

What is Economic Development?

Worksheet

Economic development is the qualitative improvement in living standards and quality of life beyond just GDP growth. It includes better healthcare, education, infrastructure, reduced poverty and inequality, and sustainable resource use.

Questions

1. A country with 5% GDP growth but declining literacy is...
 - A) clearly developed
 - B) showing growth without development
 - C) not an economy
 - D) sustainable
2. Which is a development indicator?
 - A) Total GDP
 - B) Life expectancy
 - C) Exchange rate
 - D) Stock market value
3. Sustainable development most emphasizes...
 - A) maximum short-term profits
 - B) current + future well-being
 - C) only GDP growth
 - D) industrialization only
4. Which country is most developed by HDI standards?
 - A) Highest GDP
 - B) Highest life expectancy + education + income
 - C) Fastest growth
 - D) Most exports
5. Country X has 4% GDP growth but 60% poverty rate and low literacy. Is it developed?
6. Compare: Country A (3% growth, high education, universal healthcare) vs. Country B (8% growth, poor schools, limited healthcare).
7. What does a country gain from development beyond GDP?
8. Define: What is economic development?
9. Define: Growth vs. development: key difference?
10. Define: What are development indicators?

Answer Key

1. B) showing growth without development — Growth $\neq$ development. Declining literacy indicates deteriorating quality of life.
2. B) Life expectancy — Life expectancy reflects health quality; GDP alone doesn't measure well-being.
3. B) current + future well-being — Sustainability balances today's needs with preserving resources for tomorrow.
4. B) Highest life expectancy + education + income — HDI combines life expectancy, education and GNI per capita—true development measures.
5. No—GDP growth alone doesn't mean development. Development requires improvements in poverty reduction, education, healthcare and opportunity. Growth without development leaves most people behind.
6. Country A shows better development: education and healthcare = higher quality of life. Country B has growth but lacks development: benefits may be concentrated. Development is more than the growth number.
7. Better health outcomes → lower mortality, longer life expectancy Better education → skilled workers, innovation Better infrastructure → efficient transport, communication Reduced poverty → more opportunities for all Higher human development index (HDI)
8. Qualitative improvement in living standards—healthcare, education, infrastructure, reduced poverty.
9. Growth = GDP expansion (quantity); development = improved living standards (quality).
10. Life expectancy, literacy, school enrollment, poverty rate, access to healthcare, HDI.

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