included: definitions: economic growth; sustainable development (Brundtland, 1987); conflict: growth has relied on fossil fuels and higher emissions; resource use and loss of forests and biodiversity; rich countries' consumption pushes damage onto poorer countries and future generations; compatible: "green growth": renewable energy has become cheaper; some countries have grown while cutting emissions; growth pays for health, education and clean technology; the SDGs combine growth (goal 8) with climate action (goal 13); perspectives: developing countries argue they have a right to grow; degrowth thinkers argue rich countries should consume less; actors: states, MNCs, IGOs and consumers all shape the outcome; conclusion: a clear judgement, e.g. compatible only with major changes in energy and consumption

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