

5.4 Differences in economic development between countries

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 19 marks

KEY WORDS economic development 经济发展 • productivity 生产率 • developing countries 发展中国家
• trade 贸易 • developed and developing 发达与发展中

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **differences in economic development between countries** 国家间经济发展的差异 — what **economic development** 经济发展 means, why **developed and developing** 发达与发展中 countries differ, and how they are linked.

You must be able to:

- distinguish economic development from economic growth
- explain why countries differ in development
- analyse how developed and developing countries are linked

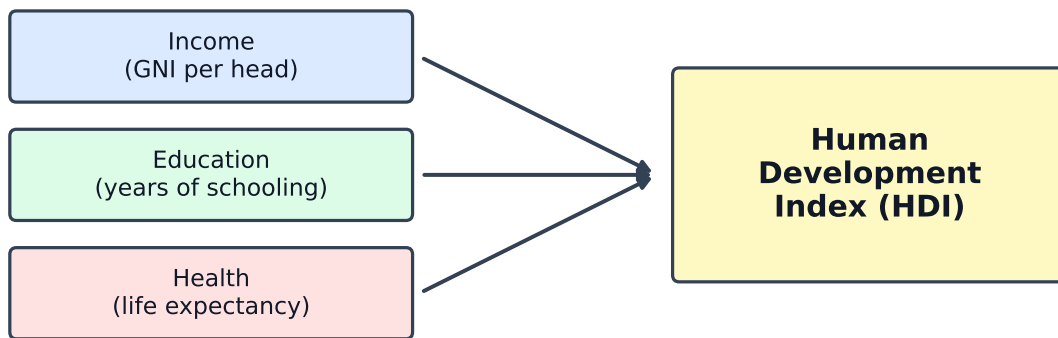
1 Worked examples

■ Developed and developing countries



Development is about well-being, not just output

- **Economic development** 经济发展: a rise in people's well-being (health, education, income), not just more output.
- **Why countries differ:** income, **productivity** 生产率 (developing often do **subsistence farming** 自给农业), population, education and health, **debt** 债务, trade.
- **Linked:** developing countries sell raw materials and buy machines; trade, aid and investment can help — but cause dependency.



Exam: HDI = income + education + health — broader than GDP alone for living standards

The HDI puts a number on the development gap — income, health and education compared across countries

Answer shapes: K + App + An + Ev (a justified judgement, for discuss questions).

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between economic growth and economic development. [2]

2.2 Identify two ways a developed country differs from a developing country. [2]

2.3 Define the term *subsistence farming*. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Compared with a developed country, a developing country usually has: [1]

- **A** higher income per head
 - **B** higher productivity
 - **C** a higher birth rate
 - **D** more capital per worker
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3.2 Explain two reasons why developing countries have lower incomes than developed countries. [4]

3.3 Discuss whether trade with developed countries always helps a developing country. [8]

Solutions

IGCSE Economics answers are marked by **level of response**: award **K** knowledge, **App** application, **An** analysis and **Ev** a justified judgement.

2.1 growth is a rise in real output (GDP); development is a rise in people's well-being — health, education and income — not just output (2 for a clear difference; 1 for a partial idea).

2.2 any two contrasts of: income per head (high vs low); productivity (high vs low); birth rate (low vs high); capital per worker (more vs less) (1 + 1).

2.3 growing food only for one's own family, with little or none to sell (2 for a clear definition; 1 for a partial idea).

3.1 C. Developing countries usually have a higher birth rate.

3.2 [4] For **each** of two reasons: K 1 + An 1 — *low productivity*: less capital and skill, and much subsistence farming, so each worker produces little → low incomes; *debt*: large debt repayments leave less for schools and hospitals → development and incomes stay low.

3.3 [8] K/App/An up to 5 + Ev up to 3. **Helps:** trade brings income, lets a country specialise, and gives access to machines and technology it cannot make itself. **Harm:** developing countries may rely on a few low-value primary exports with unstable prices, while importing high-value goods, and can become dependent. **Judgement (Ev):** trade can aid development, but mainly if the country can move into higher-value goods and is not left dependent on volatile primary exports — so it depends on what it trades and on fair terms.