

GEOGRAPHY · Y5–Y6

Global Development & Inequality

Knowledge Organiser — Y5–Y6

Key vocabulary

1

Development

The process by which a country improves the economic, social, and political wellbeing of its people. Not just wealth — quality of life, health, and freedom matter too.

2

GDP (Gross Domestic Product)

The total value of goods and services produced in a country in a year. GDP per capita = divided by population = average income. A measure of economic wealth but not wellbeing.

3

HDI (Human Development Index)

A broader measure of development combining: life expectancy, education (years of schooling), and income per capita. Ranges 0 to 1.

Example: Norway (0.96) vs Niger (0.39) in 2022

4

LIC / MIC / HIC

Low Income Country / Middle Income Country / High Income Country — World Bank classification based on GNI per capita.

5

Global inequality

The difference in wealth and development between the world's richest and poorest countries. The gap has narrowed in some ways (extreme poverty), widened in others (relative wealth).

6

Aid

Money, goods, or services given by richer countries or organisations to poorer ones. Controversial: emergency aid is widely supported; development aid is debated in effectiveness.



unequal development

Why some countries are richer than others

- GEOGRAPHY: landlocked countries, tropical disease burden, natural disaster risk, poor agricultural conditions
- HISTORY: colonialism extracted wealth and created dependency; borders drawn for colonial convenience
- TRADE: rich countries can set trade rules that disadvantage poorer ones
- DEBT: some countries pay more in debt repayments than they receive in aid
- CONFLICT: war destroys infrastructure and creates instability
- GOVERNANCE: corruption diverts resources from public services
- IMPORTANT: these causes interact and reinforce each other. No single factor explains global inequality.

