



AQA GCSE LEVEL



LEVEL 7+ Model Answers

Discuss the effects of urban sprawl on people and the environment. Use figure 3 and a case study of a major city in the UK. 6 marks

Urban sprawl is the expansion of an urban area into the countryside. This spread of the city creates a range of effects on people and the environment.

An effect on people in London is improvement in infrastructure in the nearby commuter towns of Reading and Chelmsford. This means that the local economy of these towns near to the edge of London will develop and that local people will have access to houses, jobs and better pay within a short commute of London. This is shown in grid square 3632 from figure 3, where Dundee has grown into the countryside in the north of the city which has allowed the development of housing and an industrial estate providing jobs and affordable housing.

A challenge for the environment is the development of a new infrastructure and buildings for example industrial parks. This will mean that animals and wildlife have lost habitats due to the construction of the buildings and that there is increased traffic and congestion. This will affect the nearby country parks, such as Camperdown country park which is shown in grid square 3732 from figure 3, and species residing within these will be affected and also people will find commuting in and out the city slower.

Overall the effects for people can be very positive and can impact on standard of living and quality of life. However the environmental impacts can be great and they are particularly associated with the destruction of habitats for plants and animals.

To what extent do urban areas in lower income countries (LICs) or newly emerging economies (NEEs) provide social and economic opportunities for people? 9 marks

As rural-urban migration and rapid urbanisation take place in LICs and NEEs, a number of opportunities and challenges are presented to people. I agree that there are social and economic opportunities for people.

On the one hand, Lagos in Nigeria, western Africa, provides both social and economic opportunities for people. The unemployment rate in Lagos is just 9.9% and the GNI per capita has risen from \$2700 in 1990 to \$5500. This means that people have more money to spend on looking after themselves and their families by paying for education and healthcare. A result of this increase in wealth is that life expectancy has increased by 7 years across a 15 year period. This is because of improved healthcare that more people can afford - a key opportunity in this NEE city.

On the other hand, it may be said that Lagos presents more challenges than opportunities. Despite the low unemployment rate, 90% of jobs are in the informal sector, also Lagos has issues with sanitation with only 10% having access to clean water. Therefore, people are paid a very low wage, so they may not be able to afford the urban opportunities they had hoped for, such as better healthcare. The lack of water means that a number of people will still die from disease, presenting a major challenge for Lagos.

Overall, I think that, at present, urban areas in LICs and NEEs provide more challenges than opportunities, but in time this may change.

For a NEE that you have studied, to what extent do you agree that the country is benefiting from every aspect of economic growth [9 marks]

Introduction

A NEE I have studied is Nigeria, located in Western Africa. To some extent I agree that economic growth has been positive. I believe that the social impacts have been more positive than the environmental impacts. Nigeria is predicted to have the highest growth in GDP from 2010-2015 worldwide, it is the world's 21st largest economy and has the largest megacity in Africa.

Middle - minimum 2 paragraphs

On the one hand, a large company in Nigeria is Shell. They are extracting oil from Nigeria and selling this to other countries. This company has provided over 85'000 jobs for the people within Nigeria and 90% of the companies workers in Nigeria are Nigerian. This means that the population have a better standard of living and as a result they have better quality of life because they are able to afford health care and education. Therefore a positive multiplier effect occurs as more people are spending more money in the local economy and on taxes which drive the development of the country.

Furthermore access to clean water has risen from 46% to 64% since 1990. This will reduce the amount of disease which cause high death rates and also means that people are unable to work. As a result the standard of living in the country has risen greatly.

On the other hand, the country is not benefitting from economic growth. The environment is the key problem as 9 million barrels of oil have been spilt in the last 50 years. This means that plants and animals are being harmed and water ways are being polluted. Furthermore, there have been toxic fumes and pollution emitted from industrial areas which affects peoples health and impacts their work.

Conclusion

Overall I believe that the social impacts of economic growth have been positive. As a result, the quality of life of the people in Nigeria has been increased. However the environmental impacts of economic growth have not been positive and must be managed effectively in order to ensure that the development is sustainable.

To what extent do you agree that tourism in a location you have studied is a good way to reduce the development gap? (9 marks)

Jamaica is located in the northern hemisphere, south of America and in the Caribbean Sea. The Jamaican government has encouraged tourism in the country as a way to develop the country and boost the economy, reducing the development gap that exists.

There are a number of positive impacts that tourism has brought to developing Jamaica. Tourism is the main source of employment in Jamaica and has directly and indirectly provided 200,000 jobs. Consequently a multiplier effect has ensued, as with more people working, locals have more disposable income to spend and support local shops and services. This has meant that people can buy products that they need, boosting their quality of life, whilst also boosting the country's economy. Tourism contributes to 24% of Jamaica's economy, so it plays a large part in the economic health of the country. Environmentally, a water treatment plant has been built on the island to reduce pollution from hotels and to try to reduce water shortages in certain areas of the island where they may be water stress.

However there are a number of negative impacts of tourism on the island, which could be seen to maintain the development gap.

Investment and infrastructure improvements has been focused on tourist areas. Much of the rural population continue to live in poor housing with inadequate access to health services and education. This has somewhat led to the development gap increasing on the island as more and more resorts are developed and the rural areas neglected.

Economically, 1.1 million people visit Jamaica via cruise ships and roughly only spend \$70 on the island as they have the items they need on board. This means that there is no multiplier effect occurring on the island from cruise ship tourism, so the island cannot make much money from this type of tourism.

Environmentally, there is a large amount of waste and harmful emissions from tourists using resources on the island, which can continue to degrade parts of the island and damage livelihoods based on farming and the land.

