

GRADE 9 | 2024

Development and Inequality

Social Sciences: Geography

CAPS ALIGNED

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1. What is Development?

Development refers to improvements in the quality of life for people. It includes economic, social, and human dimensions.

2. Measuring Development

Economic Measures

- GDP (Gross Domestic Product): total value of goods and services produced
- GDP per capita: GDP divided by population (measure of average income)

Social Measures

- HDI (Human Development Index): combines income, education, and life expectancy
- Literacy rate: % of adults who can read and write
- Life expectancy: average number of years a person is expected to live
- Infant mortality rate: deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 births

3. Developed vs Developing Countries

Developed Countries (Global North)

- High GDP per capita
- High HDI
- Advanced technology
- Examples: USA, UK, Germany, Japan, Australia

Developing Countries (Global South)

- Lower GDP per capita
- Lower HDI
- Less infrastructure
- Examples: South Africa, India, Brazil, Nigeria, Kenya

4. Causes of Inequality

- Historical: colonialism extracted wealth from developing countries
- Trade: unfair trade rules favour rich countries
- Debt: poor countries owe large debts to rich countries
- Governance: corruption and poor management
- Geography: landlocked countries, natural disasters

KEY POINT: South Africa is classified as a developing country but has one of the highest levels of inequality in the world (Gini coefficient).