In conclusion, I believe that on a national scale, tourism has been a good way to aid development in Jamaica as it provides significant employment, boosts the country's economy and attempts to reduce environmental impacts. However, on a local scale these benefits are clustered in tourism resorts, so Jamaican rural residents do not fully benefit from tourism so the development gap still is present in the country.

To what extent do you agree that a water project scheme you have studied has been successful?

A water project I have studied is Lesotho LHWP, located in Southern Africa. To some extent I agree that the project has been positive. I believe that the economic impacts have been more positive than the social impacts.

The **Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP)** is an example of a large scale water management scheme. This involves the construction of **6 major dams** in Lesotho and **200km of tunnels** taking water from Lesotho to South Africa. The **project was agreed in 1986**.

The scheme **diverts 40% of the water** in Lesotho's drainage basin (Vaal Basin) to the Orange Free State in South Africa.

An advantage of the project is that Lesotho is a very poor country with an **unemployment rate of 50%**. It has no major resources other than water. The Lesotho government is hoping the LHWP will help develop the country. The **project will cost \$8 billion** and is funded by the world bank.

Overall the percentage of people with a **safe drinking water has increased from 83% to 87%** in South Africa. The dams also provide power to the area, which is a cheaper renewable energy source for Lesotho. Lesotho is also benefiting from improved roads constructed to access dam sites. **20,000 new jobs** were also created which improved communities and quality of life.

However, there were disadvantages. Many thousands of people had to be displaced (moved) from their homes to construct the dams. The **Katse Dam affected 20,000 people** who were forced to move and were given little compensation. Aids also increased in the region due to lots of people moving to informal settlements. Also, the **dams flooded 1000s of hectares of farming land** in Lesotho, and since only **9% of Lesotho's land can be farmed**, this could have a negative effect on the food supply.

Overall, having looked at both the advantages and disadvantages of the scheme I fully believe that the project has been a success. As a result, the quality of life of the people in Lesotho has been increased which for me is most important. However the environmental impacts of economic growth have not been positive and must be managed effectively in order to ensure that the project is fully sustainable.

Evaluate the effectiveness of an urban transport scheme(s) you have studied.
[9 marks] [+ 3 SPaG marks]

The London Underground system is an example of an Urban Transport scheme used in a megacity; this is effective to meeting the demands of London to a certain extent.

The Underground is effective because it is efficient and quicker than other transport types, for example 4.8 million people are transported daily through the 400km of lines to places such as Buckinghamshire and Essex which means commuters have the opportunity to get to many places of work. Therefore it is efficient and can meet the demands of commuters economically as commuters can arrive at places of work on time which allows them to get to work on time and earn money for their businesses. Also it is efficient socially because the 4.8 million people can commute every day and the lines can stretch across many parts of London to cater to a larger amount of people.

However this can make it less effective as it can become cramped in the station due to the 400 people trying to access the facilities every minute during rush hour and these people will still have to travel above ground as the lines are only to certain places meaning there is a possibility to be late to work. Therefore this would mean the underground is less effective as the commuters are less productive because of the risk of being late and it can harm London's economy.

It could harm the economy as the commuters would be late to work and unable to earn money for their companies and the costs of the building of the tube means London will have to pay much more to keep it safe as it is underground meaning the tube is less effective than it could be as the commuters are at risk of being late. From the evidence I have studied I believe that the underground is a very effective transport scheme due to its ability to carry 4.8 million people daily and the prices of the tube being relatively cheap at roughly £5 a day means many people have the opportunity to get to work on time and earn money for their economy. Therefore it doesn't only help socially, it also helps economically.

'Transnational corporations (TNCs) only bring advantages to the host country.' Do you agree with this statement? Justify your decision. [9 marks]

My decision is based on that fact that the TNCs bring advantages and disadvantages to the host countries, particularly LEDCS, such as Nigeria. Nigeria has 40 TNCs operating within it and one of the biggest is Royal Dutch Shell, an oil TNC.

There are definitely advantages, so some of the statement is true. The extraction of oil has led to major contributions to the taxes and export revenue Nigeria. Another economic benefit is to the Nigerian people. Shell employs 65,000 Nigerians directly and another 250,000 work in related industries. This means that these employees have more money to spend in shops etc., which increases the advantage of the TNC to the wider community.

However, I have disagreed with the statement due to the range of disadvantages TNCs can bring. In Nigeria, the disadvantages are largely environmental. Oil spills in particular impact agriculture and fishing industries via soil degradation and water pollution. As well as this much of the money generated within Nigeria returns to the home nation (The Netherlands), limited the advantages to Nigeria.

Therefore, I must agree with the statements as TNCs won't only bring advantages.

'Transnational corporations (TNCs) only bring advantages to the host country.' Do you agree with this statement? Justify your decision. [9 marks]

An example of a transnational corporation is Shell, who operate doing oil extraction in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta where there are vast oil reserves.

Shell have brought 65,000 permanent jobs to Nigeria and 250,000 jobs in related industries. This has triggered the multiplier effect, because all of these workers will have money to spend on services and in shops for example. This cycle of monetary increase is known as the multiplier effect and increased GNI in a country effectively. Similarly 91% of Shell's oil contracts went to Nigerian companies which has also contributed to reducing the development gap.

On the other hand, Shell has brought many environment and sound issues to Nigeria, caused by oil spills and the oil flares which happen constantly, Oil spills have ruined many fishing places that Nigerian people have relied on. This increase of unbalanced wealth has also increased corruption and the gap between the rich and poor.

The wealth brought by Shell has also caused controversy about where money has been disappearing to, and many gangs have stolen oil for themselves which doesn't benefit normal, hardworking Nigerians. The host country isn't the only one to have benefitted though, England and the Netherlands have also benefitted from success in the Niger Delta which makes investing in Nigeria a more attractive prospect to large companies overseas, such as the Chinese investors in building that are increasing wealth in Abaya and creating jobs.